



Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) Athlete Leadership University Registration Information

SOPA Athlete Leadership University Overview

- **Purpose:** Trains Special Olympics athletes for leadership roles as Athlete Representatives or Global Messengers.
- **Requirements:**
 - Virtual pre-requisite: "Introduction to Athlete Leadership" and "Understanding Leadership" (Zoom).
 - Required for all new Athlete Leaders and Mentors, as well as those trained prior to 2022.
 - In-person training: October 25th at the Holiday Inn in Lancaster (26 East Chestnut St. Lancaster, PA 17602).
 - Rooms available for anyone traveling 2+ hours away wishing to arrive on Friday, October 24th and/or stay over on the 25th.
 - Athlete requirements: 16+ years, 5th-grade reading/speaking level, good behavior, current medical form.
 - Mentor requirements: 18+ years, Class A volunteer, supportive role model.
- **Athlete Representative:**
 - Acts as a liaison between athletes and the Board of Directors.
 - Completes annual priority projects (e.g., athlete recruitment, fundraising).
 - Refresher training required for pre-2023 representatives to serve on State Athlete Leadership Council/Board by 2026.
- **Global Messenger:**
 - Trained in public speaking and storytelling.
 - Gives at least six speeches annually on athlete/volunteer recruitment or fundraising.
- **Training Schedule (In-Person):**
 - From Approximately 9:00 AM-6:00 PM: Arrival, role-specific training, meals.

- **Logistics:**

- Business casual attire.
- Lodging provided (with options for Friday arrival for those traveling 2+ hours).
- Meal accommodations available (dietary restrictions noted on registration).
- Athlete Leaders and Mentors that are related will be roomed together unless noted differently.
 - All other rooming assignments will be made in line with SOPA's Housing Policy.

- **Registration:**

- Online registration required by October 10th. Registration found [here](#).
- Team Leader/Regional Executive Director approval needed.
- Contact Jordan Schubert for questions.
 - jshubert@specialolympicspa.org
 - 610-630-9450 ext. 236