



Position: Coordinator of Health Programs
Organization: Special Olympics Arkansas
Location: Little Rock, Arkansas
Salary Range: Competitive Salary and Benefits
Position Reports to: Director of Marketing and Partnerships

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Mission

The mission of Special Olympics Arkansas (“SOAR”) is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic type sports for all children and adults with intellectual disabilities giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. SOAR is supported by individual donations, private and corporate sponsorships, state appropriation, grants and special events. The ultimate objective of SOAR is to help people with intellectual disabilities participate as productive and respected members of society at large, by offering them a fair opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and talents through sports training and competition, and by increasing the public’s awareness of their capabilities and needs.

Who We Serve

Athletes: SOAR was incorporated in 1970 and serves thousands of athletes throughout the state. Anyone may participate in Special Olympics if they meet the eligibility criteria of having an intellectual disability or a similar developmental disability. Activities exist for those of all ability levels, from the highly functioning to the severely challenged. Intellectual disability does not discriminate. Athletes who participate in Special Olympics come in all ages, ethnicities, and economic and social backgrounds. However, a significant number of athletes live in rural areas and come from lower socioeconomic groups. In addition, the vast majority of school-aged children with intellectual disabilities who attend public schools receive free or reduced lunch, placing them in the at-risk demographic.

Parents: Over and over, parents tell of the isolation they felt upon learning that their child had an intellectual disability. Then they explain how SOAR delivered hope, a place to belong, and a sense of community. In Special Olympics, family members gain a support network of people with similar concerns, questions, and life experiences; help finding medical expertise and community resources; and a place of acceptance, respect, and belonging. Through their participation in Special Olympics, athletes form better and stronger core relationships, and parents and siblings see firsthand the unique talents and skills of their loved ones.

Volunteers: Volunteers are the backbone of the Special Olympics movement, and the program would not exist, succeed, and continue to grow without the efforts of well-trained volunteers. Of the hundreds of competitions and sports training sessions held annually, less than 1% of the people who manage and run these events are paid to do so. Currently, there are thousands of Arkansans who are registered volunteers for SOAR, and many more assist with the management of competitions and training sessions.

Coaches: Coaches have the greatest opportunity to create positive change in Special Olympics athletes because they are the ones who work with the athletes on a consistent basis. Good coaches know that learning to play a sport is more than just mastering athletic skills - it takes teamwork, commitment, sacrifice, and dedication. These are qualities that Special Olympics coaches work to instill in their athletes with the understanding that these lessons can have a positive impact on the athletes' lives outside of sports. Please visit www.specialolympicsarkansas.org for more information on SOAR.



Special Olympics Arkansas Job Description **Coordinator of Health Programs**

Primary Purpose

The Coordinator of Health programs will be responsible for developing and implementing health programming across the state of Arkansas. Focuses will be integrating health initiatives into sports programming and coaches education, planning and executing various health screenings and collaborating with health partners and healthcare providers to improve quality of health care for people with intellectual disabilities in Arkansas. Coordinator will work directly with Director of Marketing and Partnerships to grow current health program.

Primary Duties

- Participate in Current SOAR strategic plan goals
- Conduct Health Messenger trainings and athlete leadership events
- Increase Agency and School growth in health and coaches education
- Execute all Healthy Athletes events
- Manage and Promote all Fitness and wellness programs
- Promote Area Health education events
- Track and engage Wellness Integration internships throughout the state.
- Implement efficient Coaches Education and Fitness Captain tools
- Design and innovate new programs to improve athlete health
- Coordinate with community partners to further inclusive health mission and goals
- Work with Director of Marketing and Partnerships to Liaise with partners to develop a healthcare network to provide follow-up care for athletes statewide
- Manage data collection from screenings and regularly analyze results to utilize in reporting
- Create and monitor budgets including expense tracking for all activities to assure budgets are met
- Recruit and manage volunteer clinical directors in various disciplines to conduct screenings and provide referrals
- Secure grant funding to pursue and increase inclusive health, athlete health programs
- Monitor grant impact related to program enhancement initiatives
- Work closely with Special Olympics local program leadership and Special Olympics athlete leadership to implement health initiatives at the grassroots level
- Collaborate with various leadership groups in the organization to gather feedback and develop strategies for health initiatives program-wide
- Plan and execute various health screening events
- Partner with the SOAR sports and Unified Champion Schools department to make health and coach advancements standard elements of sports programs
- Other duties as assigned

Education/Skills/Knowledge:

- Bachelor's degree in public health or other potentially related field
- Experience in event planning and management
- Passion and/or experience with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities
- Demonstrated competence in the area of identifying and cultivating relationships
- Track record of demonstrating customer service

- Strong organizational skills
- Ability to multi-task
- A high level of energy and the ability to make decisions independently while collaborating with organizational leadership is essential
- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to make presentations to groups as well as build one-on-one relationships within the community are required
- Driver's License (Arkansas)
- Willing to travel
- Night and weekend work
- Proven time management skills
- Previous employee or volunteer for SOAR or another Special Olympics state program a plus.
- Proficient in Word/excel/Powerpoint

Please email your cover letter, résumé, completed application, and any letters of recommendation to jobs@specialolympicsarkansas.org

Posting closed when position is filled

Special Olympics Arkansas is an equal opportunity employer.