When you volunteer with Special Olympics Utah you help create inclusive communities

Special Olympics works to spread compassion and acceptance of those with intellectual disabilities and in doing so create inclusive communities. This vision of inclusion starts at the local level, and it takes thousands of volunteers to do it.

The May 2017 Newsletter is dedicated to telling the story of those that volunteer for Special Olympics Utah and the difference they make in promoting common humanity and creating inclusive communities. Please consider becoming a volunteer with Special Olympics Utah.

www.sout.org/volunteer-opportunities

“Our employees have volunteered for years with Special Olympics Utah. The mission of Special Olympics runs parallel to the core mission of our company.”

Allan Miller, Vice President of People Strategy, CareerStep

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Salt Lake City, UT 84108
801-363-1111
**Why do they coach?**

Highlight of a Volunteer Coach.

“As a volunteer coach I see every week that I am making a difference in the life of an individual with an intellectual disability. If you have a few hours a week to give, become a coach. Start by coaching just one athlete. Be open to the possibilities and the difference you can make. You will be glad you did.”

— Alex Fox, Volunteer Coach

Alex Fox founded the team Jimmy’s Jaguars in 2013 in honor of his late father, James Fox. His team started with just four athletes and grew it to over 100 athletes in three years. A believer in the power of social media, Alex uses all forms of social media to share how sports help those with intellectual disabilities connect with their communities. Coach Alex, as his athletes call him, was named Coach of the Year for 2015.

[www.sout.org/getinvolved/become-a-coach](http://www.sout.org/getinvolved/become-a-coach)

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**Why do medical professionals volunteer their time?**

The Volunteer Healthy Athletes Clinicians.

“There are barriers to health care for individuals with intellectual disabilities. If we can find a health issue and refer an athlete to a professional for treatment, we are making a difference. And when we involve those training to be dental or medical professionals in our clinics, we teach them how to communicate with those with intellectual disabilities. Practitioners are more likely to see this population in their practices if they have volunteered with us while in school.”

— Michelle Martin, Clinic Director, Special Smiles, Healthy Athletes

Medical professionals attend training provided by Special Olympics International to learn how to work with individuals with intellectual disabilities and become a Volunteer Healthy Athlete Clinic Director. Healthy Athlete Clinics are offered at all state level competitions to screen for health issues. Special Olympics Utah has six health clinics: Opening Eyes (vision), Special Smiles (dentistry), Healthy Hearing (audiology), FUNfitness (physical therapy), Fit Feet (podiatry), and Health Promotion (better health and well-being).

[www.sout.org/sports-and-fitness-programs/healthy-athletes-program](http://www.sout.org/sports-and-fitness-programs/healthy-athletes-program)

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**Why do they run?**

The Volunteer Law Enforcement Officers and the Law Enforcement Torch Runs.

“I would tell any fellow law enforcement officer that torch runs are fun, and our job is to protect and serve, and if there is one population that needs our protection and service it is the athletes of Special Olympics.”

— Misty Garn, Deputy, Cache County Sheriff’s Office

Misty Garn, a Deputy with the Cache County Sheriff’s Office got involved with Special Olympics Utah 14 years ago. She heard about the Law Enforcement Torch Runs, did it and loved it. Misty said “I did it year after year because of the athletes.” Universally, those who have worked with Misty Garn on the Torch Runs say, “She is the one who quietly did so much for Special Olympics Utah through the Torch Runs. Misty has been the corner stone, the glue, the builder and the leader.” Misty Garn was awarded the Flame of Hope Award for 2015.

Why do they come and cheer?
Fans in the Stands.

“There are many different ways volunteers can support the Special Olympics. One year, our company volunteers were the ‘Fans in the Stands’ and cheered on the athletes with cow bells and pompoms. It was a memorable experience and would be a fun way for families, youth groups and business or community groups to show their support.”
— Sandra Ishii, Dominion Questar Corporation

Even professional sports teams, and college and high school teams love Fans in the Stands. Hearing fans cheer energizes athletes to keep trying against any odds. Special Olympics Utah asks fans to register as day-of-volunteers because it helps show how many community members attend our games. Donate a few hours to cheer on an individual with intellectual disabilities. Register today. [www.sout.org/volunteer-opportunities/](http://www.sout.org/volunteer-opportunities/)

For whom are you cheering?
The story of one athlete.

Jonathan Lee is an athlete from the North Area Hawks and has been participating in Special Olympics Utah for 13 years. In 2015, he participated in every practice, area and state event and attended every team outreach event. In summer 2015, Jonathan participated with his team in the Unified Relay Across America leading up to the World Games in Los Angeles and passed the torch while riding in a Ride-by-Side bicycle. While Jonathan plays a variety of sports, he has worked very hard to improve his skills in the turbo javelin throw. He watches where he is throwing and seeks to throw farther each time. Special Olympics has helped Jonathan become more social and he loves being with the friends he has made through Special Olympics. Jonathan was the **Athlete of the Year for 2015** [www.sout.org/getinvolved](http://www.sout.org/getinvolved)

Volunteers are Needed

Volunteers needed for Spring Area Games and Utah Summer State Games!
Visit [www.sout.org/volunteer-opportunities/](http://www.sout.org/volunteer-opportunities/) or email us at [volunteer@sout.org](mailto:volunteer@sout.org)

2017 Spring Area Games
**April 29 – May 17**
The area games are taking place right now and will run through May 17. See our website for more detailed locations and dates.

2017 Summer Games
**June 2 – June 3**
Special Olympics Utah’s 2017 Summer Games will be held in Utah County. Nearly 1,300 athletes and Unified Sports partners will compete during this two-day event guided by 500 volunteer coaches. **Hundreds of day-of-volunteers are needed. Volunteer today!**

Join us on Friday evening, June 2, for a Special Olympics Utah Block Party at The Orchard at University Place in Orem.
**SAVE THE DATE**

**The Black & White**  
**Bocce Ball**

**Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.**

**The Falls Event Center at Trolley Square**

602 South 700 East, Salt Lake City

**Black Tie Invited**  
**Black & White Attire Highly Suggested**  
Sneakers Welcome! Family Friendly Event!  
For More Information Call 801.363.1111 Opt. 2 or 3

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**A Historical Moment**

On July 20, 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver opened the first Special Olympics Games. On her way to the first games, she made two decisions: (1) to stop and buy a swim suit so she could help in the pool, and (2) the Athlete Oath.

*Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.*

– Special Olympics Athlete Oath

Eunice Kennedy Shriver opens the first Special Olympics Games, July 1968 in Chicago, Illinois.

Learn more at: [www.eunicekennedyshriver.org/articles/article/60](http://www.eunicekennedyshriver.org/articles/article/60)

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**Our Heartfelt Thanks to our Year-Round Sponsors of 2016-2017**

**HARMONs**

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Vivint Gives Back  
**A Generous Private Donor**

“We are committed to promoting the Special Olympics Utah Young Athlete’s Program for children ages 2-7. Our employees had a blast volunteering at the Young Athletes introductory event at our Vivint Smart Home headquarters in Provo, Utah. Seeing the joy of the children who participated is what keeps us motivated to continue to support this program.”

— Melanie Rossiter, Vivint Gives Back Operations Manager

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