



SPECIAL OLYMPICS YOUTH AND SCHOOL OUTREACH

Special Olympics believes in the power of young people and is engaging them to be the leaders of the Special Olympics movement throughout the world. Everywhere Special Olympics youth outreach is active, young people of all ages are learning about themselves and how to best serve their communities. They see opportunity and hope for a more accepting world, and they begin to see their role in making this world possible.

Special Olympics knows that young people without intellectual disabilities (ID) are the future policymakers, educators and business leaders on this world. The movement is committed to opening their minds and increasing their participation in Special Olympics. Through a variety of programs, Special Olympics offers many ways for young people to get involved, discover their voices as leaders and help change the world for the better.

Special Olympics' free **SO Get into It**[®] learning curriculum for schools K-12, implemented in 75 countries around the world and in 23 languages, celebrates the diverse gifts of every student, whatever his or her ability, and introduces young students to community service through a group service-learning project.

Special Olympics Youth Summits pair up students with and without ID, ages 12 to 17, and gather them together as delegates to discuss ways to improve our movement and reverse negative stereotypes and attitudes about ID. Global Youth Summits cross cultural and geographic barriers to address issues of acceptance facing young people worldwide.

And **Special Olympics Unified Sports** teams bring athletes with and without ID together on the sports fields to learn from one another in a context of teamwork and participation.

Project UNIFY

Project UNIFY is a United States national project, funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Its goal is to activate young people around the country in an effort to develop school communities where all young people are agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with ID by utilizing the programs and initiatives of Special Olympics.

Project UNIFY initiatives include a host of core activities, both on the national and grass-roots level. Local projects that meet Project UNIFY objectives are supported through grants for local Special Olympics Programs.

Project UNIFY is for students, teachers and educators who believe that:

- There should be more opportunity for young people of all ages and all ability levels in schools across the country to make friends and work together for change
- Students with ID should become part of the core fabric of the education community and be perceived as assets in their school and community
- Students without ID can and should increase their knowledge, skills and comfort in forming positive social relationships with students with ID and come together to address societal issues
- Thank policymakers and education leaders should develop policies and support quality practices that encourage positive school climates and safe and nurturing learning environments for all students



SO College

SO College is building an international network of college students with the common goal: enhancing the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

The Web-based network is a forum to share strategies for organizational development, volunteer recruitment and fundraising. SO College is a resource for such things as action kits for the campaigns such as “Spread the Word to End the Word” R-Word campaign and for starting a new Special Olympics Club.

SO College will match member organizations with nearby affiliates to boost volunteer activity and publicity on campus.

Membership and affiliation with SO College is open to any student organization interested in improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. Members are organizations who primarily work with or for those with intellectual disabilities, whereas affiliates are those who do not primarily work within this community but still want to contribute. Both will act locally by volunteering, fundraising and publicizing events, and work globally through involvement in the social and human rights movement for the acceptance and dignity for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Colleges involved:

American University of Beirut
DeSales University
Jacksonville State University
Kansas State University
La Universidad Catolica de Honduras
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Missouri State University
Northwestern University
Old Dominion University
Princeton University
Slippery Rock University
University of Kansas
University of Notre Dame
University of Tennessee
West Virginia University
Western Michigan University
Yale University

To learn more about all of the youth activities with Special Olympics visit www.specialolympics.org/schools_and_youth