



Athlete Leadership News and Notes Volume 1 November 2017

The year of the athlete:

2017 will always be known as the year of the athlete for Special Olympics Ohio, we kicked off our Athlete Leadership Program with a training day in Columbus during the month of February! With a group from all around the state a new era had begun and the athletes were eager to learn and grow. During the past 8 months more training days were held and our program started to take shape, evaluations and ideas from the athletes and mentors were utilized to refine your program. The athletes understood that they were being given a chance to take ownership and make changes to Special Olympics Ohio that was never given to them in the past. Our year was hi-lighted by the athlete led chapter awards ceremony during the fall leadership conference. We not only had athletes as presenters but athletes participating in the conference the next day, we learned just how valuable their input is.



2017 Review

Total Trainings- 5

Athlete Leaders Trained-46

Special Olympics Ohio Athlete Leadership Program

The goal of the Athlete leadership Program is to help persons with intellectual disabilities participate as productive and respected members of Special Olympics Ohio by offering them a fair opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and talents to transform Special Olympics Ohio through their input and direction. Our Athletes will also be trained to educate the public by highlighting their unique talents on and off the competition sites through public speaking and self-empowerment. By completing the training program and participating in the Athlete Leadership Program our Athletes will assume meaningful leadership roles, influence change within the Special Olympics movement, and create inclusive communities throughout Ohio.

What's next?

State Office

Special Olympics Ohio will be adding additional trainings in the 2018 calendar year, please keep your eye out in general mailings about upcoming training schools. The training school is a one day course that is free to the athlete and mentor, through the training the attendees will be given a background of athlete leadership and the tools to go back to their local program to continue the program.

We have added a private Facebook page for our athlete leaders and mentors. This page is to help our athletes share experiences and celebrate the new friendships they are developing through athlete leadership. If you are interested you can ask for permission by clicking on the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/332125123917034/>

Another great idea from the conference was to add an online training component to Athlete Leadership. This is being developed and we hope to roll it out next year, we hope that using this will not only add new athletes to the program but athletes already trained can add additional skills. This program will continue to evolve just like the in-person training through ideas and evaluations from you!

Area Programs

Special Olympics Ohio is asking that all Areas to appoint an athlete representative on their Area Committee. This athlete will be gathering input from other athletes in their area and give this information to the area director. We are also requesting that athlete representatives take part in the opening ceremonies of all area events.

Local Programs

Special Olympics Ohio is requiring that all programs list an athlete representative on their Local Accreditation Form. This athlete will be getting input from athletes during their athlete input meetings concerning their local program.

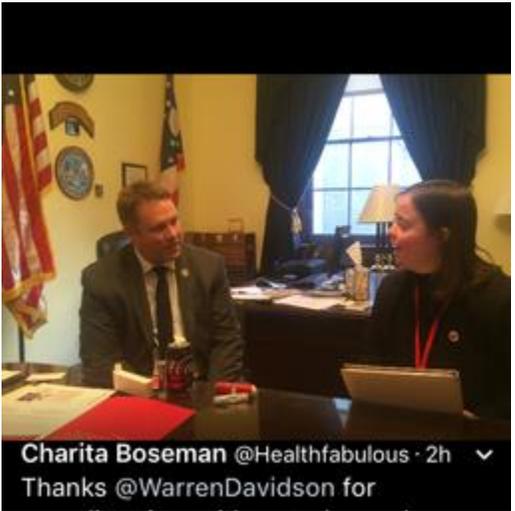
If you are interested in learning more about Athlete Leadership please contact Tim Etienne at Tetienne@sooh.org



Athlete Corner

This past February Jessica Komjati traveled to Washington D.C. to represent Special Olympics Ohio during Hill Day. Jessica's story:

It was a fun way to learn what we could do as athletes, I was able to talk to congressmen and woman about my story and how Special Olympics needs funding for Healthy Athletes. I was able to see the White House at night when it was all lit up and it was cool. I also met a policeman that gave my mom and I some heart shaped candy, it was nice of him to do that. I met Tim Shriver at the hotel we stayed at and I told him him about what I was doing in life and with Special Olympics. I had a fun time and learned a lot there and know I can be an athlete leader for Ohio and in Gahanna! I want my friends to be leaders to so we can be a voice to help coach our team and help other coaches also.



If you have articles that you would like to submit for this newsletter please send them to; Tetienne@sooh.org

