



*Frequently Asked Questions about
Special Olympics Illinois:*

What are the eligibility qualifications for athletes?

Athletes must be at least 8 years of age to train and compete in the traditional Special Olympics programs; the Young Athletes program serves 2-7 year olds. All athletes must have been identified as having an intellectual disability, cognitive delay or significant learning problems due to cognitive delays.

When are Special Olympics events held? Special Olympics are truly "games for all seasons!" With 19 different sports, there are trainings, competitions and related events happening every day throughout Illinois.

Where are Special Olympics teams located? Special Olympics is a worldwide movement happening in over 175 countries. There are teams from one end of the state to the other... and not far from your hometown.

Why should families get involved? Because there's nothing like watching your athlete grow in skill and success. Studies show that Special Olympics athletes are more likely to be independent and to be successful in employment and other areas of life.

What services are provided to families? Information seminars, funding, parent-to-parent mentoring and volunteer training are just a few of the services available to families in Illinois. Availability of certain family programs varies by area, but every area has something to offer to families.

When can I meet other Special Olympics families? Family receptions, picnics and information sessions are held in conjunction with Special Olympics events. Practices, competitions, fund-raisers... wherever there are athletes, there are new friends to meet! More programs are added every year!

What are the qualifications for volunteers? Because of the wide variety of tasks at any Special Olympics event, volunteers can be any person interested in helping individuals who have intellectual disabilities. Certain volunteers, such as coaches and directors, must meet age and knowledge requirements and participate in screening and training provided by Special Olympics Illinois. All volunteers have a large supply of enthusiasm and compassion!

How do I get involved? For more information on getting involved call Special Olympics Illinois at 800.394.0562 or visit the website at www.soill.org.

Contact Info:

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS
605 E. Willow St.
Normal, IL 61761
309.888.2551
800.394.0562
www.soill.org

*For more information on FANs, please contact
Karen Milligan:*

*Direct: 309.888.2013
Email: kmilligan@soill.org*



DROP IN ENVELOP & MAIL TO:
SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS
605 E. Willow St.
Normal, IL 61761



FAMILY ACTION NETWORK

www.soill.org

FAMILY ACTION NETWORK

Special Olympics Illinois

Special Olympics Illinois believes that families are the most powerful and valuable natural resource available to us. Families serve Special Olympics by reaching out to new athletes, coaching, transporting, raising funds, officiating, chaperoning and training other volunteers. Family members also make energetic and enthusiastic goodwill ambassadors because they know first-hand the benefits and joys of being part of Special Olympics.

Special Olympics Mission

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

Family Action Network (FANs) Mission

The mission of FANs is to promote the goals of Special Olympics Illinois by celebrating families and engaging family involvement through support, mentoring and providing resources for families of children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Families



Be a FAN!...

The Family Action Network :

- Provides information to families on news, events and opportunities with Special Olympics
- Honors families as integral members of the Special Olympics community
- Recognizes family contributions at all levels of the movement
- Helps families become advocates for the Special Olympics movement—Family Messengers
- Provides a forum for families to share ideas, issues and common interests with other families
- Provides opportunities for families to volunteer in their athlete's trainings and competitions
- Encourages new families who can benefit from Special Olympics to join

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS FAMILY ACTION NETWORK

____ Yes! I would like to be a FAN! Please include me in receiving FANs news.

____ Yes! I would like more information on the Family Action Network

I am a (please mark applicable boxes): Family Member/Guardian Young Athlete Family New Family Community Partner Other: _____

I am interested in: Volunteering Coaching Serving on the Statewide or Local Families Committee
 Family Mentoring program (to become a Mentor to be Mentored)
 Family Messenger Program (to become a Messenger have Family Messenger speak to our group, business...)
 Becoming a Community Partner
 Other: _____

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Email _____

Phone (Daytime) _____