



Youth Activation Committee Application

Youth Activation

Special Olympics believes that young people can make a difference in their schools and communities through sports and sports related programs. Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools is an initiative that brings youth with and without intellectual disabilities together to make a difference. Unified Champion Schools (UCS) is driven and informed by the advice of youth leaders representing intermediate and secondary school across the country. This results in young people becoming agents of change in their communities.

What is Special Olympics New Hampshire's Youth Activation Committee?

Special Olympics New Hampshire's Youth Activation Committee (YAC) is a group of youth with and without intellectual disabilities from across the state passionate about Special Olympics. Each county will be represented by 1-2 Unified pairs. This group will work together throughout the year to educate, motivate, and activate youth to become agents of change in their communities and advocate for the respect, inclusion, and acceptance of all people, regardless of abilities.

Expected Outcomes

- Learn leadership skills through collaboration with your peers to carry out Special Olympics initiatives, events, and activities.
- Expand reach to more people in order to educate, motivate, and activate them to become more involved in Special Olympics and its initiatives.
- Provide innovative new perspectives to ensure the continued success of Special Olympics.
- You will have a better understanding of how to reach out to your peers to engage them to Be a Fan® of Special Olympics!

Requirements

- ✓ Students will be people with and without intellectual disabilities
- ✓ All committee members must:
 - Be, at a minimum, 2 years from graduating (applicant must be in high school)
 - Commit to serving two years on the committee
 - Have transportation to and from all meetings, events and activities
 - Attend 70% of scheduled meetings, events and activities
 - Go through a basic orientation to SONH & UCS
 - Be able to communicate about Special Olympics and UCS
 - Have a parent or guardian sign a waiver or release for their participation
 - Have the ability to correspond via email, phone and video calls
 - Have a passion for SONH!



Expectations

- ✓ Spend at least 2 hours per week on the YAC.
- ✓ Annually attend
 - Online committee meetings
 - Three meetings that will be held right before events
 - Middle School and High School Youth Summit
 - HS Plunge
 - Summer Games
- ✓ Organize and execute Youth Summit
- ✓ Participate in the High School Plunge or Winni Dip
- ✓ Organize speaking program for HS Plunge
- ✓ Have a Unified Club at your school.
- ✓ Implement a Spread the Word campaign in your home school and one neighbor school.

Code of Conduct

As a YAC member, you must comply with the following conduct guidelines at all times, no matter where you are or what you are doing. As a part of the YAC, you represent SONH and your school at all times, not just when you are at the events. Athletes and Unified Partners agree to the following code:

- Dress and act in a responsible manner that positively represents Special Olympics and the YAC. Profanity, taunting, and other forms of poor sportsmanship; uncooperative behavior; and inappropriate pictures or posts online are subject to disciplinary measures.
- Respect all facilities we are using.
- Understand that when personal cars are used to get to an event, they will be parked for the duration of the event, unless needed for the event.
- Treat everyone with respect and communicate in a courteous manner.
- Acceptance for all. Bullying, harassment, and fighting will result in **immediate dismissal** from the YAC for this goes against the SONH mission of spreading inclusion.
- Abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco or marijuana products, and/or non-prescription drugs.
- Unified partners agree not to engage in any inappropriate contact or relations with Special Olympics athletes, Unified partners, chaperones, staff, officials, or volunteers,
- Ensure that you are at the designated meetings, sessions, scheduled events, meals, and other activities on time.
- Be certain to wear proper credentials when provided and appropriate clothing suitable for the weather.
- Follow the directions of your chaperone while traveling and all the time you are attending the YAC events.
- Continue with academic responsibilities. Should participation in the YAC have a negative impact on academic performance, the student will be suspended from the committee.
- Refrain from any illegal activities.
- Have Fun!!



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Application Instructions

Please read the application thoroughly before submission. Athletes and Unified Partners should submit their applications together as a Unified pair. Submit any questions and your completed applications and support materials to:

Leisa D'Amour
Special Olympics New Hampshire
PO Box 3598
Concord, NH 03302
Email: LeisaD@sonh.org
Cell: (603) 722-0423

Personal Information

Name _____

Email Address _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Birth Date _____ Number of years involved with SO _____

Are you applying as: an athlete?

 a unified partner?

I am applying with (other applicant): _____

School Champion Reference

Name _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

Education

School Name _____

Grade/Year for 2024-2025 School Year _____

Please answer each of the following in 100-150 words.

What Special Olympics (UCS) sports and events have you participated in?

What does Special Olympics mean to you?

Why do you want to be part of Special Olympics New Hampshire's Youth Activation Committee?

What other activities (school and community) are you involved in, and what are your plans for balancing State YAC duties with your other activities?

Medical Information

Please list any medical conditions/information the SONH should be aware of during participation in YAC activities:

Please list any medications/supplements:

Please list any allergies and reactions:

Is the applicant able to independently perform activities of daily living (including administering their own medications)?

yes

no

Additional information:

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian #1 Name _____
Email Address _____
Address (if not the same as applicant) _____
City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Optional:

Parent/Guardian #2 Name _____
Email Address _____
Address (if not the same as applicant) _____
City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Parent/Guardian Consent

Both my child and I have carefully reviewed the requirements, expectations, and code of conduct of participating in the SONH Youth Activation Committee:

- yes
- no

My child has my permission to participate in the SONH Youth Activation Committee:

- yes
- no

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Next Steps

- We will call or email your School Champion.
- Applicants may be selected to participate in a virtual or in-person interview before final selections are made.
- We will contact applicants no later than one month after application submission