

Document of Volunteer Responsibilities

Volunteering for Special Olympics Michigan is both a responsible and rewarding opportunity. You make it possible for Special Olympics athletes to benefit from challenging sports training and competition. Volunteering for Special Olympics Michigan is an opportunity and responsibility to make sport experiences meaningful for the athlete. Through your volunteer facilitation, Special Olympics athletes have the opportunity to grow. Special Olympics Michigan depends upon volunteers to interact positively with all individuals, to act in a mature manner, and demonstrate a high level of responsibility.

As a volunteer, you are expected to:

1) Fulfill the responsibility of your assignment:

- a. carry out all aspects of your assignment, take General Orientation and Protective Behaviors Quiz online at www.somi.org
- b. attend required meetings

2) Set an example for the athlete:

- a. refrain from drinking, using illegal substances, or using profanity when acting as a volunteer
- b. avoid any behavior, which may be misunderstood or misinterpreted by the athlete
- c. be helpful to and supportive of everyone associated with Special Olympics Michigan

3) Demonstrate good sports-like behavior:

- a. support the decisions of referees, judges, and committees and use the proper protest procedure
- b. be respectful during ceremonies and help the athletes behave likewise
- c. praise the athletes for their efforts and encourage them to be happy for the success of others
- d. support and encourage the other volunteers and staff

4) Be continually vigilant and cognizant of the safety of the athlete:

- a. never leave an athlete unattended
- b. report anything you observe, which you feel may cause harm
- c. never put yourself in a compromising situation

5) Be loyal to your commitment to Special Olympics Michigan:

- a. look for constructive ways to overcome obstacles
- b. address concerns and complaints to those who can effect, correction, and/or change
- c. be a responsible guardian over any information you may have about others (athletes, volunteers, and staff)

6) Take advantage of the opportunity Special Olympics Michigan offers you:

- a. be open to new ideas and new ways of doing things
- b. become an active participant by extending your involvement to other roles of leadership and training
- c. enjoy the challenge of learning about and from individuals who are different than you
- d. delight in the change that your involvement makes in the life of someone you know and the many lives of those you will meet
- e. offer constructive suggestions for legitimate improvements to Special Olympics Michigan events