



**History:** There is no typical Special Olympics athlete. They are young and old, from across town and across the world. They do, however, share one important character trait: a competitive fire to do their personal best. This fire is so intense that it lights up the lives of everyone around them.

That's why Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) established the Hall of Fame in 1996: to share with a larger audience the inspiring stories of individuals who had heard "you can't do it," all through their lives - but proved that they could once they were given a chance.

The SOPA Hall of Fame honors athletes and volunteers who have made outstanding contributions both on and off the field of competition. SOPA has never-ending stories of personal courage on the part of its athletes and selfless giving by its volunteers. The Hall of Fame is a place for SOPA to celebrate its many deserving stars.

**When:** Hall of Fame will take place as part of the Leadership Conference every other year beginning in 2017 on Saturday, August 26th in State College PA at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center.

**Who Will Be Honored:** Depending on the number of applications: 2-4 athletes and 1-2 volunteers will be inducted at the Hall of Fame banquet each time it is held.

### **Nomination Process & Criteria:**

1. **Athletes:** Given to an outstanding athlete who has shown qualities of leadership which have benefited the Special Olympics community
  - a. Athlete has participated in Special Olympics for a minimum of **10 years**.
  - b. Athlete must have illustrated dedication to sport-specific training and competition.
  - c. Athlete has displayed skill growth in a specific sport.
  - d. Athlete has taken sport to a new Special Olympics level or transitioned into other sports opportunities.
  - e. Athlete has demonstrated positive sportsmanship conduct.
  - f. Athlete has displayed a positive attitude for his/her sport thereby encouraging others to participate in that particular sport.
  - g. Athlete has been recognized within his/her community for his/her Special Olympics PA participation and has also brought his/her sport into focus through his/her participation.
  - h. Athlete has demonstrated positive integrity and continued loyalty to the Special Olympics program thereby upholding the honor of the organization.
  
2. **Volunteers:** Given to an outstanding individual who has volunteered his or her services to the greater Special Olympics community and beyond.
  - a. Volunteer has had no less than **10 years** of ongoing involvement in Special Olympics.
  - b. Volunteer has demonstrated involvement on various levels.
  - c. Volunteer has actively recruited athletes into Special Olympics when appropriate to volunteer position.
  - d. Volunteer has been recognized within his/her community for his/her Special Olympics Pennsylvania involvement and has also brought specific area of responsibility into community.
  - f. Volunteer has remained current on Special Olympics information and demonstrated efforts to convey the Special Olympics mission and philosophy to the general public.
  - g. Volunteer has demonstrated positive integrity and continued loyalty to the Special Olympics program thereby upholding the honor of the organization.

### **Nominations Forms & Deadline – May 15th:**

[2017 Hall of Fame Fact Sheet \(Text from Above\)](#)

[2017 Athlete Nomination Application](#)

[2017 Volunteer Nomination Application](#)