

VOLUNTEERING WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEXAS

Special Olympics Texas would not exist today and could not have continued for over 35 years without the time, energy, dedication, and commitment of tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the state of Texas.

Volunteer Code of Conduct

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.
- 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.
- Setup and support the event area for competition (marking lines, putting up tents and tables, filling water coolers, etc.).

Schools

- Start Special Olympics Unified Sports® teams.
- Help start Special Olympics Partners Clubs®.
- Organize 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 Arrest-A-Thon.
- 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.

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 Web site.
- Serve as a speaker for the organization.
- Volunteer photography, graphic design and Web design services.

Administration

- Serve on chapter board of directors, chapter or area committees.
- Help special education teachers or Special Olympics coaches prepare registration and medical forms.
- Contribute general office help in SOTX offices (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.

Special Olympics Volunteer Screening Policy in Texas

A person's volunteer participation in Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) 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 following Policy and Procedure.

Class A Volunteers

- Volunteers who have regular, close physical contact with athletes (e.g., coaches, chaperones, Unified 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 (SOTX) as Class A volunteer, the applicant must submit to SOTX a signed, completed and truthful Class A volunteer application before taking on any volunteer responsibilities. An applicant is only considered a registered Class A volunteer after submitting a Class A volunteer application, attending General Orientation and Protective Behaviors Trainings, and passing the criminal background check, not prior to those events.

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 re-screened by SOTX every three years.
 - i. Existing volunteers: SOI requires SOTX to screen all those registered as volunteers as of January 1, 2005 no later than July 1, 2008 to continue as volunteers in the program. Existing volunteers may continue to participate until such time as SOTX schedules them for background screenings. As of January 1, 2005, all existing applications submitted by the areas (those signed in 2003 and 2004) have been screened, and any 2003/2004 application received since then has been screened.
 - ii. New volunteers: SOI requires SOTX to screen any an individual who applies to participate as a volunteer with SOTX after December 31, 2004 prior to acceptance as a volunteer in accordance with this Implementation Plan in order to participate as a volunteer after July 1, 2005. As of January 1, 2005, all new applications submitted by the areas are screened shortly after the application is processed.
- b. Prior to the deadlines set forth in the preceding section, each Class A volunteer shall submit a Class A volunteer application and be subject to a criminal records 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 shall 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 records check but must submit the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two non-family references (one of which is from the applicant's school, if applicable) for SOTX screening purposes.



- e. In conducting the required criminal records check, SOTX shall use an 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 a Volunteer General Orientation as directed by SOTX, whether in person or online.
 - b. All Class A volunteers shall attend a Protective Behaviors Training, as directed by SOTX, whether in person or online.
- 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 identify 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.

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	General Orientation Protective Behaviors	Yes
Coach	Class A Form	15 years old	General Orientation Protective Behaviors	Yes - just not counted in the ratio count
Bus Driver	Class A Form	18 years old	Valid TX Driver License General Orientation Protective Behaviors	No
Chaperone	Class A Form	18 years old	General Orientation Protective Behaviors	No
Committee Member	Class A Form	15 years old	General Orientation Protective Behaviors	Yes
Fiscal Volunteer	Class A Form	18 years old	General Orientation Protective Behaviors	No
Games/Competition Director	Class A Form	18 years old	Must complete SOTX GD or CD Training General Orientation Protective Behaviors	No
Head Coach	Class A Form	18 years old	Must be a currently certified coach General Orientation Protective Behaviors	No
Head of Delegation	Class A Form	18 years old	Must be a certified coach General Orientation Protective Behaviors	No
Medical Personnel	Class A Form & Any License/ Certifications	18 years old	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	Class A Form & Any License/ Certifications	15 years old	Varies by sport General Orientation Protective Behaviors	Yes
Professional Volunteer (legal, financial, PR, design, medical, etc.)	Class A Form	18 years old	Varies by profession General Orientation Protective Behaviors	Yes
Torch Run Officer (handling > 15k)	Class A Form	18 years old	General Orientation Protective Behaviors	No
Unified Partner	Class A Form & UP Form	8 years old (12 years old for chapter)	General Orientation Protective Behaviors	No



Class B Volunteer

- 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, certain Torch Run volunteers (those raising less than \$15,000 annually), Healthy Athlete volunteers, etc.).

To be considered for participation with SOTX as a Class B Volunteer, the applicant must submit to SOTX 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.

- 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.
- Orientation:** All volunteers shall attend a Class B volunteer orientation program as directed by SOTX.
- 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.

NOTE: Please refer to Appendix D for a full listing of all Class A and Class B volunteer roles.

Class A Application Authorization Requirements

- SOTX shall use a standard Class A volunteer application to obtain the required Special Olympics release and an appropriate authorization to conduct a criminal record background check and if required, a motor vehicle record check.
- SOTX's Class A volunteer application has been reviewed by legal counsel and is in compliance with all applicable state laws and regulations.
- 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 in place a policy 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 record 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
- Arson and any related offenses
- Assault and Aggravated Assault
- Indecency with a Child
- Injury to a Child, Elderly Individual, or Disabled Individual
- Improper Relationship between Educator and Student
- Kidnapping and any related offenses
- Murder and Capital Murder
- Prohibited Sexual Conduct
- Sexual Assault and Aggravated Sexual Assault

Conviction within last 10 years

- Agreement to Abduct from Custody
- Any Felony involving a Weapon or Firearm
- Any Felony involving Burglary or Robbery
- Criminally Negligent Homicide
- Enticing a Child
- Harassment or Stalking
- Improper Photography or Visual Recording
- Indecent Exposure
- Manslaughter
- Prostitution
- Public Lewdness
- Sale or Purchase of a Child or Advertising for Placement of a Child
- Trafficking of Persons

Conviction within last 5 years

- Any Felony Involving Manufacture or Sale of Narcotics
- Deadly Conduct
- Terroristic Threat

2. DWI Restrictive Disqualifiers

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

- Three or more DWI convictions or comparable offenses in his/her lifetime

If the criminal background check or motor vehicle record check discloses a conviction for any of the offenses listed below the volunteer applicant shall automatically be disqualified from driving on behalf of SOTX until five years following the latest conviction and will receive a certified letter as notification of this restriction:

- Up to two DWI convictions or comparable offenses in the last five years

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 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" for purposes of SOTX policy and one's suitability to serve as a volunteer.



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. 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's 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 the receipt of 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 applicant was truthful on application and disclosed the conviction(s), the Director of Volunteer Services will confer with the Vice President of Field Services as well as the program 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 applicant was not truthful on 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 @ WWW.SPECIALOLYMPICSTEXAS.ORG IN THE "GET INVOLVED" SECTION.

Age Eligibility for Volunteers

- For most Class A volunteers, the minimum age to volunteer is 15 years old.
- The four exceptions to this rule are head coaches, heads of delegation, bus drivers and chaperones, who all must be at least 18 years old to volunteer in these positions.
- 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 their 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. These groups usually include scout troops, school classes, church groups, etc. 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 and head of delegation are not available for athlete volunteers.
- Refer to the Outreach Section for more details.

Unified Sports® Partners

- A Unified Sports® Partner is a hybrid of athlete and volunteer - a person without intellectual disabilities [mental retardation] 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 (C-23 to C-24).
 - 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 (K - 8).
 - 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 Class, as directed by SOTX, whether in person or online.
 - Refer to the Unified Sports® Section for more details.

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 who make the Special Olympics experience possible for our athletes.

There are two separate forms – one for individual nominees and one for organizational nominees. Please use the appropriate form for the category. If you wish to submit a nomination for any of the following awards, please fill out either the Area/Chapter Awards Nomination Form in this section.

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.

All nomination forms must be accompanied by a photo or logo of the nominee.

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 a registered SOTX volunteer.
- The nominee must display excellence in all levels of involvement.
- The nominee must be a positive role model for the athletes and other volunteers.

Award Winners

1980 - Grady Ramey, Abilene
1981 - Charles Warford, Austin
1982 - Mark Lett, Austin
1983 - Moon Weiss, Richmond
1984 - Rick McCarty, El Paso
1985 - Michal Anne Lord, Austin
1986 - Keith Kyle, Austin
1987 - Herb Manger, San Antonio
1988 - Virginia Eernisse, Alvin
1989 - Janet Holliday, San Antonio
1990 - Sharon Donnell, Lubbock
1991 - Jean Sutton, Alvin
1992 - Randy Foederer, Richardson
1993 - Bob Allen, Houston
1994 - Chico Lipstreu, Corpus Christi
1995 - Barb Kielaszek, Houston
1996 - Ann Keeler, San Antonio
1997 - Ken Tuhoski, Mt. Pleasant
1998 - Bill and Evelyn Merrill, San Antonio
1999 - Paul Brockway, Ft. Worth
2000 - Michael McDowell, Spring
2001 - Twinkle Morgan, Corpus Christi and Ed Crozier, Fort Worth
2002 - Ralph Reid, San Antonio
2003 - Melinda Gabbard, Amarillo
2004 - Barbara Threatt, Yoakum
2005 - Peter Leal, Elsa





Male Athlete of the Year Awards

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 program; participation outside of SOTX such as school, work or community organization.

Award Winners

- 1980 - Julia Blessing, Longview
- 1981 - Joe Day, Abilene
- 1982 - Glen Urick, Magnolia
- 1983 - Daniel McGhghy, Abilene
- 1984 - Tony Abney, Lubbock
- 1985 - Krista Martin, El Paso
- 1986 - Johnny Kilpatrick, Killeen
- 1987 - Kevin Maples, Houston
- 1988 - Bryant Solomon, Abilene
- 1989 - Donald Worthington, Plano
- 1990 - Demetrius and Desmoines Kenton, San Antonio
- 1991 - David Bryan, Abilene
- 1992 - Michael Hornsby, Austin
- 1993 - Joshua Manning, El Paso
- 1994 - Marcy Faris, Mission
- 1995 - Monica O'Conner, Longview (female); Leonard Flowers, San Antonio (male)
- 1996 - Mike Townsley, Baytown
- 1997 - Victor Stewart, Houston
- 1998 - Clay Roberts, Golden
- 1999 - Maximilliano Sanchez, Grand Prairie
- 2000 - Myles Barman, Plano
- 2001 - Matthew McKelvey, Fairfield (recognized posthumously) & Vernon Uhrig, Midland
- 2002 - Steve Parks (15 - 21) and Herbert Ellis (22 and older)
- 2003 - Ross Clubb, Houston (15 - 21) and Anthony Rivera, San Antonio (22 and older)
- 2004 - Mark Cannon, Ponder (15 - 21) and Ruben Young, San Antonio (22 and older)
- 2005 - Tyler Jordan, Mt Belvieu (15 - 21) and Gab Cantu, Baytown (22 and older)



Female Athlete of the Year Awards

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 program including service as a representative of SOTX; participation outside of SOTX such as school, work or community organization.

Award Winners

- 1996 - Samantha Shank, Conroe
- 1997 - Denise Fuller, Plano
- 1998 - Lizbeth Martinez, El Paso
- 1999 - Tina Waxman, Katy
- 2000 - Cheryl Wallace, Corsicana
- 2001 - Robin Gary, Dallas
- 2002 - Alyssa Ellen, Conroe (15 - 21) and Jacqueline Smith, Missouri City (22 and older)
- 2003 - Chana Chalmers, Austin (15 - 21) and Marissa Castillon, Houston (22 and older)
- 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)

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 constantly works to expand his/her knowledge of the sport.
- The nominee must have been involved with SOTX for five years.
- The nominee must be a positive role model for athletes and families.

Award Winners

- 1991 - Gary Lemley, New Caney
- 1992 - Chuck Russell, Houston
- 1993 - George Ann Benson, Lubbock
- 1994 - Margaret Guy, Arlington
- 1995 - Mike Nelson, Humble
- 1996 - George Franklin, Amarillo
- 1997 - Wilma Ikner, Alief
- 1998 - Mike Schuback, Dallas
- 1999 - Mitzi Byrd, Grand Prairie
- 2000 - Phil Hisey, Lubbock
- 2001 - Mickey Niemotka, Plano
- 2002 - Jerry Holman, San Antonio
- 2003 - Harold Means, Floresville
- 2004 - Jan Sartain, Round Rock
- 2005 - Amy Wiesenhutter, Round Rock



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 Incorporated.
- The nominee encourages growth and change within the organization.
- The nominee has been a training director or manager for a minimum of two years.
- 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

2000 - Joann Price, Midland
2001 - George Ann Benson, Lubbock
2002 - Barbara Montalvo, Edcouch
2003 - Sara Hencke, Cleburne
2004 - Kathy Harvel, Fort Worth
2005 - Patricia Stamblesky, Austin

Outstanding Volunteer for Sports and Competition

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

Award Winners

1980 - Dr. Dwain Hart, Abilene; Rob Holliday, Houston; Mark Lett, Austin;
Connie Oldaker, Dallas; Julian del Valle, Laredo; Liz Wadkins, Alvin;
Moon Weiss, Houston; David Wilkes, Dallas
1981 - Paul Brockway, Fort Worth; Michal Anne Lord, Austin; Carol Lucas, Dallas;
Herb Manger, San Antonio; George Ann Powers, Midland; Dale Simpson, Longview
1982 - Martin Duszynski, Austin and Bob Whitis, Abilene
1983 - Robert Garza, Houston and Wally Pryor, Austin
1984 - Jill Baeza, El Paso; Billy Hobbs, Amarillo; Jerry Kaliszweski, Houston; Keith Kyle, Austin
1985 - Bill Bowren, Galveston; Hope Brockway, Fort Worth; Fred Gomez, El Paso;
John Nelson, Conroe
1986 - Missy Dyer, Dallas; Betty Jo Kingrey, Waco; Richard Lepo; Doug Nicholson, Lufkin
1987 - Randy Foederer, Richardson; Twinkle Morgan, Laredo; Jean Sutton, Alvin
1988 - Joe Califa, McAllen and Pat Culpepper, Lufkin
1989 - Jan White, Austin
1990 - Patti Long, Austin
1991 - Dan Black, San Antonio
1992 - Joe and Sally Nunnelee, San Antonio
1993 - Tom House, Abilene
1994 - Austin Parks and Recreation Department
1995 - Missy Dyer, Rockwall
1996 - Jennifer Stamper, Dallas
1997 - Melinda Gabbard, Amarillo
1998 - Jan Sartain, Austin
1999 - Catherine Waradzyn, El Paso
2000 - Tom and Amy Ramey, San Antonio
2001 - Dennis Wyatt, McKinney
2002 - Roger Conboy, Royse City
2003 - David Tansey, Houston
2004 - Clyda Hilliard, Rockwall
2005 - Ann Keeler, New Braunfels



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

- 1980 - Ingram Park Mall, San Antonio
- 1981 - McDonald's, Austin
- 1982 - Aerobics Dance, Incorporated
- 1983 - United Technologies, Dallas
- 1984 - Josek's, San Antonio
- 1985 - Chrysler Corporation/Texas Dodge Dealers
- 1986 - Decker Foods, Richardson
- 1987 - H-E-B Food Stores, San Antonio
- 1988 - Folloder Company, Houston and Ernst & Whinney, San Antonio
- 1989 - Miller Brewing Company
- 1990 - State Farm Insurance, Austin
- 1991 - Texaco Star Enterprise
- 1992 - Sierra Medical Center, El Paso
- 1993 - Morris County National Bank, Naples
- 1994 - Cablevision of Waco-Temple-Killeen
- 1995 - Sunrise Mall, Corpus Christi
- 1996 - Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems, McAllen
- 1997 - Sallie Mae, Killeen and McCarthy Print, Austin
- 1998 - Coca-Cola, Dallas
- 1999 - EDS, Houston
- 2000 - US Home®, Houston
- 2001 - Dynegy®, Houston
- 2002 - Cingular Wireless, Dallas
- 2003 - Xerox/Omnifax, San Antonio
- 2004 - Magnolia Coca-Cola Bottling Company, El Paso
- 2005 - GMAC Financial Services, Plano

Family of the Year

For the family with a special needs member 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

- 1985 - The Martin Family, El Paso
- 1986 - The Jerry Kilpatrick Family, Killeen
- 1987 - The Allison Family, Alvin
- 1988 - The Bob Barman Family, Plano
- 1989 - The Wally Crover Family, Mount Pleasant
- 1990 - The Richard Kitchens Family, Naples
- 1991 - The Lonnie Loter Family, Pampa
- 1992 - The Tom Thomas Family, Abilene
- 1993 - The Mike Wommack Family, Naples
- 1994 - The Frank Montgomery Family, Copperas Cove
- 1995 - The Raymond Hill Family, Amarillo
- 1996 - The Luther Sober Family, Brownwood
- 1997 - The Taggart Family, San Antonio
- 1998 - The Bobby Hughes Family, San Angelo
- 1999 - The Floyd Mills Family, Alvin
- 2000 - The Charles (Chic) O'Connor Family, Longview
- 2001 - The Castillon Family, Houston



- 2002 - The Fuller Family, Blue Ridge
- 2003 - The McFadden Family, Kerrville
- 2004 - The Hornsby Family, Manchaca
- 2005 - The Fox Family, Deer Park

Outstanding Service from Print Media

For nine years (1980-89), one award was given for statewide media coverage. In six of those nine years, multiple media awards were presented, with no attention paid to the form of coverage (print or electronic). In some cases, a Sportscaster or Broadcaster of the Year award was presented.

That changed in 1990, when it was decided to present one "print" and one "electronic" media award to the deserving winner.

This award represents the print media outlet that supports Special Olympics in a way that helps increase athlete numbers, raise more funds and increase volunteer support while promoting the image of the movement.

Award Winners

- 1980 - Bill Schroeder, Sequin Gazette for Media Coverage of the Year and Bill Sullivan, Austin-American Statesman for Sportswriter of the Year
- 1984 - Laredo News for Media Coverage of the Year and Bill Douth at Austin-American Statesman for Distinguished Media Volunteer
- 1986 - The Lufkin Daily News
- 1989 - The San Antonio Light
- 1990 - The Dallas Morning News
- 1991 - The Fort Worth Star Telegram
- 1992 - The Echo, New Caney
- 1993 - San Angelo Standard Times
- 1994 - The Denton Record Chronicle
- 1995 - The McAllen Monitor
- 1996 - Corpus Christi Caller-Times
- 1999 - Gary Connor, Corsicana Daily Sun
- 2000 - Arlington Morning News
- 2001 - The Midland Reporter-Telegram
- 2002 - Houston Chronicle
- 2003 - Big Spring Herald
- 2004 - Greenville Herald Banner
- 2005 - Dallas Morning News

Outstanding Service from Electronic Media

The Electronic Media Award was split from the print media in 1990.

This award represents the electronic media outlet that supports Special Olympics in a way that helps increase athlete numbers, raise more funds and increase volunteer support while promoting the image of the movement.

Award Winners

- 1980 - Ken Gray, KOKE Radio, Austin for Broadcaster of the Year
- 1981 - Clyde Formby, KHTV-TV, Houston for Media Coverage of the Year and Bob Allen, KTRK-TV, Houston for Sportscaster of the Year
- 1983 - Bob Bartlett, KTAB-TV, Abilene for Media Coverage of the Year and Joe Bates, KVIA-TV, El Paso for Sportscaster of the Year
- 1985 - Pat Comer, KVUE-TV, Austin
- 1987 - KYKS Radio, Lufkin and Mitch Carr, Dallas for Service for Broadcast Professionals
- 1988 - Henry Chu & Alice Dorsey, KXAN-TV, Austin; and Bob Bartlett, KTAB-TV, Abilene



- 1990 - KTRE-TV, Lufkin
- 1991 - KDFW-TV, Dallas
- 1992 - Home Sports Entertainment
- 1993 - KTPX-TV, Midland
- 1994 - KIII-TV, Corpus Christi
- 1995 - Dunham and Miller, Dallas
- 1996 - KTSM-TV, El Paso
- 1997 - KWES-TV, Midland
- 1998 - KMAC-TV, Lubbock
- 1999 - KLLL 96.3 FM, Lubbock
- 2000 - KRIS-TV Channel 6, Corpus Christi
- 2001 - David Mendez, Corpus Christi
- 2002 - Time Warner Cable, El Paso
- 2003 - Jack Hammer, Harker Heights
- 2004 - News 24, Houston
- 2005 - Fox4, Dallas

Outstanding Volunteer for Fund Raising

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

Award Winners

- 1986 - Janet Holliday, San Antonio and W.P. "Buzz" Barlow, Dallas
- 1987 - Judy Fatjo, Houston
- 1988 - Terry Murphy, Dallas
- 1989 - Charlotte Boylan-Self, Houston
- 1990 - Sgt. Dan Bell, Dallas
- 1991 - Rayma Patterson, Lubbock
- 1992 - Rudy Flores, Fort Worth
- 1993 - Kathy Ashwin, San Antonio
- 1994 - Webber Beall, Dallas
- 1995 - Roy Terracina, San Antonio
- 1996 - Roz Cole, Dallas
- 1997 - Senior Warden Bob White, Pampa
- 1998 - Lonnie Freeman, Arlington
- 1999 - Duane McNeill, Austin
- 2000 - Leisha Futrell, Plano and Don Seale, Allen
- 2001 - Rick Ellis, Houston
- 2002 - Richard Candaleria, Midland
- 2003 - Charles Lutz, Austin
- 2004 - Ashley Cash, Midland; Carla Hughes, Amarillo; Gennie Williams, Lubbock
- 2005 - Hector Leal, Harlingen

Outstanding Service for Outreach

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

Award Winners

- 1989 - Tanya Huerta, San Antonio
- 1990 - Henry Rosen, Dallas
- 1991 - Northside ISD, San Antonio
- 1992 - Jerry Gonzalez, San Antonio



- 1993 - The University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio
- 1994 - School Vision of Texas, Abilene
- 1995 - Jerri Williams, Houston
- 1996 - Maria Ester Salinas, McAllen
- 1997 - The 8th Grade Community Problem Solving Class
from Midlothian Middle School, Midlothian
- 1998 - Dwain McFadden, Kerrville and Ann Wilde, Houston
- 1999 - Virginia Copeland, Alief
- 2000 - Ewell Scott Family, Lubbock
- 2001 - Mary Jo Lovingier, Lubbock
- 2002 - Barbara Kielaszek, Houston
- 2003 - Susan Huey, Fort Worth
- 2004 - Brenda Allen, Hockley
- 2005 - Gwenda Taggart, San Antonio

Outstanding Service from a Community Leader

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

Award Winners

- 1980 - Robert Reid, Houston Rockets
- 1981 - Kent Kramer, Dallas Tornados
- 1982 - Doug Cosbie, Dallas Cowboys
- 1983 - Earl Campbell, Houston Oilers
- 1984 - Gary Hogeboom, Dallas Cowboys and Kenneth Sims, New England Patriots
- 1985 - Doug English, Detroit Lions
- 1986 - Roland Blackman, Dallas Mavericks
- 1987 - Roland Blackman, Dallas Mavericks
- 1988 - Patrick Allen, Houston Oilers
- 1989 - Steve Brown, Houston Oilers
- 1990 - Tom Landry, Honorary Head Coach, Dallas Cowboys
- 1991 - Terry Cummings, San Antonio Spurs and James Gray, San Francisco 49ers
- 1992 - Art Howe, Houston Astros
- 1994 - Jeff Huson, Texas Rangers
- 1995 - Joe Avezzano, Dallas Cowboys
- 1996 - George Bush, Governor, State of Texas
- 1997 - Denver Pyle, Actor
- 1998 - Steve Smith, U.S. NASA Astronaut
- 1999 - Will Perdue, San Antonio
- 2000 - Greg Simmons, KSAT-TV, San Antonio
- 2001 - Collin Raye, Greenville
- 2002 - Bob & Ilene Allen, Houston
- 2003 - Jay Hendricks, Midland
- 2004 - Bland Ellen, Conroe
- 2005 - Fred Walters, Bedford



Outstanding Service in Public Relations

This award was created to recognize the person or organization who was not affiliated with the media but worked to promote the image of Special Olympics Texas and tell the stories of our athletes through various public relations and marketing efforts.

Award Winners

- 1993 - Pamela Lane, Houston
- 1995 - Clara Lawrence, Austin
- 1996 - KVEO-TV, Brownsville
- 1997 - Robert Boscarino, Conroe
- 1998 - Tom Bradshaw, Houston
- 1999 - John Morris, Waco and Mary Gibbs, Houston
- 2000 - Marcia Freedman, Houston
- 2001 - Tom and Jane Brick, Pearland
- 2002 - Mary Kay Yu, Houston
- 2003 - Roberto Chacon, Anthony, NM
- 2004 - Vicki Roy, Houston
- 2005 - Rudy Ruiz, San Antonio

Outstanding Service from a Civic or Service Organization

For year-round voluntary service or support from an agency, civic group or service organization.

Award Winners

- 1980 - American Legion Auxiliary
- 1981 - Bexar County Mounted Posse, San Antonio
- 1982 - ARC/Texas and MHMR Harris County, Houston
- 1983 - Bergstrom Air Force Base, Austin
- 1984 - Houston Red Cross
- 1985 - Dallas Kiwanis Club and Brigands Club Telephone Pioneers of America, #52
- 1986 - Circle 10 Boy Scouts, Dallas
- 1987 - NCOA of Fort Hood, Killeen
- 1988 - Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls
- 1989 - The Lufkin Jaycees
- 1990 - The Good Sams Club, Amarillo
- 1991 - Bayshore Medical Group, Houston
- 1992 - Mayor Bob Bolen, Fort Worth
- 1993 - Cotton Palace Sams, Valley Mills
- 1994 - Aggie Partners, College Station
- 1995 - Amateur Softball Association, Houston
- 1996 - Killeen Parks & Recreation, Killeen
- 1997 - The Knights of Columbus, Austin
- 1998 - Texas A&M International, Laredo
- 1999 - Mission Lion's Club, Mission
- 2000 - Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio
- 2001 - Connally Air Force ROTC Cadets
- 2002 - Texas National Guard: Camp Mabry, Austin
- 2003 - Houston Bar Association, Houston
- 2004 - Knights of Columbus, Lubbock
- 2005 - Texas Department of Criminal Justice



Unified Sports® Partner of the Year

Special Olympics Texas has added the Unified Sports® Partner of the Year, which 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.

Awards

- 2000 - Stacy Saxon and Jennifer Malpass, Baytown
- 2001 - Frank Cowan, Converse
- 2002 - Rory Holmes, Dallas
- 2003 - Frank Thompson, Round Rock
- 2004 - Andrew Ambort, Austin
- 2005 - Nate Adams, Midlothian

Area/Chapter Awards Individual Nomination Form Page 1

(Please use the Organization Nomination Form for any groups or businesses)

A photo of the nominee must accompany this form when submitted.

Nominee: _____ Area: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Day Phone: (_____) _____ Night Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

____ Coach of Year

____ Outreach

____ Fund Raising

Male Athlete

____ Family

____ Sports & Competition

____ 15 - 21 ____ 22+

____ Community Leader

____ Trainer

Female Athlete

____ Public Relations

____ Unified Sports® Partner

____ 15 - 21 ____ 22+

____ Volunteer of Year

Refer to Awards Section (C-9 – C-18) for a list of the awards offered by Special Olympics Texas. This portion of the nomination form can be completed by either the nominee or the nominator.

Supplemental materials may include up to three letters of recommendation and up to three additional items (photographs, certificates, newspaper articles, etc.). No additional supplemental materials will be reviewed. All supplied materials will be returned upon request.

The following questions should be completed:

1) How long has the nominee been a volunteer/athlete with SOTX? _____

2) Does the nominee serve on any SOTX committees? Yes No
If so, which committees? _____

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

4) Why is the nominee still involved with SOTX? _____

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

6) Does the nominee have any family or relatives involved in SOTX in any way, whether athlete, volunteer or staff? Yes No

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

8) Has the nominee ever been nominated for a SOTX award (either area or chapter)? Yes No
If so, which award and when? _____

9) Has the nominee ever received a SOTX award (either area or chapter)? Yes No
If so, which award and when? _____

Area/Chapter Awards Organization Nomination Form Page 1

(Please use the Individual Nomination Form for an individual)

A photo or logo of the nominee must accompany this form when submitted.

Nominee: _____ Area: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Day Phone: (_____) _____ Night Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

____ Civic or Service Organization

____ Electronic Media

____ Business/Corporation

____ Print Media

Refer to Awards Section (C9 - C18) for a list of the awards offered by Special Olympics Texas. This portion of the nomination form can be completed by either the nominee or the nominator.

Supplemental materials may include up to three letters of recommendation and up to three additional items (photographs, certificates, newspaper articles, etc.). No additional supplemental materials will be reviewed. All supplied materials will be returned upon request.

The following questions should be completed:

1) How long has the nominee been associated with SOTX? _____

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

3) Why is the nominee still involved with SOTX? _____

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

Estimated value of contributions? Cash? _____ Inkind? _____

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

6) Does the nominee have any family or relatives involved in SOTX in any way, whether athlete, volunteer or staff? Yes No

7) Has the nominee ever been nominated for a SOTX award (either area or chapter)? Yes No
If so, which award and when? _____

8) Has the nominee ever received a SOTX award (either area or chapter)? Yes No
If so, which award and when? _____

9) Number of individuals involved? _____
Total number of members/employees at nominated location? _____

Special Olympics Texas Class A Volunteer Application Page 1

As a Class A volunteer of Special Olympics Texas, you must complete 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	Nick name
Mailing Address			
City		State	ZIP
Email			
Day () Phone	Night () Phone	Cell () Phone	

EMPLOYMENT INFO

Employer Name	Occupation
Address	City ZIP

VOLUNTEER ROLES

Delegation Personnel <input type="radio"/> HDDL <input type="radio"/> Coach <input type="radio"/> Chaperone <input type="radio"/> Bus Driver <input type="radio"/> Unified Partner						Office Use Only Date: _____ Staff: _____ Area: _____
Del ID (example: AAA-03)				--		
Competition <input type="radio"/> Medical <input type="radio"/> Key Volunteer <input type="radio"/> Sports Official for:						
Development <input type="radio"/> Fund raiser <input type="radio"/> Fiscal <input type="radio"/> Torch Runner						
Other <input type="radio"/> Committee Member <input type="radio"/> Trainer <input type="radio"/> Administrative <input type="radio"/> _____						

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name	Relationship	Phone ()
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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 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's license <u>ever</u> been suspended or revoked in any state?	<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	Expires ___ / ___
Are you currently certified in First Aid?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	Expires ___ / ___
Are you a family member of a SOTX athlete?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	

PERSONAL REFERENCES

Name	Relationship	Phone ()

COMPLETE

Special Olympics Texas Class A Volunteer Application Page 2

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	ID Checked by: <small>STAFF & HDDL ONLY: Please Print Legibly.</small>		Driver's 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 < 5 yrs, list other states/countries you have resided		
	Additional names you may be listed under (i.e. 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 history 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 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 & encourage other volunteers and staff.

Be vigilant and aware of the safety of the athlete: Never leave an athlete unchaperoned; and 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 have 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 be dealing 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.

SIGN	Applicant Signature	Signature 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

For minors (anyone 17years old or younger) applying to be a Class A Volunteer, this form is a registration requirement and is used as a replacement for the Criminal Background Check that adult applicants must pass to be a Class A Volunteer.

SECTION A – MINOR VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Minor Name:	Minor SSN: - -
-------------	------------------------------

In consideration of participating with Special Olympics Texas, I affirm that both references listed below are:
1) true and complete, 2) are from personal or professional relationships, and 3) do not include family members.

Signature of Minor Volunteer

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE # 1

COMPLETE ALL BOXES	Name:	Relationship to Minor:
	Origin of Relationship (e.g., church, school, work, etc.):	
	Email Address:	
	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:		
SIGN		

PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE # 2

COMPLETE ALL BOXES	Name:	Relationship to Minor:
	Origin of Relationship (e.g., church, school, work, etc.):	
	Email Address:	
	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:		
SIGN		

CLASS B VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

Event and Location		Date	ID Check
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	
Address			
City	State	ZIP	
Day Phone ()		Night Phone ()	
E-mail Address		Are you a family member of a SOTX athlete? Y O N O	
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: _____

CLASS B VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

Event and Location		Date	ID Check
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	
Address			
City	State	ZIP	
Day Phone ()		Night Phone ()	
E-mail Address		Are you a family member of a SOTX athlete? Y O N O	
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: _____