



2028 Athlete Spokesperson (Global Messenger) Information

- Athlete Spokesperson Position Overview
 - This is a leadership role at Special Olympics Virginia. It's focused on public speaking. As an Athlete Spokesperson, you'll be giving speeches, interviews, presentations and more. Being an Athlete Spokesperson is about connecting with others to share the Special Olympics movement with your community.
 - The purpose of the Athlete Spokesperson training course is to help you feel more comfortable speaking to and with others. We will cover how to write and deliver a speech, respond to interview questions, and what it means to be a leader representing Special Olympics Virginia
- International vs. SOVA
 - This position is to represent the state of Virginia only. That is why we changed the name to Athlete Spokesperson. Global Messengers refers to a small group of Athletes who were selected by Special Olympics International to represent their region to the world.
- Athlete Spokesperson and Mentor work as a team
 - Your mentor will never speak for you. They are here to work alongside you. They make sure you are prepared for your appearances, by helping you edit and practice your speeches. They will help you find speaking opportunities and may help you travel to them. They will be with you at the Athlete Spokesperson trainings and support you through your leadership journey at SOVA.
- Job Description review (both Athlete Spokesperson and Mentor)
 - 2-year training term
 - I. This is a 2-year training program to ensure you have the tools to succeed as an Athlete Spokesperson for Special Olympics Virginia
 - It is made up of 2 in-person trainings in Richmond VA, these are roughly a year apart.
 - After the 2-year training:
 - I. We hope that you and your mentor continue to work together through your leadership journey here at SOVA! There are lots of ways to grow as a leader. We understand that sometimes things change and are committed to working with you both to be sure you are seen and supported.
 - Seek your own opportunities
 - I. As a trainee, you're required to have 3 public speaking appearance a year. Sometimes SOVA will offer you opportunities to give a speech or

interview, but we expect that most of the opportunities will be ones you find yourselves. You know your local community best! This is a great way to connect with local businesses, schools, and organizations to share the mission of Special Olympics Virginia.

- Training Schedule

- Training I - January 15-16, 2027 at SOVA's Richmond office.
- Training II- October- December of 2027 in Richmond. This training will focus on media interviewing and exposure.
- In addition to the in-person trainings, both Athlete and Mentor will be required to take online Unified Leadership courses
- There may be other virtual training opportunities throughout the two-year period