

SPECIAL OLYMPICS VIRGINIA ANNUAL AWARD NOMINATION FORM



Each year Special Olympics Virginia recognizes Athletes, Sponsors, Coaches, and Volunteers for their outstanding service and their contribution to the success of the mission of Special Olympics. The categories of award nominations are:

1) Athlete of the Year: presented to an athlete who has shown determination and dedication to training and true sportsmanship during his/her participation in Special Olympics Virginia.

2) Area Volunteer of the Year: presented to a volunteer for service given to carry out, improve and promote the activities and the mission of Special Olympics Virginia at the Local or Area level.

3) The Coach of the Year Award can be nominated in one of three categories: 1) Rising Star, 2) Outstanding Coach, or 3) Lifetime Achievement. One coach per year will be recognized in one of the three categories below:

Rising Star: highlights a coach that is under the age of 25. These nominees are early in their career and have already made significant contributions to Special Olympics Virginia at a local level. This award focusses on coaches that have demonstrated a commitment to the organization while having the potential to make a large impact in the future.

Outstanding Coach: recognizes the coach who best demonstrates the true ideals of the coaching profession in a local program or USA Games or World Games team. This person leads by example and expects athletes to set and strive to reach goals. The selection for this award will be based on participation, contribution to sport and coaching, personal and professional coaching development and coaching effectiveness and player development.

Lifetime Achievement: recognizes contributions over the whole of a career by a coach in Special Olympics Virginia. This award recognizes and promotes individuals who have made a significant contribution to Special Olympics Virginia and has been coaching for over 20 years.

4) Family of the Year: presented to the family who has made a unique and lasting contribution to Special Olympics Virginia to benefit the lives of Special Olympics Virginia athletes.

5) Winning Spirit Award: presented to an athlete or volunteer who has affected the organization at multiple levels and has made an invaluable contribution to the lives of Special Olympics Virginia athletes.

Deadline for Submission for all award nominations is **Friday, March 20, 2026**. All nomination forms should be returned to:

Special Olympics Virginia
c/o Awards Committee
Suite 100
3212 Skipwith Road
Richmond, Virginia 23294

Please print or type, completing all blanks on this form that pertain to the Candidate or Family you are nominating. Be sure spelling of nominee’s name and address is correct and legible. Please note that not all sections below are for every award nomination. Submit separate forms for each individual. **You may duplicate this form if necessary. The deadline for submission of nominations is March 20, 2026.** Selection of award winners will be made by an awards committee.

Please select and check the award category you are nominating this candidate for. Please only mark one category per candidate.			
	Athlete of the Year		Family of the Year
	Area Volunteer of the Year		Virginia H Foster Winning Spirit Award
	Coach of the Year		

If you are nominating someone for **Coach of the Year**, please select which category you are nominating the coach for:

	Rising Star
	Outstanding Coach
	Lifetime Achievement (20 years plus)

PART A—General Information (Please fill out completely for all candidates)

Award Candidate’s/Family Member’s Name:			
Area Number (If applicable):			
Street Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Telephone:	Daytime:	Evening:	
Cell Phone Number:			
Email:			
Name of person Completing this form:			
Area Number (if applicable):			
Position in Special Olympics: (ie. coach, area coordinator):			
Street Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Telephone:	Daytime:	Evening:	
Cell Phone Number:			
Email:			

PART B — *Fill out Part B for Athlete of the Year, Area Volunteer of the Year, and Winning Spirit Award Nominations only*

How many years has the candidate been involved in Special Olympics Virginia?

What roles has the candidate filled in his/her involvement in Special Olympics Virginia? If nominating a candidate for Athlete of the Year list the numbers of years involved in sports and other activities related to Special Olympics.

Has the candidate been involved in National Games, World Games or National Invitational Tournament play? If so, which games, what sport or role, and when?

Does the candidate speak or promote Special Olympics in the community and how?

Is the candidate involved in any volunteer service outside of Special Olympics?

List any additional accomplishments/awards:

Briefly describe why you feel the candidate should be considered for this award.

Why Nominated – Please share with us why you feel this person is deserving of being recognized for a Coach of the Year honor. At a minimum please include specific examples of the coach 1) being a role model, 2) development of athletes all around, 3) team improvement, 4) ethical behavior, and 5) demonstrates sportsmanship.

Awards Received: Has the nominee received any awards within your Program or any outside organizations? If so list and include the year received below:

Award Received	Year Received

Significant Competitions: List all significant competitions this nominee has coached and include the years for each:

Competition	Years (s)

What has this coach done to encourage and support the development of assistant coaches and other volunteers he/she has overseen?

Explain how this coach kept supporters (families, guardians, etc) engaged and knowledgeable about what he/she was doing as a coach or in regards to his/her Program in general.

Additional Questions for a Rising Star Nominees:

What separates this Rising Star nominee from other young coaches in your program?

What role do you see this nominee potentially playing in the future of your local program?

Additional Questions for the Lifetime Achievement Nominees:

Overall Sports Development: How has the coach contributed to overall development of the sport(s) coached, local Program and/or State Program during his/her tenure?

Part D: Athlete Questionnaire for Rising Star and Outstanding Coach Awards only.

The following assessment must be completed by an athlete that has been coached by the volunteer. This section is also available by itself so it can be sent directly to an athlete for completion.

Athlete Name:	
Athlete email address:	
Athlete is coached in which sport(s):	
Athlete has been coached by nominee for this number of years:	

Sports Knowledge:

For the sport(s) this nominee coaches you in how well does he/she know the sport(s)?

Provide anything you would like us to know on well your coach knows the sport(s) he/she coaches you in:

Sportsmanship

How does your coach promote sportsmanship?

Provide anything you would like us to know on sportsmanship with your coach:

How well would you say your coach runs practice?

How much do you learn from your coach at each practice?

Are practices fun?

Provide us anything you would like us to know on how much fun you have

Why should your coach with this award?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write their response to the question above.

PART E— Fill out Part E for Family Nomination only

Please List the family members with the years that they have been involved in Special Olympics Virginia.

Family Member	Role	How many years have they been involved with each role?

How do the family members promote Special Olympics in their community? What is the family’s biggest impact on the Area program?

Are any of the family members involved in any volunteer service inside or outside of Special Olympics?

List any additional accomplishments/awards:

Briefly describe why you feel the family should be awarded the Family of the Year Award. Show how the family has made a unique and lasting contribution to Special Olympics Virginia to benefit the lives of Special Olympics Virginia athletes.

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