Service Opportunities

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Special Olympics Philadelphia

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Brief Organizational Background

Special Olympics is a global movement that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sport, every day around the world. Through sports, health, education and community programming, Special Olympics is tackling inactivity, intolerance, isolation and injustice that people throughout the world face, especially people with intellectual disabilities.

The mission of Special Olympics PA– Philadelphia is to provide year-round sports training and 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.

All training and competition opportunities are provided free of charge to the athletes and their families, enabling everyone to experience the benefits of Special Olympics that extend well beyond the playing field.

Special Olympics was created by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) is authorized and accredited by Special Olympics Inc. for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities.

Range of Services (i.e. tutoring, discrete projects, workshops, research, etc) Sports competition and training at local, regional, state, national and world levels.
Special Olympics PA – Philadelphia currently offers 11 sports throughout all sport seasons.
Leadership opportunities (athlete committees, input councils, congress, etc.).
Health and fitness initiatives are also a focal point of our programming to ensure the overall well being and health of our participants.

Population served: (i.e. demographics, age range, educational level, cultural background, etc.). Please include other relevant information.
All intellectually disabled individuals.
Traditional Programming: Ages 8–80
Young Athletes Program: Ages 2–7
Interscholastic Unified Program: Elementary, Middle and High School Students.

Brief Description of Proposed Activity

This intern will work with the Director of Interscholastic Unified Sports in the execution of our bocce, soccer and track and field programs within local elementary, middle and high schools. Meeting with school staff at participating locations to develop and cultivate relationships, to provide them necessary information to help successfully run the program, offer support to teachers for training, competition, and in-school youth leadership
initiatives. The intern will take a hands-on role in understanding the program budget, financial protocols (purchase orders, check requests and expense reports) and aid in the reporting required by the grant that funds this in-school program. This individual may also be responsible for setting up training and competition events: carrying/loading equipment, lining fields, setting up nets, keeping score, etc. This position will require the individual to travel to the various schools throughout Philadelphia and therefore must have their own transportation/vehicle. Compensation will be provided for mileage or expenses beyond regular daily commute to and from the office. This position will work regularly out of the Special Olympics – PA Philadelphia location listed below.

Main expectations of student interns (i.e. time commitment, frequency, duration, etc.). Please specify type of students required (undergraduate, graduate, & specific educational discipline if necessary).

Minimum of 12 hours per week (flexible)
Can be broken down across 2–3 days (flexible).

Internships are available year round.
Fall: September through December
Winter/Spring: January through May
Summer: June through September

Background checks will be conducted.
Must have own vehicle.

Benefit to Students

Volunteers are the backbone of Special Olympics Pennsylvania – we could not exist without their dedication. The time, energy and enthusiasm of volunteers fuel our movement and make our athletes’ dreams a reality. There is a place for everyone in our organization, especially students looking to expand their experiences, build their resume and do so while giving their time to a beyond-worthy cause.

We are an organization that will give students hands on experience in a variety of areas: working with individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families, understanding and contributing to the daily operations of a nonprofit business, building relationships, teamwork and more to help propel our mission!

At the end of the day our interns not only learn and gain invaluable experiences, but they take comfort in knowing they are giving back to an incredibly worthy population and end each work day with that warm fuzzy feeling know they’ve accomplished something great.

Benefit to Organization

At the local level of Special Olympics Pennsylvania here in Philadelphia, the commitment of our volunteers (interns included) is vital to our day to day operations and long term sustainability. While our mission is to serve those with intellectual disabilities, we take great pride in providing real-world, hands on experiences to interns who can benefit from working with our population and program. Having the hard work and dedication from our interns helps us to accomplish our goals and serve even more of our target demographic with the quality programming that Special Olympics prides itself on.

Service Location

Head Office: 2900 Southampton Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154

Will require travel to participating schools throughout Philadelphia. Intern must have own vehicle. Intern will be reimbursed for all travel and related expenses.

Materials/resources to student interns (i.e. curricula, library, IT, & other community resources)

Students will receive a 'Special Olympics PA' email address for correspondence throughout their internship. Other informational materials will be provided as necessary throughout the internship. All interns have access to the resources available online to educate
themselves on our programming and Special Olympics through three websites:
1) Special Olympics PA – Philadelphia: www.sopaphilly.org
2) Special Olympics PA (SOPA) – www.specialolympicspa.org
3) Special Olympics Inc. (SOI) – www.specialolympics.org

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