



Volunteer for Special Olympics Illinois!

Special Olympics Illinois (SOILL) has satellite offices in 18 geographic areas. Each Area is managed by an Area Director who has the responsibility to provide training, competition and fundraising events within the Area. While SOILL offers 19 different sports and various fundraising activities, each Area offers its own unique mix of sports competitions and fundraisers. Area competitions serve as qualifying events for athlete advancement to district and state competitions. SOILL coordinates 88 Area events, 44 district and regional tournaments and 9 state championship tournaments. SOILL also coordinates various fundraising events at all levels of the Program. Both the Area and State levels offer the same volunteer opportunities outlined below.

Some opportunities require long-term commitments and specific skills. Other opportunities require limited time commitments and less specific sports skills but are just as important to the overall success of the program. An individual's involvement level is determined by the individual's availability and interests.

VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

SOILL has two classifications for volunteers:

- **Class A:** Individuals with 1-on-1 unsupervised contact with athletes; coaches, chaperones, speech coaches, mentors; individuals who have fundraising responsibilities or authorization to spend SOILL monies; and individuals authorized to speak on behalf of SOILL. This includes but is not limited to coaches, all SOILL staff members, members of the Board of Directors and Games Committee members. *A criminal background check and Protective Behaviors Training are part of the registration process for all Class A volunteers.*
- **Class B:** Individuals who are day-of-event volunteers with no athlete supervisory responsibilities.

SOILL uses volunteers of all ages, however, general volunteers must be at least 10 years of age and head coaches must be at least 18 years of age.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Area or State Event Volunteer: Help for a minimum of a four hour shift at an Area or State Special Olympics Sports competition or fundraising event.

Coaching – Work with a group of athletes for several hours a week for a three-four month sport season, requires knowledge in sport with training available through Special Olympics Illinois. *Requires background check and Protective Behaviors training.*

Official – Volunteers should be certified by the IHSA or a National Governing Body and are used at competitions at all levels of the program.

Committee Member – Help run a local or state event. Committee members are needed at both the Area and State level and require a longer term commitment. Volunteers help organize and conduct sports competitions and fundraisers, knowledge and experience in these fields is a plus but SOILL will

Special Olympics Illinois

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provide training. Committee members may work in or on a specific component of an event, i.e. Opening Ceremonies, Awards, Meals & Hospitality, or a Sports Specific venue.

Professional Skills – Positions include photography, graphic designing, writing, public relations, marketing, fundraising, etc.

Medical Volunteers – Lend your skills as an RN, doctor, medical or nursing student, athletic trainer, etc. at an Area or State event. Experience in the medical field is required.

Office Assistant – Help in a Special Olympics office. Tasks include data entry, mailings and event preparation.

The Family Action Network (FANs) – Opportunities are available to assist with family registration, family hospitality or more ongoing involvement with the development of family support, resources and education. SOILL provides training for all FANs opportunities.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

General Volunteers:

General volunteers, also referred to as “Class B” or “day-of-event” volunteers, are the backbone of our events. Without general volunteers we would not be able provide our athletes with quality competitions. General volunteers can volunteer for all of our State, District and Area events as well as fundraising events.

To get started volunteering for Special Olympics Illinois just follow these simple steps:

1. Go online to our website at <http://www.soill.org/volunteers/>.
2. Scroll down and click on “sign up as a general volunteer” This is where you will create your volunteer profile. Be sure to mark everything you are interested in in the “Volunteer Interest” section; this way you will get an email when registration is open for events tagged in those interest categories.
3. You will receive an email prompting you to create your password. Once you’ve created your profile you will be a registered volunteer in our system and will be able to register to volunteer for events online.
4. Last, go online to: <http://www.soill.org/volunteer-events/> to search events to volunteer for!

Coaching:

If you are interested in becoming a coach then please go online to <http://www.soill.org/coaches/> and fill out our Coaches Interest Form. One of our Sports Training Managers will contact you.

Questions:

For help with completing your online volunteer profile or questions about other volunteer roles, how to get in touch with your local area office, and/or the background check process please contact: Aubrey Deerwester at 309-888-2551 or adeerwester@soill.org

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