

VOLUNTEERING WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEXAS

Special Olympics Texas would not exist today and could not have continued for more than 40 years without the time, energy, dedication, and commitment of tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the state of Texas.

Volunteer Expectations

As a volunteer, you are expected to . . .

Fulfill the responsibility of your assignment:

- Carry out all aspects of your assignment.
- Attend all required meetings.
- Notify the volunteer coordinator if you cannot complete an assignment.

Set an example for the athlete:

- Refrain from smoking, consuming alcohol or using profanity when acting as a volunteer.
- Be discreet in your personal relationships with the athlete and avoid any behavior which may be misunderstood or misinterpreted.
- Be helpful to and supportive of everyone associated with Special Olympics.

Demonstrate good sportsmanship:

- Support the decisions of referees, judges and committees, and use proper dissent processes.
- Be respectful during ceremonies and help your athletes be the same.
- Praise the athletes for their efforts and encourage them to be happy for the success of other athletes.
- Support and encourage other volunteers and staff.

Be continually vigilant and cognizant of the safety of the athlete:

- Never leave an athlete unchaperoned.
- Report anything you observe, either in the physical environment or in an individual's behavior, which you feel may cause potential harm.

Be loyal to your commitment and to Special Olympics:

- Look for constructive ways to overcome obstacles.

Take advantage of the opportunities Special Olympics offers you:

- Be open to new ideas and new ways of doing things.
- Become an active participant by extending your involvement to other roles of leadership and training.
- Delight in the change that your involvement makes in the life of someone you know and in the many lives of those you'll never meet.

Volunteer Opportunities

Sports Training

- Become a certified coach or an assistant coach.
- Organize, coach or play on a Unified Sports® team.
- Use specific sports expertise to help set up sports clinics or Special Olympics Texas training schools.
- Train individuals with more severe handicaps through the Motor Activities Training Program.
- Become a trainer and hold training schools to train coaches and individuals interested in SOTX competitions.





Competitions

- Become a certified competition director or a certified games director.
- Assist as a key volunteer.
- Organize special events, such as Athlete Village and Opening Ceremonies for the athletes.
- Act as a day-of-event volunteer in multiple capacities such as greeter, timer, stager, escort, statistics recorder, measurer, line judge, pit crew, ball runner, spotter and more.
- Set up and support the event area for competition (e.g., marking lines, putting up tents and tables, filling water coolers, etc.).

Schools

- Start Special Olympics Unified Sports® teams.
- Begin Special Olympics Partners Clubs®.
- Implement and organize Project UNIFY - Meet in the Middle programs.
- Recruit members of school sports teams to become certified Special Olympics coaches or officials.
- Conduct Special Olympics sports competitions or demonstrations during regular sports events.

Fund Raising

- Support the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for SOTX through corporate sponsorship or through participation in local events.
- Make financial or in-kind donations as individuals or through a business.
- Conduct fund raising campaigns in schools or through a civic group, church or other organization.
- Name Special Olympics as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, will or employee payroll deduction.
- Make a donation, matching gift or memorial gift.
- If you're a state or federal employee, look for us during the charitable campaign:
Combined Federal Campaign (CFC): 30634
State Employees Charitable Campaign (SECC): 100014

Professional

- Provide medical support including free physicals and x-rays, pro bono legal or accounting services.
- Become a clinical director for the Healthy Athletes program.
- Make donations of goods, services or vital office supplies to local Special Olympics programs.

Public Relations

- Provide strategic public relations assistance.
- Assist with implementing public relations initiatives for the organization.
- Assist with building media contacts statewide.
- Write articles about Special Olympics Texas for the SOTX website and eNewsletters.
- Volunteer photography, graphic design or web design services.

Administration

- Serve on chapter board of directors, President's Advisory Council, chapter or area committees.
- Help special education teachers or Special Olympics coaches prepare registration and medical forms.
- Contribute general office help in SOTX offices (e.g., data entry, filing, answering phones, etc.).
- Distribute materials for a Special Olympics event.

Civic Groups

- Provide support for Special Olympics programs.
- Organize Unified Sports® teams by combining group members with Special Olympics athletes.

Volunteer Eligibility

Special Olympics Texas makes the distinction between regular volunteers (Class A) and day-of-event volunteers (Class B). Each class has its own roles and responsibilities within SOTX.

Age Eligibility for Volunteers

- For most Class A volunteers, the minimum age to volunteer is 15 years old.
- The exceptions to this rule are head coaches, heads of delegation, bus drivers, key volunteers and chaperones, who all must be at least 18 years old to volunteer in these positions. Unified partners must be at least 8 years old for local competitions and 12 years old for state competitions.
- Class A volunteers who volunteer for statewide competition must be at least 15 years old.
- Class B volunteers have a different age breakdown:
 - 15 years old and older – can volunteer by themselves.
 - 8 - 14 years old – must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or chaperone.
 - 7 years old and younger – are not given volunteer assignments, but are welcomed and encouraged to be cheerleaders or spectators at competitions, accompanied by a parent/guardian.
- 8 - 14 years old in a group situation need a 4 to 1 ratio – meaning one adult (18 years old or older) for every four children. For example, if there was a group of 17 11-year-olds who wanted to volunteer for an event, five chaperones must accompany them.

Athletes as Volunteers

- Special Olympics Texas athletes are welcomed and encouraged to volunteer in various roles within the organization, dependent on the individual's interest and abilities.
- All athletes wanting to volunteer must meet eligibility requirements, including age, training, paperwork, etc.
- The only restriction for an athlete to volunteer is that at no time can the athlete volunteer be put or left in charge of the safety and welfare of other athletes or used in the ratio count for teams. As a result, the roles of head coach, head of delegation and chaperone are not available for athlete volunteers.
- Refer to the Outreach Section for more details.

Special Olympics Volunteer Screening Policy in Texas

A person's volunteer participation with Special Olympics Texas is an opportunity and privilege; it is not an entitlement. Special Olympics Texas has the right and responsibility to protect the well-being and safety of its participants: athletes, coaches, volunteers, staff and spectators.

Although Special Olympics cannot guarantee the safety of all participants, it recognizes its responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote and ensure a safe environment for all. To that end, after considerable study and investigation, Special Olympics, Inc. (SOI) has developed and adopted a mandatory volunteer screening policy to set certain standards for each of the U.S. programs to follow with regard to both Class A and Class B volunteers.

Special Olympics Texas, in order to implement the U.S. Volunteer Screening Policy adopted by SOI, adopts the policy and procedures outlined in this section.





Class A Volunteer Roles At-A-Glance

Volunteer Role	Required Form	Age Minimum	Training Requirement	OK for Athletes?
Administrative Volunteer	Class A Form	18 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors 	Yes
Coach	Class A Form	15 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors 	Yes - just not counted in the ratio count
Minor coaches ages 15-17 shall not be placed in a position of authority, put in charge of athletes or be considered chaperones.				
Bus Driver	Class A Form	18 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Valid TX Driver License ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors 	No
Chaperone	Class A Form	18 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors 	No
Committee Member	Class A Form	15 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors 	Yes
Fiscal Volunteer	Class A Form	18 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors 	No
Games/Competition Director	Class A Form	18 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must complete SOTX GD or CD Training ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors 	No
Head Coach	Class A Form	18 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must be a certified coach ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors 	No
Head of Delegation	Class A Form	18 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must be a certified coach ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors 	No
Key Volunteer	Class A Form	18 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors 	No
Medical Personnel	Class A Form & Any License/Certifications	18 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Primary: any state licensed medical status (EMT, RN, MD, etc.) or supplemental: any certified medical status (CPR/FA, etc.) ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors 	No
Official (housed at Games)	Class A Form & Any License/Certifications	15 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Varies by sport ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors 	Yes
Professional Volunteer (legal, financial, PR, design, medical, etc.)	Class A Form	18 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Varies by profession ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors 	Yes
Torch Run Officer (handling > \$15,000)	Class A Form	18 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors 	No
Unified Partner	Class A Form & UP Form	8 years old (12 years old for chapter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors (ages 15 and up) 	No
Any volunteer who has access to personal information of SOTX athletes, volunteers and donors			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Orientation ▪ Protective Behaviors 	No



Class A Volunteers

- Volunteers who have regular, close physical contact with athletes (e.g., coaches, chaperones, Unified Sports® partners, etc.).
- Volunteers who are in a position of authority or supervision (real or apparent) (e.g., board members, committee members, officials, etc.).
- Volunteers who are in a position of trust (e.g., competition key volunteers, etc.).
- Volunteers who handle substantial amounts of cash (\$15,000 or more annually) or other assets of the program (e.g., fund raising volunteers, certain Torch Run volunteers, Games Organizing Committee members, etc.).

To be considered for participation with Special Olympics Texas as a Class A volunteer, the applicant must submit a signed, completed and truthful Class A Volunteer Application, complete General Orientation and Protective Behaviors trainings, and pass the criminal background check.

Volunteering prior to completing all four steps is not permitted.

The Special Olympics U.S. Risk Management and Insurance Task Force created online Protective Behaviors training material. The training material is a critical tool for protecting Special Olympics athletes from sexual, physical and emotional abuse.

All new Class A volunteer applicants ages 15 and older must complete this online training before they can become a Class A volunteer. The training must be completed at least once every three years.

Please visit: www.specialolympics.org/protectivebehaviors to complete the online training.

After completing the online training, volunteers will be asked to complete a 10 question test and submit their name and contact information.

Volunteers who do not have access to the internet may request a written version of the Protective Behaviors training. They will then complete a hard copy of the 10 question test and submit that test to the state office. Please contact the Director of Volunteer Services to receive the written version of the online training, or additional information regarding the Protective Behaviors training.

The decision of SOTX with regard to any Class A volunteer's application rests within the sole and absolute discretion of SOTX. In exercising that discretion, SOTX shall be guided by its mission statement and the policy and procedure set forth herein.

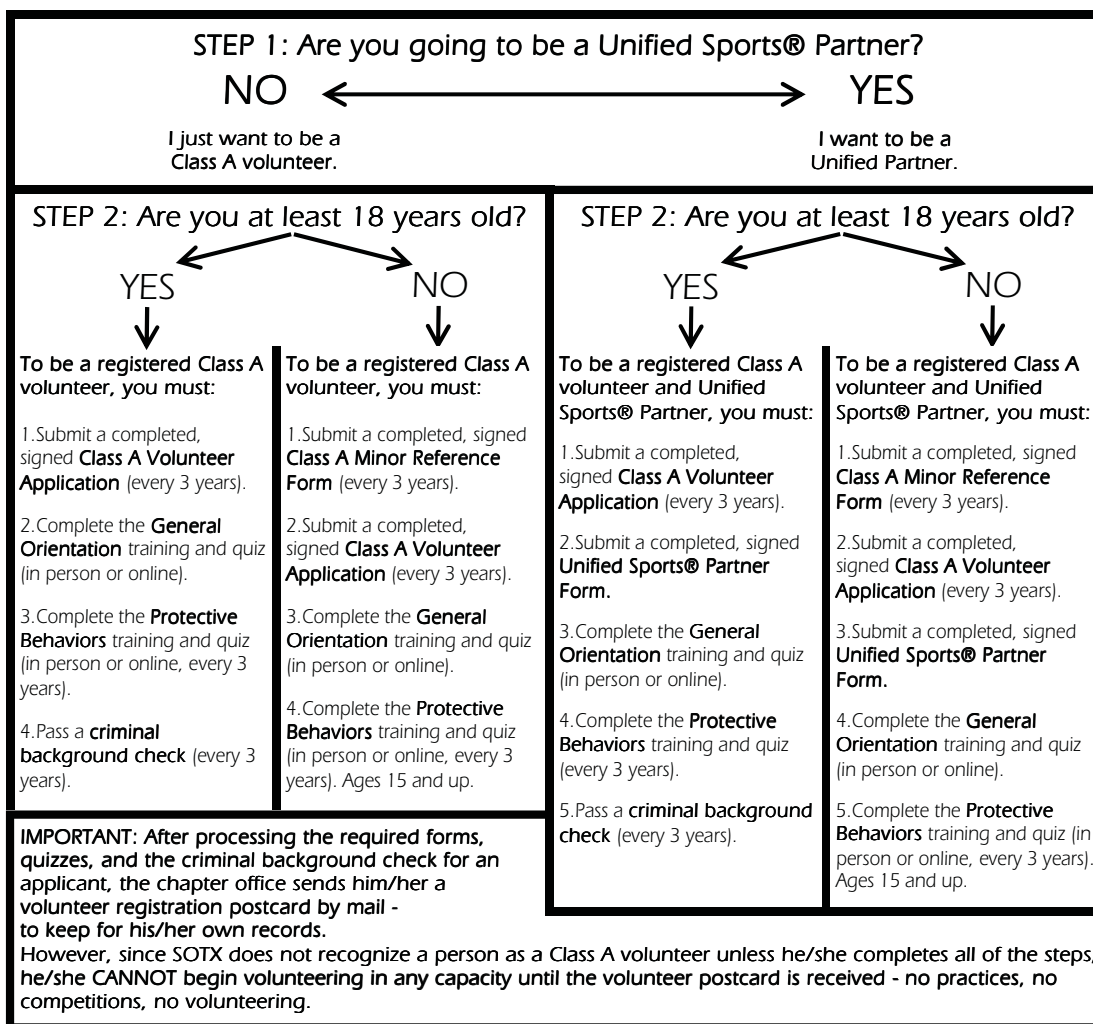
1. Application Process:

- a. All Class A volunteers shall be screened for participation in the Special Olympics program. Once screened and registered, Class A volunteers must re-register as a Class A volunteer every three years as well as be re-screened by SOTX every three years by: 1) submitting a new Class A Volunteer Application, 2) retaking Special Olympics, Inc. Protective Behaviors, and 3) passing the criminal background check.
- b. Each Class A volunteer shall submit a Class A Volunteer Application and be subject to a criminal background check, and where applicable under this policy, to a motor vehicle record check.
- c. Motor Vehicle Record Check: If an applicant answers "yes" to the question regarding their driving record on the volunteer application, or if the program receives information through the background check that the applicant may have motor vehicle related convictions, then the program may conduct a motor vehicle record check for that applicant.
- d. Prospective volunteers who are under the age of 18 shall not be subject to a criminal background check but must submit the Class A Minor Reference Form in lieu of the criminal background check.
- e. In conducting the required criminal background check, SOTX shall use a SOI approved vendor who uses a national database that includes the sex offender registry for each state in which the sex offender registry is available.



2. Orientation:
 - a. All Class A volunteers shall attend the General Orientation training as directed by SOTX, whether in person or online.
 - b. All Class A volunteers shall attend the SOI Protective Behaviors training (available online at www.specialolympics.org/protectivebehaviors) every three years. Volunteers 14 and younger are not required to complete Protective Behaviors; upon turning 15 years old, they are required to complete this step.
3. Day of Event:
 - a. On the day of each event, the registered Class A volunteer shall report to a designated volunteer coordinator for that event and verify his/her identity via a photo identification.
 - b. The program has the option at any time to issue SOTX approved credentials to a volunteer that may replace the requirement for a photo identification provided that the procedure undertaken by SOTX ensures that the credentials are issued to a registered volunteer and that the credentials are non-transferable.

Unified Sports® Partners



- A Unified Sports® partner is a hybrid of athlete and volunteer - a person without intellectual disabilities who competes in SOTX sports, but gives his/her time to train and compete as part of a Unified team. It is the "giving of time" that puts a Unified Sports® partner into the volunteer category, as well as for safety and liability reasons.

All Unified Sports® partners must meet the following volunteer eligibility requirements:

- Must have a current, signed Class A Volunteer Form on file (parent or guardian must sign



if Unified Sports® partner is younger than 18 years of age). This form is good for three years, and then must be renewed (pages C-15 to C-16).

- Must have a current, signed Unified Sports® Partner Form on file (parent or guardian must sign if Unified Sports® partner is younger than 18 years of age.) This form is good for life, unless any insurance or contact information listed changes (page K-11).
- Must be at least 8 years old to compete at the area level and at least 12 years old to compete at the chapter level.
- Must attend a Class A Volunteer General Orientation and Protective Behaviors training, as directed by SOTX, whether in person or online.
- Refer to the Unified Sports® Section for more details.

Class A Application Authorization Requirements

1. SOTX shall use a standard Class A Volunteer Application to obtain the required Special Olympics release and an appropriate authorization to conduct a criminal background check and if required, a motor vehicle record check.
2. SOTX's Class A Volunteer Application has been reviewed by legal counsel and is in compliance with all applicable state laws and regulations.
3. SOTX shall train its staff on the automatic or potential disqualifiers as a result of the background checks.

Privacy Policy

SOTX recognizes that some of the information sought in the Class A Volunteer Application may be of a sensitive nature. This information is only required because of the responsibility that SOTX has to protect the well-being of all participants: athletes, coaches, volunteers, staff and spectators.

SOTX will only use this information to conduct criminal background checks, including sex offender registries and motor vehicle checks as mandated by Special Olympics, Inc. policy.

SOTX presently has a policy in place that directs all SOTX employees to maintain the confidentiality of all information obtained as part of the volunteer application process and SOTX has procedures in place to keep all sensitive information confidential.

Should you have any questions concerning the volunteer application or this privacy policy, please contact the Director of Volunteer Services.

Results of Criminal Background Check

Note: Please refer to Appendix A for a comprehensive list of disqualifying offenses (automatic and restricted). **All Appendices (A - E) are available online at www.specialolympicstexas.org in the "Get Involved" Section.**

1. Automatic Disqualifier

If the criminal background check reveals a conviction for any of the offenses listed below, the volunteer applicant shall be disqualified automatically from participation as a volunteer with SOTX and will receive a certified letter as notification of his/her disqualification:

Conviction within applicant's lifetime

- Abandoning or Endangering a Child
- Any Felony involving any Public Indecency Offense involving a Child
- Any Felony involving a Weapon or Firearm
- Any Felony involving Burglary or Robbery
- Any Felony involving Manufacture or Sale of Narcotics
- Agreement to Abduct from Custody
- Arson and any related offenses
- Aggravated Assault
- Assault
- Causing a Child's Death
- Child Abuse
- Criminal Sexual Conduct
- Criminally Negligent Homicide
- Deadly Conduct



- Enticing a Child
- Harassment or Stalking
- Identity Theft
- Improper Photography or Visual Recording
- Indecency with a Child
- Indecent Exposure
- Injury to a Child, Elderly Individual, or Disabled Individual
- Improper Relationship between Educator and Student
- Kidnapping and any related offenses
- Manslaughter
- Murder and Capital Murder
- Neglect of Child, Elderly Individual or Dependent Adult
- Prostitution
- Public Lewdness
- Sale or Purchase of a Child or Advertising for Placement of a Child
- Sexual Assault and Aggravated Sexual Assault
- Terroristic Threat
- Trafficking of Persons

2. **DWI Restrictive Disqualifiers**

If the criminal background check or motor vehicle record check discloses a conviction for a DWI, the volunteer applicant shall automatically be disqualified from driving on behalf of SOTX and will receive a certified letter as notification of this restriction:

- 1st DWI - Seven year driving restriction for SOTX
- 2nd DWI - Seven year driving restriction for SOTX from date of second offense
- 3rd DWI (or more) - Permanent driving restriction for SOTX

3. **Traffic Violation Restrictive Disqualifiers**

If the criminal background check or motor vehicle record check discloses convictions for three or more moving violations within the three years immediately preceding the record check, the volunteer applicant shall automatically be disqualified from driving on behalf of SOTX and will receive a certified letter as notification of this restriction.

4. **Other Restrictive Disqualifiers**

If the criminal background check discloses a conviction, other than those on the Appendix A list, SOTX will reject the volunteer applicant or restrict his/her volunteer role based on the severity of the offense and the date of the offense.

5. **Deferred Adjudication**

With regard to any criminal or traffic violation, the granting of a deferred adjudication, or any similar disposition under the laws of another state whereby a finding of guilt is withheld or otherwise stayed, shall be considered a "conviction" unless the violation is officially dismissed. If the violation is not dismissed, at the time that the Class A Volunteer Form is submitted and reviewed, it shall be the applicant's responsibility to appeal to SOTX to be reconsidered as a volunteer when the applicant's probationary period has ended and the violation is legally dismissed.

If the applicant has more than one criminal or traffic violation granted deferred adjudication, SOTX reserves the right to disqualify the applicant from volunteering.

Appeal Process

The rejected volunteer applicant shall have the right to appeal SOTX's decision in two specific instances:

1. To declare that the criminal background check is in error and the applicant is not the person with the conviction (e.g., "It's not me!") or
2. To admit that the conviction information is correct, but there were extenuating circumstances behind the crime (e.g., "It's me, but...").



In case of an erroneous background check, the applicant should contact Intellicorp Records, Inc. (the Director of Volunteer Services can supply the contact information) and coordinate with them in correcting the error in the report. After Intellicorp has corrected their records, the applicant will be screened again for SOTX to determine his/her eligibility as a volunteer. **Note:** Please refer to Appendix E for Intellicorp's contact information and error process.

In case of extenuating circumstances, the applicant has the right to appeal the rejection of his/her volunteer application under this paragraph by written request and explanation to the Director of Volunteer Services, within 30 days of the program's notification to the volunteer applicant (date of letter).

Upon receipt of the appeal request, the Director of Volunteer Services shall verify that the applicant was truthful on the Class A Volunteer Application regarding the four SOI Volunteer Qualifier Questions:

1. Do you use illegal drugs?
2. Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense?
3. Have you ever been charged with neglect, abuse, or assault?
4. Has your driver license ever been suspended or revoked in any state?

If the applicant was truthful on the application and disclosed the conviction(s), the Director of Volunteer Services will confer with the Vice President of Shared Services as well as the SOTX legal counsel, as needed, regarding the applicant's appeal request and explanation to weigh the applicant's overall appropriateness to be a volunteer for the program.

If the applicant was not truthful on the application and did not disclose the conviction(s), the appeal will immediately be denied regardless of the circumstances.

In either case, the program's decision not to accept a volunteer applicant is binding until the final decision is made regarding the applicant and his/her appeal, meaning no volunteering is allowed while the appeal is pending. SOTX shall have the right and the authority to make the final decision as to the acceptance of any volunteer applicant under this section.

All appendices (A-E) are available online at www.specialolympicstexas.org.

Class B Volunteers

- Volunteers who only have limited contact with athletes or who have contact with athletes accompanied by coaches and chaperones (e.g., day of event volunteers, Torch Run volunteers raising less than \$15,000 annually, Healthy Athletes volunteers, officials not housed at Games, etc.).

To be considered for participation with SOTX as a Class B volunteer, the applicant must submit a signed, completed and truthful Class B Registration Form to SOTX before taking on any volunteer responsibilities. An applicant is only considered a registered SOTX volunteer after submitting a Class B Registration Form and passing the photo identification check, not prior to those steps.

As with Class A volunteers, the decision of SOTX with regard to any Class B volunteer's acceptance rests within the sole and absolute discretion of SOTX. In exercising that discretion, SOTX shall be guided by its mission statement and the policy and procedure set forth herein.

1. Application Process: All Class B volunteers shall be screened for participation in the Special Olympics program as follows: Class B volunteers shall apply for participation by submitting a Day of Event Volunteer Registration Form at each event.
2. Orientation: All volunteers shall attend a Class B volunteer orientation program as directed by SOTX.
3. Day of Event: On the day of each event, the registered volunteer shall report to a designated volunteer coordinator for that event and verify his/her identification via a photo identification.



Annual Chapter Awards

Every year, Special Olympics Texas holds an awards ceremony to recognize and demonstrate its appreciation to the volunteers, athletes, families and businesses that make the Special Olympics experience possible for our athletes.

There are seven separate forms; please use the appropriate form for the category. If you wish to submit a nomination for any of the following awards, please fill out the Area/Chapter Awards Nomination Form at the end of this section. **Individuals may be nominated in one category only.**

Please send all signed, completed nominations to your area director for approval, postmarked no later than June 15. No late nomination forms will be accepted.

Volunteer of the Year

This award was established in 1980 to be given annually to the volunteer who best displays year-round spirit, dedication, and unselfish efforts on behalf of Special Olympics Texas and its athletes.

Each nomination will be weighed based on the following criteria:

- The nominee must be currently registered as a SOTX Class A volunteer.
- The nominee must display excellence in all levels of involvement.
- The nominee must have been involved with SOTX for at least five years.
- The nominee must be a positive role model for the athletes and other volunteers.

Award Winners

2004 - Barbara Threatt, Yoakum
2005 - Peter Leal, Elsa
2006 - Lynn Luttrell, Abilene
2007 - Alma De La Garza, Mission
2008 - Jr. Urioste, Wichita Falls
2009 - Jim Domer, Lewisville
2010 - Donald Calhoun, Bryan
2011 - Dr. Margaret Woody, Waco
2012 - Amy Ramey, San Antonio
2013 - Ricardo Escamilla, Sr., Corpus Christi

Male Athletes of the Year: 15 - 21 and 22 and older

These awards acknowledge the male athletes who embody the spirit of the Special Olympics movement – on and off the field.

Starting in 2002, this award was split into two age categories: 15 - 21 and 22 and older.

The Male Athlete of the Year should be at least 15 years of age and have been involved with Special Olympics at least five years. Athlete nominations should be weighed based on the following criteria: number of sports in which the athlete competes; area and chapter level participation; good sportsmanship; leadership among other athletes; service in the ALPs; participation outside of SOTX such as school, work or community organization.

Award Winners

2004 - Mark Cannon, Ponder (15 - 21) and Ruben Young, San Antonio (22 and older)
2005 - Tyler Jordan, Mt. Belvieu (15 - 21) and Gabe Cantu, Baytown (22 and older)
2006 - David Rector, Corpus Christi (15 - 21) and Jesus Salas, Baytown (22 and older)
2007 - PJ Luccisano, Pearland (15 - 21) and Kevin Harrell, Houston (22 and older)
2008 - Derek Schottle, Sugar Land (15 - 21) and Wilburn Buffalo, Spring (22 and older)
2009 - Pedro Munoz, Los Fresnos (15 - 21) and Roel Martinez, Edinburg (22 and older)
2010 - Adam Cashion, Boerne (15 - 21) and Joshua Burton, LaPorte (22 and older)
2011 - Brandon LeMaster, El Paso (15 - 21) and Paul Holland, Shady Shores (22 and older)
2012 - Brennan O'Donnell, Round Rock (15 - 21) and Lyndon LaPlante, Keller (22 and older)
2013 - Christian Cisneros, Spring (15 - 21) and Ronnie Farrell, Manchaca (22 and older)



Female Athletes of the Year: 15 - 21 and 22 and older

These awards honor the female athletes who represent the energy of the Special Olympics movement – on and off the field. Starting in 2002, this award was split into two age categories: 15 - 21 and 22 and older.

The Female Athlete of the Year should be at least 15 years of age and have been involved with Special Olympics at least five years. Athlete nominations should be weighed based on the following criteria: number of sports in which the athlete competes; area and chapter level participation; good sportsmanship; leadership among other athletes; service in the ALPs including service as a representative of SOTX; participation outside of SOTX such as school, work or community organization.

Award Winners

- 2004 - Kim Smith, Baytown (15 - 21) and Carla Brown, Houston (22 and older)
- 2005 - Kristyna Contreras, Deer Park (15 - 21) and Stacie Merchant, College Station (22 and older)
- 2006 - Celina Escobedo, Alamo (15 - 21) and Heidi Bush, San Antonio (22 and older)
- 2007 - Katherine Richards, Houston (15 - 21) and Bridget Stephney, Stafford (22 and older)
- 2008 - Vanessa Parra, San Antonio (15 - 21) and Lisa Lepley, Houston (22 and older)
- 2009 - Robyn Pazderny, Richmond (15 - 21) and Kristen Medley, San Antonio (22 and older)
- 2010 - Seneca Cantu, Converse (15 - 21) and Christine Jasso, El Paso (22 and older)
- 2011 - Audrey Alvarez, Graham (15 - 21) and Brett Mohammadi, San Antonio (22 and older)
- 2012 - Dalia Martinez, San Antonio (15 - 21) and Leanne Owens, Dallas (22 and older)
- 2013 - Rebecca Carkhuff, Spring (15 - 21) and Stacey Johnson, Allen (22 and older)

Coach of the Year

This award recognizes the coach who best demonstrates a positive influence on his/her athletes, while helping them to succeed in competition as well as in life.

Each nomination will be weighed based on the following criteria:

- The nominee must be a SOTX certified coach.
- The nominee must be a currently registered SOTX Class A volunteer.
- The nominee constantly works to expand his/her knowledge of the sport.
- The nominee must have been involved with SOTX for at least five years.
- The nominee must be a positive role model for athletes and families.

Award Winners

- 2004 - Jan Sartain, Round Rock
- 2005 - Amy Wiesenhutter, Round Rock
- 2006 - Laine Meyers, Corpus Christi
- 2007 - Barbara Foley, Austin
- 2008 - Judy Seitz, San Antonio
- 2009 - Edward Waring, San Antonio
- 2010 - Terrence Baugh, Arlington
- 2011 - Barbara Montalvo, Edcouch
- 2012 - J'Nette Thorne, Amarillo
- 2013 - Pamela Fowler, Grand Prairie

Trainer of the Year

This award was created for the person who is committed to training and making every effort to encourage others to train or coach at the highest level. Each nomination will also be weighed based on the following criteria:

- The nominee designs and implements a minimum of two trainings at the state and/or area level that follow the mission and philosophy of Special Olympics Texas and Special Olympics, Inc.
- The nominee encourages growth and change within the organization.
- The nominee has been a training director or manager for at least two years.
- The nominee is a current SOTX Class A volunteer.



- The nominee has been actively involved with training at the area level.
- The nominee completes Special Olympics Texas training certification requirements including: a Train the Trainer Course, applicable practicum hours and the annual training re-certification.
- The nominee upholds the spirit of sportsmanship and love of participation.

Award Winners

2004 - Kathy Harvel, Fort Worth
2005 - Patricia Stamblesky, Austin
2006 - Barbara Draper, Alto
2007 - Karen Jones, Conroe
2008 - Nancy Manley, Round Rock
2009 - Leslie Low, Flower Mound
2010 - Debra Blackwood, San Antonio
2011 - Maelynne Pease, San Antonio
2012 - Shirley Johnson, San Antonio
2013 - Diana Garza, Corpus Christi

Outstanding Volunteer for Sports and Competition

For voluntary service that improves the quality of Special Olympics sports and competitions.

Each nomination will also be weighed based on the following criteria:

- The nominee must be currently registered as a SOTX Class A volunteer.
- The nominee must have been involved with SOTX for at least two years.
- The nominee has been a certified competition or games director.

Award Winners

2004 - Clyda Hilliard, Rockwall
2005 - Ann Keeler, New Braunfels
2006 - Letha Zepeda, Dallas
2007 - Debra Blackwood, San Antonio
2008 - Bill and Evelyn Merrill, Universal City
2009 - David Kight, Willis
2010 - Larry Lobue, Missouri City
2011 - Cindy Benzon, Spring
2012 - Sherri Mell, San Antonio
2013 - Julia Scott, Carrollton

Outstanding Service from a Business/Corporation

For year-round service (in the form of volunteer support, for example) or financial backing (including in-kind donations) from a business.

Award Winners

2004 - Magnolia Coca-Cola Bottling Company, El Paso
2005 - GMAC Financial Services, Plano
2006 - Lewis FoodTown, Pasadena
2007 - City of Richardson
2008 - H-E-B, Houston
2009 - Walmart
2010 - GEO Group, San Antonio
2011 - Bell Helicopter Textron, Fort Worth
2012 - Southwest Dairy Farmers, Sulphur Springs
2013 - Sysco Central Texas, Inc., New Braunfels

Family of the Year

For the family of a Special Olympics Texas athlete that has made and continues to make a unique and lasting contribution to the lives of Special Olympics athletes. Each nomination must be accompanied by a complete list of all immediate family members.



Award Winners

- 2004 - The Hornsby Family, Manchaca
- 2005 - The Fox Family, Deer Park
- 2006 - The Guevara Family, Stafford
- 2007 - The Marquez Family, Lubbock
- 2008 - The Bannister Family, North Richland Hills
- 2009 - The Baxter Family, Pasadena
- 2010 - The Ford Family, Canyon
- 2011 - The Calhoun-Erdman Family, Bryan
- 2012 - The Bethea Family, Corpus Christi
- 2013 - The Igo Family, Plano

Outstanding Volunteer for Fund Raising

For voluntary service in implementing fund raising opportunities at the local, area or chapter level.

Each nominee will also be weighed based on the following criteria:

- The nominee must be currently registered as a SOTX Class A volunteer.
- The nominee must have been involved with SOTX for at least two years.

Award Winners

- 2004 - Ashley Cash, Midland; Carla Hughes, Amarillo; Gennie Williams, Lubbock
- 2005 - Hector Leal, Harlingen
- 2006 - Jim Albright, Dallas
- 2007 - Chris Leighton, Dallas
- 2008 - Glenn Schaaf, Houston
- 2009 - Kathy Ashwin, San Antonio
- 2011 - Marilyn Senneway, New Braunfels
- 2012 - Hector Amaya, Houston
- 2013 - Teresa Ramsey, Graham

Outstanding Service for Outreach

For the people, group or organization whose volunteer service has expanded the opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to become involved in the Special Olympics Texas program.

Each nomination will also be weighed based on the following criteria:

- The nominee must be currently registered as a SOTX Class A volunteer.
- The nominee must have been involved with SOTX for at least two years.

Award Winners

- 2004 - Brenda Allen, Hockley
- 2005 - Gwenda Taggart, San Antonio
- 2006 - Connie Griffin, Fort Worth
- 2007 - Nancy Hunter, Universal City
- 2008 - Everett and Sarah Castellano, McAllen
- 2009 - Shirley Johnson, San Antonio
- 2010 - Mary Jane Carvell, New Caney
- 2011 - Timothy Taggart, San Antonio
- 2012 - Abigail Wylie, Katy
- 2013 - Spencer Mackenzie, Denton

Outstanding Service from a Community Leader

For the professional athlete, celebrity, or civic leader who has demonstrated devotion to individuals with intellectual disabilities and concern for improving their skills through Special Olympics.



Award Winners

- 2004 - Bland Ellen, Conroe
- 2005 - Fred Walters, Bedford
- 2006 - Jim Sundberg, Arlington
- 2007 - T. Boone Pickens, Dallas
- 2008 - Joe Villarreal, San Antonio
- 2009 - Carl Robinson, El Paso
- 2010 - Chad Hedrick, Spring
- 2011 - Judge Danny Valdez, Laredo
- 2012 - Roberto Santos, Laredo
- 2013 - Arnold Sosa, Corpus Christi

Outstanding Service from a Civic or Service Organization

For year-round community service and/or monetary support from an agency, civic group or service organization.

Each nomination will also be weighed based on the following criteria:

- The nominee must have been involved with SOTX for at least five years.

Award Winners

- 2004 - Knights of Columbus, Lubbock
- 2005 - Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- 2006 - UTPA Student Council for Exceptional Children, Edinburg
- 2007 - Order of Alhambra, McAllen
- 2008 - Educational Service Center 2, Corpus Christi
- 2009 - Midland Freshman High School, Midland
- 2010 - Xceed Resources, El Paso
- 2011 - The Kinkaid School - Class of 2012, Houston
- 2012 - Alhambra, El Paso
- 2013 - Balcones Country Club Tennis Group, Austin

Unified Sports® Partner of the Year

The Unified Sports® Partner of the Year Award is dedicated to the individual who embodies the philosophy of Unified Sports®. By dedicating themselves to the integration of athletes in the community, promoting skill development, and fostering self-esteem among athletes on their Unified Sports® team.

Each nomination will also be weighed based on the following criteria:

- The nominee must be currently registered as a SOTX Class A volunteer and Unified Sports® partner.
- The nominee must actively participate on a Unified team as a partner.
- The nominee must have been involved with SOTX for at least two years.
- The nominee must be a positive role model for the athletes and other Unified Sports® partners.

Awards

- 2004 - Andrew Ambort, Austin
- 2005 - Nate Adams, Midlothian
- 2006 - Kenneth Dohmen, San Antonio
- 2007 - John David Roberts, Mansfield
- 2008 - Virgie Shinn, El Paso
- 2009 - Sean Lucas, Austin
- 2010 - Eugene Calabro, El Paso
- 2011 - Justin King, Round Rock
- 2012 - Gary Schwartz, Corpus Christi
- 2013 - Kimberly Taggart, San Antonio

Special Olympics Texas Class A Volunteer Application Page 1



NEW RENEWAL UPDATE

As a Class A volunteer of Special Olympics Texas, you must complete this application every three years (paper or web version). All Class A volunteers must complete the entire form and sign to indicate your understanding of the Consent for Criminal Background Check and Volunteer Code of Ethics, or your application will not be processed.

CONTACT INFO

Last Name		First Name	
Middle Name		Nickname	
Mailing Address			
City		State	Zip
Email		Day Phone ()	
Night Phone ()		Cell Phone ()	

EMPLOYMENT INFO

Employer Name		Occupation	
Address			
City		State	Zip

VOLUNTEER ROLES

Delegation Personnel Role					
Delegation ID (example: AAA-03)					
Competition <input type="radio"/> Medical <input type="radio"/> Sports Official for Sport:					
Development <input type="radio"/> Torch Runner <input type="radio"/> Other:					
Other:					

Office Use Only
Date: _____
Staff: _____
Area: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name	Relationship	Phone ()
------	--------------	-----------------

SOI QUALIFIER QUESTIONS

NOTE: SOTX will check every Class A applicant/renewal. An affirmative response will not necessarily prevent or restrict volunteer activities; however, failure to provide accurate information may result in such actions.

1. Do you use illegal drugs?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
2. Have you <u>ever</u> been charged with and/or convicted of a criminal offense?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
3. Have you <u>ever</u> been charged with neglect, abuse or assault?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
4. Has your driver license <u>ever</u> been suspended or revoked in any state or other jurisdiction?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
If you responded "yes" to any of the above, please provide a brief explanation:		

Do you carry at least the state of Texas legal minimum auto insurance?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Are you currently certified in CPR?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Are you currently certified in first aid?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
I am a <input type="radio"/> SOTX athlete <input type="radio"/> family member <input type="radio"/> neither		

PERSONAL REFERENCES

Name	Relationship	Phone ()
Name	Relationship	Phone ()

COMPLETE ALL BOXES

Special Olympics Texas Class A Volunteer Application Page 2

Applicant Name: _____

ID VERIFICATION

A photo-ID check is required by SOI and can be done by either a SOTX staff member or your head of delegation.

COMPLETE	Driver License # _____	State: _____	Gender: <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female
	Ethnicity: <input type="radio"/> American Indian <input type="radio"/> Asian/Pacific Islander <input type="radio"/> Black <input type="radio"/> Hispanic <input type="radio"/> White <input type="radio"/> Other		
	Date of Birth ____/____/____ MM/DD/YYYY	Social Security # ____-____-____	
	Resident of Texas for _____ years	If less than ten (10) years, list other states/countries in which you have resided:	
Additional names you may be listed under (e.g., maiden, married, legal change, etc.):			

CONSENT FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

I hereby give unrestricted permission to Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) to obtain information relating to my criminal background history. The criminal background history, as received from the reporting agencies, may include arrest and conviction data as well as plea bargains and deferred adjudications. I understand that this information will be used, in part, to determine my eligibility for a volunteer position with SOTX. I also understand that as long as I remain a volunteer of SOTX, the criminal background check may be repeated at any time. If denied eligibility to volunteer based on check findings, I understand that I will have an opportunity to review the criminal background history and a procedure is available for clarification, if I dispute the data as received.

I, the undersigned, do for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, hereby remise, release and forever discharge and agree to indemnify SOTX, the company performing the criminal background check, and each of their officers, directors, employees, and agents harmless from and against any and all causes of actions, suits, liabilities, costs, debts, and sums of money, claims and demands whatsoever, including negligence and gross negligence, and any and all related attorneys' fees, court costs, and other expenses resulting from the investigation into my criminal background in connection with my application to become a volunteer of SOTX.

I understand that I have the obligation to report to SOTX any changes in my criminal background history after the date that I sign this form, the Special Olympics Texas Class A Volunteer Registration Form, including this Consent for Criminal Background Check.

VOLUNTEER CODE OF ETHICS

Fulfill assignment responsibility: Carry out all aspects of your assignment; attend all required meetings; and notify the volunteer coordinator if you cannot complete an assignment.

Set a good example for the athlete: Refrain from smoking, consuming alcohol or using profanity as a volunteer; be discreet in your personal relationships with athletes and avoid any behavior which may be misunderstood or misinterpreted; and be helpful to and supportive of everyone associated with Special Olympics.

Demonstrate good sportsmanship and cooperation: Support the decisions of referees, judges, and committees, and use proper dissent processes; be respectful during ceremonies; praise the athletes for their efforts and encourage them to be happy for the success of other athletes; and support and encourage other volunteers and staff.

Be vigilant and aware of the safety of the athlete: Never leave an athlete unchaperoned; report anything you observe, either in the physical environment or in an individual's behavior, which you feel may cause potential harm.

Be loyal to your commitment to Special Olympics: Look for constructive ways to overcome obstacles.

Take advantage of the opportunities Special Olympics offers you: Be open to new ideas and new ways of doing things; become an active participant by extending your involvement to other roles of leadership and training; and delight in the change your involvement makes in the life of someone you know and in the many lives of those you'll never meet.

PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING:

I understand that:

- The information that I provided will be verified and I give permission to Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) to make inquiries, which will include a criminal background check to determine my suitability to act as a SOTX volunteer.
- In the course of volunteering for SOTX, I may deal with confidential information and I agree to keep such information in the strictest confidence.
- The relationship between SOTX and volunteers is an "at will" arrangement. It can be terminated at any time without cause by either me or SOTX.
- I grant SOTX permission to use my likeness, voice, and words in television, radio, film or in any form to promote activities of SOTX.

I affirm that I have read and reviewed both the Consent for Criminal Background Check and Volunteer Code of Ethics as well as that the information I have provided on this form is true and complete.

Any record containing an electronic signature shall be deemed for all purposes to have been signed.

SIGN & DATE	Applicant Signature: _____	Date: _____
	Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ (for minors)	Date: _____
	Printed Name: _____	

NOTE: Parent or legal guardian must sign for minors. Being fully informed of requirements, I hereby consent to the minor's participation in SOTX activities.

Special Olympics Texas Class A Minor Volunteer Reference Form



Any minor applying to be a Class A volunteer is required to submit this form in addition to the required Class A Volunteer Application (pages C-15 to C-16). This form serves as the replacement for the criminal background check that adult applicants must pass to be a Class A Volunteer; it is NOT a replacement for the Class A Volunteer Application.

SECTION A – MINOR VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Minor Name:	
Minor Address:	Minor DOB: ___ / ___ / _____

In consideration of participating with Special Olympics Texas, I affirm that both references below are:

- **True and complete**
- **Are from personal or professional relationships (one of which is from the applicant's school, if applicable)**
- **Do not include family members**

Signature of Minor Volunteer _____
Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____
Date

PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE #1

References must be age 18 and over and may not be family members. (Example: individuals from school, church, civic/service organization.)

COMPLETE ALL BOXES	Name:	Relationship to Minor:
	Origin of Relationship (e.g. church, school, work, etc.):	
	Email:	
	Day Phone ()	Night Phone ()
	1: How long have you known the minor? _____ Years _____ Months	
	2: Do you know of any reason that SOTX should not accept this minor as a volunteer? <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	
	2A: If yes, please explain:	
	Signature:	Date:

PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE #2

References must be age 18 and over and may not be family members. (Example: individuals from school, church, civic/service organization.)

COMPLETE ALL BOXES	Name:	Relationship to Minor:
	Origin of Relationship (e.g. church, school, work, etc.):	
	Email:	
	Day Phone ()	Night Phone ()
	1: How long have you known the minor? _____ Years _____ Months	
	2: Do you know of any reason that SOTX should not accept this minor as a volunteer? <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	
	2A: If yes, please explain:	
	Signature:	Date:

Office Use Only	Area: _____	Delegation ID: _____
-----------------	-------------	----------------------



VOLUNTEER ELIGIBILITY

This page is intentionally left blank.

Special Olympics Texas Reference Form for Class A Volunteers from Countries outside of the United States



For any potential Class A volunteer from a country outside of the United States without an assigned Social Security number, this reference form is a Special Olympics North America (SONA) registration requirement and will be used as a replacement for the criminal background check that adult applicants must pass to be a Class A volunteer.

Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) meets SONA's registration requirement by having the following criteria:

- a. A volunteer application has been submitted including answers to the "our questions relative to criminal offenses" (on the Class A Volunteer Application).
- b. A personal interview with the potential volunteer has been conducted by a program representative (below).
- c. At least three references have been obtained from the potential volunteer and checked by the program (back side of this form).

Section A - Applicant Information

Full Legal Name:		Date of Birth:	Number of Years in the U.S.:
Type of Entry: <small>(Temporary Visitor, Student, Permanent Residence VISA, Reentry Permit, etc.)</small>		Alien Number (A#) or Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN):	
Area:	Delegation ID:	Requested Volunteer Role:	

In consideration of volunteering with SOTX, I affirm that all three references listed on the next page: a) are true and complete, b) are from personal or professional relationships, and c) are NOT family members or relatives.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian (if applicant is a minor)

Date

Section B - Personal Interview By SOTX Representative*

(* A SOTX representative must be a staff member or the Head of Delegation on record for the applicant's delegation, and cannot be a family member or relative.) A copy of interview questions must accompany this application.

Completed by Interviewer	Interviewer Name: _____ SOTX Role: <input type="checkbox"/> Staff <input type="checkbox"/> HoD for ____ - __
	E-mail Address: _____
	Day Phone: () _____ Night Phone: () _____
	1. Based on your interview, do you feel there is any reason that SOTX should NOT accept this applicant as a volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
SIGN	1A. If yes, please explain. _____ _____

Sample Interview Questions:

- What is your relationship with each of your references?
- Why do you want to volunteer with SOTX?
- What have you done within the last year that has brought you the most satisfaction?
- How would someone close to you describe you?
- What types of volunteer work have you done before?
- What do you hope to gain from your volunteer experience?

Section C - Three Personal/Professional References***Name of Volunteer:** _____**Reference #1** (* The person who fills this out cannot be a family member or relative and must be at least 18 years old.)

Completed by Reference 1	Name:	Relationship to Applicant*:
	Origin of Relationship (e.g., church, school, work, etc.):	
	Day Phone: ()	Night Phone: ()
	1. How long have you known the applicant? ____ Years ____ Months	
	2. Do you know of any reason that SOTX should NOT accept this applicant as a volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
SIGN	2A. If yes, please explain.	

Reference #2 (* The person who fills this out cannot be a family member or relative and must be at least 18 years old.)

Completed by Reference 2	Name:	Relationship to Applicant*:
	Origin of Relationship (e.g., church, school, work, etc.):	
	Day Phone: ()	Night Phone: ()
	1. How long have you known the applicant? ____ Years ____ Months	
	2. Do you know of any reason that SOTX should NOT accept this applicant as a volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
SIGN	2A. If yes, please explain.	

Reference #3 (* The person who fills this out cannot be a family member or relative and must be at least 18 years old.)

Completed by Reference 3	Name:	Relationship to Applicant*:
	Origin of Relationship (e.g., church, school, work, etc.):	
	Day Phone: ()	Night Phone: ()
	1. How long have you known the applicant? ____ Years ____ Months	
	2. Do you know of any reason that SOTX should NOT accept this applicant as a volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
SIGN	2A. If yes, please explain.	

Special Olympics Texas Class B Volunteer Registration Form

Event and Location		Date	ID Check
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	
Address			
City	State	Zip	Gender: <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female
Day Phone ()		Night Phone ()	
Email			
Business or Organization Affiliation			
Emergency Contact		Phone ()	

Please read before signing. As a volunteer member of Special Olympics Texas, I agree to:

- Follow the policies, rules and procedures of Special Olympics Texas.
- Place the safety and well-being of the Special Olympics athlete as foremost.
- Interact with the Special Olympics athletes in the appropriate and dignified manner that any athlete or individual deserves.
- Represent Special Olympics Texas in a professional manner that represents a positive image to the community.
- Accept challenge using a constructive approach.
- Grant Special Olympics permission to use my likeness, voice and words in television, radio and film or in any form to promote the activities of Special Olympics.

I affirm that I have read the above and that the information I have given is true and complete.

Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature (for minors): _____ Date: _____

NOTE: Parent or legal guardian must sign for minors. Being fully informed of requirements, I hereby consent to the minor's participation in SOTX activities.

Special Olympics Texas Class B Volunteer Registration Form

Event and Location		Date	ID Check
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	
Address			
City	State	Zip	Gender: <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female
Day Phone ()		Night Phone ()	
Email			
Business or Organization Affiliation			
Emergency Contact		Phone ()	

Please read before signing. As a volunteer member of Special Olympics Texas, I agree to:

- Follow the policies, rules and procedures of Special Olympics Texas.
- Place the safety and well-being of the Special Olympics athlete as foremost.
- Interact with the Special Olympics athletes in the appropriate and dignified manner that any athlete or individual deserves.
- Represent Special Olympics Texas in a professional manner that represents a positive image to the community.
- Accept challenge using a constructive approach.
- Grant Special Olympics permission to use my likeness, voice and words in television, radio and film or in any form to promote the activities of Special Olympics.

I affirm that I have read the above and that the information I have given is true and complete.

Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature (for minors): _____ Date: _____

NOTE: Parent or legal guardian must sign for minors. Being fully informed of requirements, I hereby consent to the minor's participation in SOTX activities.



VOLUNTEER ELIGIBILITY

This page is intentionally left blank.

Area/Chapter Awards Program Nomination Form: **Athlete**



Award Description and Requirements

The Athlete of the Year should be at least 15 years of age and have been involved with Special Olympics for at least five years. Athlete nominations should be weighed based on the following criteria: 1) number of sports in which the athlete competes; 2) area and chapter level participation; 3) good sportsmanship; 4) leadership among other athletes; 5) service in the ALPs; and 6) participation outside of SOTX such as with school, work or community organizations.

Nomination Reminders

- A) At least one supplemental item is required; up to three letters of recommendation and up to three additional items (e.g., certificate, newspaper articles) may be included. Supplemental materials above this number will not be reviewed. All supplemental materials may be returned upon request.
- B) A photo of the nominee is recommended, but will not be considered a supplemental item.

Nominee Information

Nominee: _____ Area: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Award Category: Male Athlete 15-21 Male Athlete 22+
 Female Athlete 15-21 Female Athlete 22+

Nominee Background

What year did this athlete get involved with SOTX? _____

List all sports the athlete currently competes in with SOTX: _____

What non-sport activities does the athlete do within SOTX? _____

What activities does the athlete participate in outside SOTX? _____

Has the athlete ever received a SOTX award?

Area (award name and year received): _____

Chapter (award name and year received): _____

Area/Chapter Awards Program Nomination Form: Civic-Service Organization



Award Description and Requirements

This award is given for year-round community service and/or monetary support from an agency, civic group or service organization. The nominee must have been involved with SOTX for at least five years.

Nomination Reminders

- A) At least one supplemental item is required; up to three letters of recommendation and up to three additional items (e.g., certificate, newspaper articles) may be included. Supplemental materials above this number will not be reviewed. All supplemental materials may be returned upon request.
- B) A photo of the nominee is recommended, but will not be considered a supplemental item.

Nominee Information

Group Name: _____ Area: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Nominee Background

What year did the group get involved with SOTX? _____

What has the group done specifically to support SOTX? _____

On average, how many individuals participate with SOTX through this group? _____

How and why did the group become involved with SOTX? _____

Has the group ever received a SOTX award?

Area (award name and year received): _____

Chapter (award name and year received): _____

Area/Chapter Awards Program Nomination Form: Community Leader/Outreach



Award Description and Requirements

Community Leader - For the civic leader, celebrity or professional athlete who has demonstrated exceptional support to individuals with intellectual disabilities and concern for improving their skills through Special Olympics Texas.

Outreach – For the person, group or organization whose volunteer service has expanded the opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to become involved in the Special Olympics Texas program. The nominee must be currently registered as a SOTX Class A volunteer; the nominee must have been involved with SOTX for at least two years.

Nomination Reminders

- A) At least one supplemental item is required; up to three letters of recommendation and up to three additional items (e.g., certificate, newspaper articles) may be included. Supplemental materials above this number will not be reviewed. All supplemental materials may be returned upon request.
- B) A photo of the nominee is recommended, but will not be considered a supplemental item.

Nominee Information

Nominee: _____ Area: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Award Category: Community Leader Outreach

Nominee Background

What year did this nominee get involved with SOTX? _____

How many hours (on average) did the nominee contribute to SOTX this year? _____

List specific activities the nominee performed on behalf of SOTX. _____

How and why did the nominee become involved with SOTX? _____

Has the nominee ever received a SOTX award?

Area (award name and year received): _____

Chapter (award name and year received): _____

Area/Chapter Awards Program Nomination Form:

Family



Award Description and Requirements

This award is for the family of a Special Olympics Texas athlete, that has made and continues to make a unique and lasting contribution to the lives of athletes. Each nomination must be accompanied by a complete list of all immediate family members.

Nomination Reminders

- A) At least one supplemental item is required; up to three letters of recommendation and up to three additional items (e.g., certificate, newspaper articles) may be included. Supplemental materials above this number will not be reviewed. All supplemental materials may be returned upon request.
- B) A photo of the nominee is recommended, but will not be considered a supplemental item.

Nominee Information

Nominee: _____ Area: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Nominee Background

What year did this family get involved with SOTX? _____

List all immediate family members involved with SOTX. _____

What roles do the family members have with SOTX (e.g., coach, Unified Partner, etc.)? _____

What makes this family stand out from other families? _____

Has the family ever received a SOTX award?

Area (award name and year received): _____

Chapter (award name and year received): _____

Area/Chapter Awards Program Nomination Form: Trainer/Sports and Competition



Award Description and Requirements

Trainer – The nominee must: 1) design and implement a minimum of two trainings at the state and/or area level that follow the mission and philosophy of Special Olympics Texas and Special Olympics, Inc.; 2) encourage growth and change within the organization; 3) have been a trainer for at least two years; 4) be a current Class A volunteer; 5) have been actively involved with training at the area level; 6) have completed Special Olympics Texas training certification requirements including: a Train the Trainer Course, applicable practicum hours and the annual training re-certification; 7) uphold the spirit of sportsmanship and love of participation.

Sports and Competition – The nominee must: 1) be currently registered as a SOTX Class A volunteer; 2) have been involved with SOTX for at least two years; 3) be a certified competition or games director.

Nomination Reminders

- A) At least one supplemental item is required; up to three letters of recommendation and up to three additional items (e.g., certificate, newspaper articles) may be included. Supplemental materials above this number will not be reviewed. All supplemental materials may be returned upon request.
- B) A photo of the nominee is recommended, but will not be considered a supplemental item.

Nominee Information

Nominee: _____ Area: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Award Category: Trainer Sports and Competition

Nominee Background

What year did this nominee get involved with SOTX? _____

What year did this nominee become a trainer with SOTX? _____

How many hours (on average) did the nominee contribute to SOTX this year? _____

How many trainings or competitions did the nominee participate in this year?

Trainings: _____ Competitions: _____

What additional roles does the nominee perform for SOTX (e.g., chaperone, committee member, etc.)? _____

How and why did the nominee become involved with SOTX? _____

Is being a SOTX volunteer a required part of the nominee's occupation? Yes No

Has the nominee ever received a SOTX award?

Area (award name and year received): _____

Chapter (award name and year received): _____

Testimonial by Nominator

In your own words, describe why this nominee should be considered above and beyond other nominees in this category (additional sheets may be attached).

Nominator Information

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Area Staff Signature: _____

(required)

No late forms will be accepted!

Completed, signed nomination forms must be submitted to your area office by no later than June 15.

Area staff will sign and forward the documents to the chapter office.

Area staff must submit forms to the chapter office by no later than July 15.

(Page 2 of 2)

Area/Chapter Awards Program Nomination Form: Volunteer/Coach/Unified Partner



Award Description and Requirements

Volunteer – The nominee must: 1) be currently registered as a Class A volunteer; 2) display excellence in all levels of involvement; 3) have been involved with SOTX for at least five years; 4) be a positive role model for the athletes and other volunteers.

Coach – The nominee must: 1) be a SOTX certified coach; 2) be currently registered as a SOTX Class A volunteer; 3) work to expand his/her knowledge of the sport; 4) have been involved with SOTX for at least five years; 5) be a positive role model for athletes and families.

Unified Partner – The nominee must: 1) be currently registered as a SOTX Class A volunteer and Unified Sports® partner; 2) must actively participate on a Unified team as a partner; 3) have been involved with SOTX for at least two years; 4) be a positive role model for the athletes and other Unified Sports® partners.

Nomination Reminders

- A) At least one supplemental item is required; up to three letters of recommendation and up to three additional items (e.g., certificate, newspaper articles) may be included. Supplemental materials above this number will not be reviewed. All supplemental materials may be returned upon request.
- B) A photo of the nominee is recommended, but will not be considered a supplemental item.

Nominee Information

Nominee: _____ Area: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Award Category: Volunteer Coach Unified Partner

Nominee Background

What year did this nominee get involved with SOTX? _____

How many hours (on average) did the nominee contribute to SOTX this year? _____

What additional roles does the nominee perform for SOTX (e.g., chaperone, committee member, etc.)? _____

What sports is the nominee involved in with SOTX? _____

How and why did the nominee become involved with SOTX? _____

Is being a SOTX volunteer a required part of the nominee's occupation? Yes No

Has the nominee ever received a SOTX award?

Area (award name and year received): _____

Chapter (award name and year received): _____

Testimonial by Nominator

In your own words, describe why this nominee should be considered above and beyond other nominees in this category (additional sheets may be attached).

Nominator Information

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Area Staff Signature: _____
(required)

No late forms will be accepted!

Completed, signed nomination forms must be submitted to your area office by no later than June 15.

Area staff will sign and forward the documents to the chapter office.

Area staff must submit forms to the chapter office by no later than July 15.

Area/Chapter Awards Program Nomination Form: Business-Corporation/Fund Raising



Award Description and Requirements

Business-Corporation - For year-round service or financial backing from a business.

Fund Raising – For voluntary service in implementing fund raising opportunities at the local, area or chapter level.

Nomination Reminders

- A) At least one supplemental item is required; up to three letters of recommendation and up to three additional items (e.g., certificate, newspaper articles) may be included. Supplemental materials above this number will not be reviewed. All supplemental materials may be returned upon request.
- B) A photo of the nominee is recommended, but will not be considered a supplemental item.

Nominee Information

Nominee/Contact Person: _____ Area: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Award Category: Business-Corporation Fund Raising

Nominee Background

What year did this nominee get involved with SOTX? _____

How many hours (on average) did the nominee contribute to SOTX this year? _____

What amount did the nominee contribute to SOTX this year? Cash _____ In-Kind _____

How and why did the nominee become involved with SOTX? _____

Is being a SOTX volunteer part of the nominee's occupation: Yes No

Has the nominee ever received a SOTX award?

Area (award name and year received): _____

Chapter (award name and year received): _____

