



Hall of Fame Fact Sheet

History: There is no typical Special Olympics athlete. They are young and old, from across town and across the world. They do, however, share one important character trait: a competitive fire to do their personal best. This fire is so intense that it lights up the lives of everyone around them. That's why Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) established the Hall of Fame in 1996: to share with a larger audience the inspiring stories of individuals who had heard "you can't do it," all through their lives - but proved that they could once they were given a chance. The SOPA Hall of Fame honors athletes and volunteers who have made outstanding contributions both on and off the field of competition. SOPA has never-ending stories of personal courage on the part of its athletes and selfless giving by its volunteers. The Hall of Fame is a place for SOPA to celebrate its many deserving stars.

When: The Hall of Fame Award will be presented to selected athlete(s) and volunteer(s) every other year during Summer Games. The recipients will be honored during Opening Ceremonies, as well as during the VIP reception.

Who Will Be Honored: The selection committee will choose 1 athlete and 1 volunteer to induct into the Hall of Fame each cycle.

Nomination Process & Criteria:

1. Athletes who are eligible for the Special Olympics Pennsylvania Hall of Fame:
 - Have participated in Special Olympics for a minimum of 10 years.
 - Have demonstrated dedication to sport-specific training and competition.
 - Have displayed skill growth in specific sport and/or have demonstrated personal growth off the playing field through opportunities such as Athlete Leadership.
 - Have demonstrated positive sportsmanship conduct (i.e., motivates coaches and fellow athletes to strive for personal growth, maintains positive attitude both on and off the playing field, etc.).
2. Volunteers who are eligible for the Special Olympics Pennsylvania Hall of Fame:
 - Have had no less than 10 years of ongoing involvement in Special Olympics Pennsylvania.
 - Have demonstrated positive integrity and continued loyalty to the Special Olympics program.
 - Have gone "above and beyond" to support Special Olympics athletes and/or the Special Olympics Pennsylvania program.

Who can nominate an athlete/volunteer? Anyone who is able to attest to the qualifications of the athlete/volunteer.

Who selects the recipients? A selection committee, comprised of individuals who are closely affiliated with Special Olympics Pennsylvania but who do not have direct involvement with our athletes and volunteers

Nominations Forms & Deadline:

[Nomination Form](#)

Nominations will be accepted from January 31st to March 8th.

Information about the Hall of Fame award and the nomination process will be posted on the SOPA website, SOPA social media sites and via email to our constituents.