



## **Athlete Representative I Capstone Practicum**

*Congratulations on successful completion of Athlete Representative (AR) I at Athlete Leadership University.*

### **Directions:**

- Each AR I attendee must complete three of the following leadership opportunities in order to:
  - Receive an Athlete Representative I Practicum Certificate.
  - Receive eligibility to attend Athlete Representative II.
- A report form must be filled out immediately following completion of the leadership opportunity and sent to Athlete Leadership Coordinator, Jordan Schubert, at [jschubert@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:jschubert@specialolympicspa.org).
  - The report form is available on the SOPA website under the Athlete Leadership tab.
  - URL: <http://www.specialolympicspa.org/special-programs/initiatives/athlete-leadership>

### **Leadership opportunities include, but by no means are limited to:**

#### **1. Serve on local program management team:**

- Responsible for representing all program athletes as a member of the local program management.
  - Contact your local program manager for more information on this leadership opportunity.

#### **2. Create or join an Athlete Leadership Team:**

- Committee of program athletes serving as part of a local program management team, providing direct athlete input.
  - Contact Athlete Leadership Coordinator and / or your local program manager for more information on this leadership opportunity.

### 3. Serve on a games organizing committee for a local, invitational, sectional and/or state competition:

- View list of games organizing committees for sectional and state events by section below:
- **East:** Contact Senior Competition Director, Gina Reid, at [greid@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:greid@specialolympicspa.org) for more information on this leadership opportunity.
  - **Eastern Bowling Sectional**
    - Allentown, PA
  - **Eastern Spring Sectional**
    - Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA
  - **Eastern Fall Sectional**
    - DeSales University, Allentown PA
  - **Fall Festival**
    - Villanova University, Villanova, PA
- **Central:** Contact Central Competition Director, Teresa Amaturro, at [tamaturro@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:tamaturro@specialolympicspa.org) for more information on this leadership opportunity.
  - **Indoor Winter Games**
    - York, PA
  - **Central Bowling Sectional**
    - Harrisburg, PA
  - **Central Spring Sectional**
    - St. Francis University, Loretto, PA
  - **Summer Games**
    - Penn State University, State College, PA
  - **Central Fall Sectional**
    - Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA
- **West:** Contact Western Competition Director, Mike Ermer, at [mermer@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:mermer@specialolympicspa.org) for more information on this leadership opportunity.

- **Winter Games**
  - Seven Springs Resort, Seven Springs, PA
- **Western Bowling Sectional**
  - Erie, PA
- **Western Spring Sectional**
  - Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
- **Western Fall Sectional**
  - Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA

#### **4. Volunteer at a local, invitational, sectional and/ or state competition**

- If you are not competing, you can volunteer at a competition. Volunteer duties include but are not limited to: set up/break down, distribute food and beverages, etc.
- You may find details regarding sectional and/ or state competitions on the SOPA website under the Event Calendar tab.
  - URL: <http://www.specialolympicspa.org/events-calendar/month.calendar/2015/02/04/>
  - For State/Sectional competitions, contact the section Competition Director for more information on this leadership opportunity.
  - For Local/Invitational events in your local program, contact your local program manager for more information on this leadership opportunity.
  - For Local/Invitational events outside your local program, contact the section Field Director for more information on this leadership opportunity:
    - **East:** Penny Coup, [pcoup@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:pcoup@specialolympicspa.org)
    - **Central:** Kristen Lenig, [klenig@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:klenig@specialolympicspa.org)
    - **West:** Jim Binz, [jbinz@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:jbinz@specialolympicspa.org)

#### **5. Facilitate an Athlete Input Council at a local/invitational competition.**

- Just like at State Competitions, Athlete Input Councils take place to allow athletes the opportunity to provide feedback about their experiences.

- Contact your local program manager for more information on this leadership opportunity.

#### **6. \*Attend Athlete Congress:**

- Hosted every two (2) years, is a forum for Athlete Representatives to present recommendations to the SOPA Board of Directors for organizational change.
  - Contact your local program manager for more information on this leadership opportunity.

#### **7. Attend SOPA's annual Leadership Conference:**

- Leadership Conference is SOPA's largest non-competitive event, attended by Athlete Leaders, Local Program Volunteers, SOPA Staff and Board Members to share best practices and learn the direction the organization is heading.
  - Contact your local program manager for more information on this leadership opportunity.

#### **8. \*Being elected onto the Regional Input Council:**

- Athlete Representatives wanting to run for RIC must submit their nomination form for Local Program Manager/Director approval.
- During the biennial Athlete Congress, those athletes seeking election are required to give a one minute speech stating why they should be elected to the position.

#### **9. \*Being elected as Athlete Congress Chair:**

- During the biennial Athlete Congress, those athletes seeking election are required to give a one minute speech stating why they should be elected to the position.

**10. \*Being elected onto the Board of Directors.**

- There are two ways to be elected onto the Board of Directors:
  - Be elected by the BOD.
  - Be elected by Athlete Representatives during Athlete Congress.

\*Opportunity not available every year