

WHAT DO I DO IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY?

If there is an imminent threat to a person or facility:

- Contact the proper authorities (ex. police, fire, ambulance) if there are health or security issues.
- Collect critical information and be able to provide exact location of emergency (facility name and address).
- At the venue, flag down or shout for Special Olympics Security (SOS - orange shirts), the Venue Coordinator or Event Director. That individual will take necessary follow-up steps.
- Remain calm and assure the safety of those around you.
- Recruit other volunteers to help. evacuate the area as necessary. Be sure to remove uninvolved individuals from the area.

If the emergency involves an unconscious/injured person:

- Ensure there is no danger to you or the injured party.
- Do not move the injured party unless their life is in danger (fire, collapse of building).
- Remain on the phone with 911 operator.
- Remain with the injured party until help arrives.
- When help arrives, call the SOPA Medical Staff.
- If at a venue, flag down or send someone to get SOS, Event Director or a Medical Staff Member.

If the situation poses no immediate danger, call or flag down Security (SOS) or Medical Staff.

For non-emergency first aid or medical conditions, contact SOPA Medical Staff or SOS Operations Center. The Medical Staff is trained to provide guidance as to how serious the situation is, and if an emergency response team is needed. Medical Staff personnel are trained in first aid and carry first aid kits.

ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

STAY CONNECTED

There is a place for everyone in Special Olympics Pennsylvania, and we hope that you will stay connected beyond today!

Volunteer: We couldn't exist without the support of volunteers. Volunteers are needed to serve as coaches, assistant coaches, local program management, mentors and more. Please visit our website to find a program near you and to sign up!

Donate: Your financial support helps us continue our mission. You can make a contribution online via our website, or donate by check to your local program or our State office.



Special
Olympics
Pennsylvania

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Guide for one-day

VOLUNTEERS

Special Olympics
Pennsylvania



Thank you for volunteering with Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA)!

The time, energy and enthusiasm of volunteers fuel our movement and make our athletes' dreams a reality. As a one-day event volunteer, you will be supporting the overall coordination of the competition.

You are not to oversee and/or chaperone any athletes or other volunteers, and therefore are not to assume any oversight of athletes (however minor) at any time

If you have any questions about your assignment, please ask a SOPA staff member.

If you need to leave before the end of your scheduled shift, please let the Venue Coordinator or a SOPA representative know as soon as possible so that they can fill your spot.

Do...

- Stay engaged while in your assignment.
- Congratulate competitors/coaches with a high-five or handshake.
- Report any non-emergency concerns to the Venue Coordinator.
- Respect the athletes and speak to them at their age level.
- Get to know the athletes and have fun!

Don't...

- Interfere with any competition/event.
- Use electronic devices while volunteering, unless it is for emergencies. Stay focused on your role.
- Be afraid to ask for help if you see a problem occurring.

I've never worked with someone with a disability. What do I do?

- First, introduce yourself! Remember that people with intellectual disabilities and people without intellectual disabilities are more alike than different.
- Both children and adults participate in Special Olympics, so please refer to all participants as "athletes" rather than "kids."
- Talk with and treat athletes according to their age.
- Athletes thrive on receiving encouragement, but let them take the lead as to what type of recognition they are comfortable with; pat on the back, high five, etc.
- Special Olympics athletes will gain the most from being judged fairly and without overstatement. Give support, but don't exaggerate the accomplishments of athletes.
- As a volunteer you will want to do everything you can to respect the dignity of athletes and be sensitive to cultural differences.
- Whenever possible, always deal directly with the athlete. Direct all questions, comments or concerns directly to the individual and do not hesitate to ask an athlete for advice. We learn together.

