



## **Bear Force One Mobile Plunge Unit Driver**

**Department:** Programming

**Relationship:** Reports to VP – Strategic Partnerships

**Location:** This position travels across Western PA

**FLSA Status:** Seasonal, Hourly

### **Position Summary:**

Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) is seeking a **Bear Force One Mobile Plunge Unit Driver** to join our team for the upcoming Polar Plunge season. Bear Force One is SOPA's brand-new mobile plunge unit—a portable polar plunge—that travels to events across the state. In this operational role, you will be responsible for safely transporting and operating the unit at various Polar Plunge fundraising events. This position is more than just driving; you will also serve as an on-site ambassador for our organization, helping create a positive **brand and customer experience** through professional interactions, the visibility of our branded unit, and courteous engagement with event partners and community members. This is a seasonal, hourly position from October to April, aligning with our plunge season.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

- **Safe Transportation:** Drive the Bear Force One mobile plunge unit to and from designated event locations across Pennsylvania, ensuring compliance with all traffic laws and safety regulations.
- **Event Setup & Operation:** Coordinate timely arrival before each event to set up the mobile plunge unit (including positioning, filling, and prepping the plunge pool) and assist with breakdown and secure transport after events.
- **Equipment Maintenance:** Perform basic pre- and post-trip inspections of the vehicle and plunge unit (e.g., checking fuel, fluids, tires, trailer connections) and report any maintenance or repair needs promptly to ensure the unit is always in good working order.
- **Brand Representation:** Maintain a professional and courteous demeanor at all times as a representative of SOPA and ensure the plunge unit and its signage are clean, presentable, and prominently displayed to maximize positive visibility of the Special Olympics brand at events.
- **Community Engagement:** Interact positively with event organizers, sponsors, volunteers, and participants on-site, answering questions about the mobile plunge experience and providing excellent customer service to help create a fun and welcoming atmosphere aligned with SOPA's mission.
- **Compliance & Safety:** Follow all organizational policies and safety protocols for operating the mobile unit and handling water/electrical equipment, and keep accurate records such as travel logs, incident reports, and any required documentation for vehicle operation.
- **Collaboration:** Work closely with SOPA staff and event teams to coordinate logistics, schedules, and any support needed for Bear Force One's appearances, and communicate proactively regarding any issues during transit or events that could affect the plunge experience.

### **Qualifications:**

- **Valid Driver's License:** Must hold a valid Pennsylvania driver's license with a clean driving record for the past 5 years (a commercial driver's license is preferred). A clean driving record; must be maintained. Experience driving large vehicles or towing trailers safely is strongly preferred. Vehicle being utilized is a 2-ton truck towing and transporting a large mobile plunge unit.

- **Physical Ability:** Ability to lift up to 50 pounds and perform tasks related to setting up the plunge unit (with or without reasonable accommodation), including handling hoses, fencing, or other equipment as needed.
- **Travel & Schedule:** Willingness to travel statewide and work a flexible schedule, primarily on weekends (and occasional weekdays) during the Polar Plunge season, including early mornings, day-long events, or occasional overnight trips as required.
- **Communication Skills:** Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to engage courteously with a wide range of stakeholders (partners, participants, volunteers), and comfortable being a public-facing representative of SOPA at events.
- **Reliability & Professionalism:** Strong sense of responsibility, punctuality, and reliability; must be able to work independently, follow through on commitments, and positively represent SOPA's values and mission.
- **Knowledge & Passion:** Familiarity with event operations or prior experience in a similar role (event setup, driving, logistics) is a plus; a passion for Special Olympics' mission and an eagerness to contribute to a cause-driven team are highly valued.
- **Compliance:** Must be at least 18 years of age, successfully complete required background checks (including a motor vehicle record check) prior to start, and adhere to all SOPA and Special Olympics driving/safety policies.

#### **Brand and Customer Experience:**

- Ensure all interactions and engagements reflect positively on SOPA's mission and values.
- Maintain the visibility and professional presentation of SOPA's branded mobile unit at all times.
- Engage with stakeholders (participants, partners, volunteers) in a courteous and helpful manner to enhance their experience and foster a supportive community environment.

#### **Compensation and Employment Details:**

- **Employment Status:** Seasonal, hourly position (non-exempt) for the Polar Plunge season. This role is expected to run approximately *November through March* (exact timing TBD), with the possibility of extension based on event scheduling.
- **Hourly Pay Range: \$19.00 – \$25.00 per hour** (depending on experience and qualifications). This pay range is provided to ensure transparency and is based on fair market value and internal equity for the role.
- **Work Hours:** Work hours will vary based on event dates and preparation needs. Weekend availability is required; overtime (paid at time-and-a-half) may occur if events or travel exceed standard working hours, in compliance with wage and hour laws.
- **Travel Expenses:** All approved travel-related expenses are reimbursable. SOPA will cover or reimburse costs such as fuel for the mobile unit, tolls, parking fees, and lodging and meals if overnight travel is required, per our reimbursement policies.
- **Training & Uniform:** Orientation and training on operating the Bear Force One unit will be provided. A SOPA staff shirt/jacket or uniform will be issued to wear at events for easy identification and to promote our brand.
- **Benefits:** As a seasonal position, this role is not eligible for standard employee benefits. However, the incumbent will receive any mandated benefits (such as paid sick leave, as applicable by law) and will gain valuable experience working in a mission-driven nonprofit environment.

#### **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Serious applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and salary requirement to [careers@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:careers@specialolympicspa.org).

No phone calls will be accepted. Resumes sent for positions other than this posting will not receive a response, and communications from recruiters will not be acknowledged.

#### **Equal Opportunity Employer Statement:**

Special Olympics Pennsylvania is proud to be an equal-opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, neurodiversity, age, parental status, socio-economic background, military service, or any other characteristic or status protected by applicable law. We are committed to creating a workplace that reflects our communities and where everyone feels empowered to bring their whole, authentic selves to do their best work.

#### **Organization Overview:**

Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to 16,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For 50 years, SOPA and its 54 local programs have used the power of sports to transform the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and unite everyone by fostering community and building a more acceptable and civil society. SOPA is much more than a sports organization. Through its Athlete Leadership Programs, athletes assume meaningful leadership roles, influence change within the Special Olympics movement and take on roles as Global Messengers (trained as public speakers for Special Olympics), athlete representatives, coaches, board members and more. SOPA also addresses major challenges facing its athletes including healthcare. The Healthy Athletes program offers athletes free health screenings in the form of eye, ear, dental and podiatry assessments. Athletes are also taught how to live active lifestyles, eat healthy and more. Additionally, SOPA strives to create a unified world by promoting inclusion, uniting communities, and changing attitudes. Through Unified Sports, SOPA brings together individuals with and without intellectual disabilities as equal teammates in training and competition, which promotes respect and acceptance, and facilitates meaningful relationships between people of all abilities. For more information about how you can join “The Inclusion Revolution,” visit [www.specialolympicspa.org](http://www.specialolympicspa.org).