

Athlete Leadership

MENTOR INFORMATION SHEET

Help support our future Athlete Leaders!

Special Olympics Athlete Leadership empowers individuals with intellectual disabilities to develop leadership skills and utilise their voices and abilities to undertake meaningful leadership roles to influence change and create inclusive communities across the world.

Athlete Leadership provides athletes with the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and self-advocacy through training workshops and practical community placements in roles of responsibility. In addition, athletes work one-on-one with a mentor to gain feedback and advice on the training's coursework and placements.

Once an athlete has completed the Athlete Leadership training, they will become a recognised Special Olympics Athlete Leader, and can participate in a variety of leadership positions with Special Olympics and beyond.

Why should you become a Leadership Mentor?

By joining the Special Olympics Western Australia community as a Leadership Mentor you will be able to give back to the community, by helping the most marginalised and discriminated population in the world.

As a valued mentor in Athlete Leadership, you have the opportunity to:

- Share your knowledge and experience about leadership and self-advocacy
- Motivate and support athletes with intellectual disabilities to realise their full potential as leaders in our community
- Join the global movement, The Revolution is Inclusion, to break down barriers and end discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities. #ChooseToInclude

In return, you will benefit from:

- Developing your own mentoring, communication, and leadership skills
- Enhancing your cross-cultural competence by working with people from diverse backgrounds
- Improving your understanding of the issues and barriers experienced by people with intellectual disabilities in Australia.

Mentoring responsibilities

As a Leadership Mentor, you will need to:

- Provide details on your professional and personal background in your application so that we can best match you with an athlete (mentee).
- Register as a Special Olympics volunteer and provide a copy of your Western Australia Working With Children Check Card (WWCC). If you do not have a WWCC, Special Olympics can subsidise the cost of this for you.
- Attend the two Athlete Leadership in-person training sessions, including the introduction session and final reflection session.
- Engage with an athlete, your mentee, at least once a month to support their completion of all coursework and provide advice on their leadership goals.

Who can become a mentor? (Eligibility criteria)

We are seeking individuals who:

- Are 22 years old or over
- Have experience and/or training in engaging with individuals with a disability
- Have understanding of personal and professional leadership attributes
- Understand the benefits and believe in the value of the inclusion of individuals with intellectual disabilities within the community
- Are willing to be a Special Olympics Ambassador in Western Australia as an Athlete Leadership Mentor
- Commit to attending the program sessions, specifically the two face-to-face events

If for any reason you do not meet the above criteria and you'd like special consideration, please contact info.wa@specialolympics.com.au.

How to apply

To become a Leadership Mentor, all you need to do is complete the online Leadership Mentor Expression of Interest Form found on our Special Olympics Western Australia website www.specialolympics.com.au/wa

You can also access the form by scanning the QR code



2022 Athlete Leadership schedule

Below is an outline of the 2022 training schedule. As a mentor, your time commitment across the program will include:

- Attendance at the two in-person sessions (Session 1 and Session 8). Your attendance at the online sessions is optional.
- Monthly engagement with an athlete, in a method and at a time that is determined most suitable for yourself and the athlete.
- Invitation to our community events, including our Awards Nights where athletes will be provided their graduation certificates

Component	Topics	Date	Time	Format
Session 1	Introduction to Athlete Leadership	28 May	10:00am – 3:00pm	In-person Workshop
	Understanding Leadership			
	Unified Leadership			
Session 2	Understanding Emotions	12 June	5:00pm – 6:00pm	Online Workshop
	Engaging with Others			
Session 3	Managing Time	10 July	5:00pm – 6:00pm	Online Workshop
	Leading Discussions			
Session 4	Personal Skills	14 August	5:00pm – 6:00pm	Online Workshop
Session 5	Professional Skills	11 September	5:00pm – 6:00pm	Online Workshop
Session 6	Engaging the Community	2 October	5:00pm – 6:00pm	Online Workshop
Session 7	Storytelling	13 November	5:00pm – 6:00pm	Online Workshop
Session 8	Leadership Presentation & Reflection	10 December	10:00am – 3:00pm	In-person Workshop

Any questions?

Please get in touch with the Special Olympics Western Australia team via email at info.wa@specialolympics.com.au.