

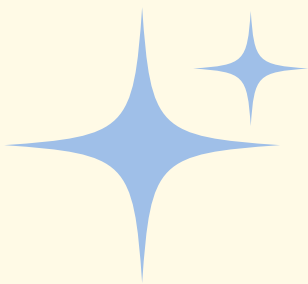
SPECIAL OLYMPICS GREENVILLE



Special Olympics
South Carolina
Area 4 - Greenville County



Volunteer Handbook



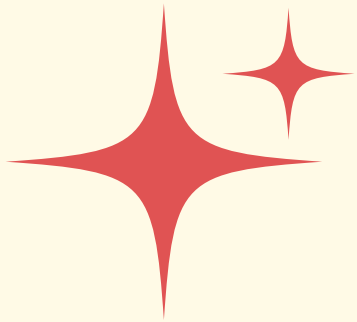


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**Area Director for
Special Olympics Greenville
(Area 4)**



Kendall Shealy

kshealy@greenvillecounty.org

864-960-6067

INTRODUCTION

What is SOGVL? ✨

Sports are universal, connecting individuals regardless of their race, background, nationality, and/or intellectual ability. The Special Olympics embodies this universality, demonstrating that human greatness is defined by much more than the limitations of the body. It provides athletes with the opportunity to feel courage and pride for their accomplishments; gives families and communities a chance to come together; and creates an environment where people can change their attitudes about people with intellectual disabilities.

The Therapeutics Department of Greenville County Rec is the home of Special Olympics Greenville (Area 4) and offers training and competition in many different sports. A full-time Therapeutics Program Coordinator directs these activities with support from hundreds of community volunteers, making it possible to offer these activities at no cost to the athlete or their family.



VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Head Coach

The Head Coach is responsible for developing and implementing an 8-week long practice program for athletes with intellectual disabilities. This includes creating a practice plan, providing instructions, providing drills, and setting up the practice field. The Head Coach supports the various needs of each athlete and ensures their safety throughout practice.

Assistant Coach

Assistant Coaches aid the Head Coach in implementing practice plans by providing support and instruction for athletes throughout practice. This includes but is not limited to helping set up/tear down fields, helping athletes with drills, providing instruction, and ensuring the safety of all athletes.

Unified Partner

Unified Partners are athletes without an intellectual disability that play on a sports team alongside Special Olympics athletes on what is called a Unified Team. Unified Sports were inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES!

One Day Event Volunteer

Special Olympics Greenville hosts many one day events throughout the year that would not be possible without the help of thousands of volunteers! One Day Event Volunteers typically help with set up/tear down, behind the scenes operations, run events/tables, or cheer on athletes!

Volunteer Event Coordinator

Volunteer Event Coordinators have an idea for an event that they would like to put into action. Whether you want to host a large competition, provide a one time sports clinic, or host a percentage night, no event is too big or too small!

Committee Member!

Interested in working behind the scenes on our biggest events of the year? Join a committee and see your work first hand! Committee members work together on a small team to help in the planning and execution of large events such as our Spring Games!

SOGVL SPORTS

breakdown

SOGVL (Area 4) currently offers a variety of sports for athletes to train in and compete. While each sport is different there are opportunities in skill development, traditional play, and unified play across most sports.

Skills Division

The Skills Division is for athletes who are working to improve the fundamental abilities that they need to participate in sports. Each sport has a list of skills that the athlete will practice for the 8-week season; They can then go on to compete on the state level!

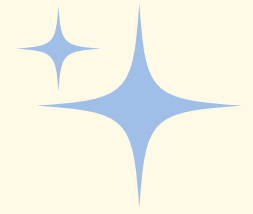
Unified Play

Special Olympics is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences. Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team.

Traditional Teams

Traditional play in Special Olympics refers to teams made up exclusively of athletes with intellectual disabilities that compete against others with similar skill levels.

SOGVL



Special Olympics Greenville serves hundreds of athletes with intellectual disabilities from Greenville County, SC and surrounding areas by hosting a variety of sports seasons, several large events, and other opportunities for athletes to remain connected throughout the year.

Fall

Flag Football *

Soccer

Tennis *

Pickleball *

Golf *

Bocce *

Disc Golf *

Spring

Swimming

Softball

Bowling (21 & up) *

Basketball *

Pickleball *

Don't see the sport you love, but want to be involved? Don't hesitate to reach out to the Area Director about becoming a certified Head Coach and starting up your own team!

*Denotes sports that have Unified Play options

EXPECTATIONS

- Complete the Class A Volunteer Certification sent by the Area Director.
- Attend the once-weekly practice associated with their chosen sport and notify the Area Director or Head Coach if they need to miss a practice.
- Follow the Volunteer Code of Conduct:
 - Provide for the general welfare, health and safety of all Special Olympics athletes and volunteers.
 - Dress and act in an appropriate manner at all times.
 - Follow the established rules and guidelines of Special Olympics and/or any agency involved with Special Olympics.
 - Report any emergencies to the appropriate authorities after first taking immediate action to ensure the health and safety of the participants.
 - Abstain from the consumption or use of all alcohol, tobacco products and illegal substances while involved with any Special Olympics event, competition or sports season.
 - Not engage in any inappropriate contact or relationship with athletes, volunteers or other participants of Special Olympics.



COMMUNICATION

SPOND

While all of our communication will continue to come through emails, an additional way to stay connected is through the Spond app. This app allows you to easily update the Area Director and the coaches of your sport if you will or will not be attending practice. As sports confirmation emails roll out you will receive more information on how to get added to Spond.

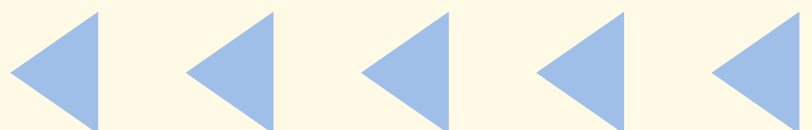


[SPOND APP](#)

EMAIL



Email is the primary and preferred form of communication with the Area Director before and during the season. The Area Director typically responds to emails promptly. If you haven't received a response within 24 business hours, please don't hesitate to follow up.



SPRING GAMES



Our favorite day of the year!

Spring Games is our largest event of the year, bringing approximately 1,500 athletes to Furman University for a track and field-style competition. Athletes can compete in one of over 15 events, take part in games and win prizes at Olympic Town, and enjoy a day of camaraderie with their peers. The event is made possible by the combined efforts of thousands of volunteers, families, friends, and community partners. Thank you for supporting us in our endeavor to provide a first rate event for our local Special Olympics Community!

Interested in volunteering?

Our amazing athletes look forward to this event all year and volunteer participation is an integral part of their experience. Thousands of volunteers come together to run events, work behind the scenes, hand out prizes, or help with set up/break down!



THANK *You!*



Thank you so much for expressing interest in volunteering with Special Olympics Greenville (Area 4)! You are an important piece of helping us complete and support our mission here in Greenville, SC. We'd love to share more about opportunities to get involved and find the perfect fit for you. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions! Thank you again for your support—we couldn't do it without you!

Kendall Shealy - Area 4 Director

Call or Text 864-960-6067



kshealy@greenvillecounty.org

