



Athlete Leadership News and Notes Volume 3 February 2018

New Training Date Announced:

April 21st, 2018 Special Olympics Ohio will be holding an Athlete Leadership Training in Tallmadge Ohio (Summit County) This training is targeting athletes in Areas 9, 10 and 11 but is open to anyone wanting to attend. There is no fee to attend the training and will start at 8:30 a.m. and run through 5 p.m. lunch will be provided.

If you are interested please contact Tim Etienne at the State Office Tetienne@sooh.org .



**JOIN THE INCLUSION
REVOLUTION**



Join the inclusion revolution and become an athlete leader!

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.

State Winter Games

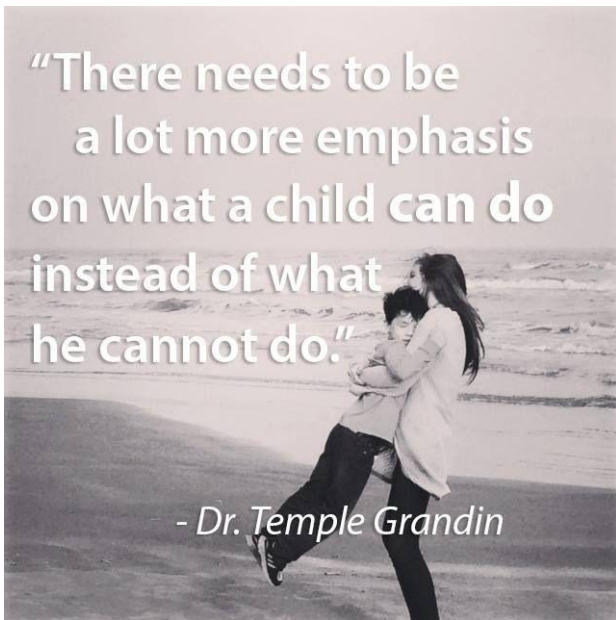
2018 is an exciting year with the athlete leadership program in Ohio. Throughout the year you will be seeing our athletes in prominent roles at our State Events. Winter games on Wednesday February 7th we will have a table at the Kent State Ice Arena and Brandywine ski area. The table at the Ice rink will be manned by Chrissy Motz she is an athlete leader from Portage County. Don't be surprised if she asks you to support her at the Cleveland Polar Bear Plunge. The table at Brandywine will be staffed by Bobby Reidl he is an athlete leader from Lake Deepwood. Special thanks to both Chrissy and Bobby for helping us out!



They will have copies of this newsletter, a flier about athlete leadership, a flier concerning the athlete survey for Winter Games and an athlete sign-up sheet for athletes that want be included on our email list.

Opening ceremonies at the Days Inn will be co-emceed by the Taylor Sisters once again! They will be using their talents to sign the national anthem and add their charm to our big event! This is just a start of what we know will be big changes at all of our State Events. Please help us by participating in the athlete surveys so we can serve you better.





Hill Day

February 12-13th Special Olympics Ohio will have Jabari Wilson and his father John joining our staff in Washington D.C. as representatives for the 2018 Special Olympics Hill Day. Our delegation will be meeting with Congress representatives and their staff from Ohio to talk to them about the importance of federal funding for the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program and other initiatives. We are excited to be utilizing our trained athlete leaders while in Washington D.C.

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/>

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

I would like to thank all the athlete leaders and friends in Special Olympics Ohio that reached out to me about my health issues at the beginning of the year. I cannot begin to tell you that the love and compassion I felt from all of you was inspiring, I am still amazed at just how much that helped me in my healing.

Thank you all!

Athlete Corner

Tara Williams



Tara is an athlete from Franklin Northwest Special Olympics and has participated since 1992. She has participated in two national Games and will be going to Seattle this July as an individual golfer. Tara participates in the sports of golf, tennis, basketball and volleyball. Tara works at the Paul J. Ford company as an administrative assistant and loves her job. Tara knows that her future with Special Olympics will be assisting the Northwest program and the State program in the Athlete Leadership area. This past year Tara has made many speeches for Special Olympics Ohio, none more powerful than at the State Summer Games where she announced our athlete leadership program is going to become an important part of Special Olympics Ohio future at all levels!

Tara was the first athlete to serve on our State Summer Games Committee and hopes to continue to use her influence in shaping Special Olympics for our athletes. She continues to grow into her roles as a public speaker for the Polar bear Plunge and other fundraising events.



If you know of an athlete leader that you want to see hi-lighted please send written article to; Tetienne@sooh.org