



PROJECT UNIFY YOUTH FORUM FACT SHEET

Description of Project UNIFY

Project UNIFY is a national project, funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Its goal is to activate youth around the country in an effort to develop school communities where all young people are agents of change - fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities by utilizing the programs and initiatives of Special Olympics.

Project UNIFY includes the following core components:

Communication and Engagement

- Be a Fan — “R-Word” Campaign
- Social Networking
- Sports Experience
- Fans in the Stands

Inclusive Schools

- Get Into It (SOGII)
- Partners Clubs®
- School Environment
- Youth Summits

Early Childhood Enrichment

- Young Athletes

Inclusive Sports

- Unified Sports®
- Camp Shriver

Athlete Leadership and Self-Advocacy

- Athlete Leadership Programs
- Training and Education
- Youth Forums
- Global Youth Congress
- Unified Global Messenger

Traditional Sports

- Games and Tournaments
- Coaching
- Volunteers

Purpose of Project UNIFY Youth Forum

Camp Inspire Youth Forum will provide Special Olympics Georgia youth volunteers the opportunity to attend an overnight, week long camp where they will experience team building, leadership training, educational sessions, participating in activities with Special Olympics athletes, staff and volunteers. This camp will promote activities that provide sports training while also encouraging youth and athletes to play, laugh and have fun as individuals and teammates.

Youth Partner Selection Criteria

- Partner is at least 13 but not older than 18 years old.
- Partner submits application materials by deadline.
- Partner submits a copy of current volunteer registration form.
- Partner is able to express opinions and ideas about Special Olympics in writing and verbally.
- Willingness to go through basic orientation about Special Olympics and youth involvement.
- Partner can commit to being involved with SOGA Youth Forum Committee for at least two years.

Special Olympics Youth Vision

- ◆ Special Olympics **believes** that through sports youth can make a difference in friendships, schools and communities;
- ◆ Special Olympics youth **recognizes** that through sports training and competition, people with intellectual disability inspire hope, dignity and courage;
- ◆ Special Olympics **invites** youth through sports to understand and to value their peers with intellectual disabilities and empowers youth to create opportunities for and with them in sport and friendship.



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Youth Forum Committee Member Duties

- ◆ Serve as a SOGA Project UNIFY Youth Forum Committee member
- ◆ Attend the Camp Inspire Youth Forum.
- ◆ Read all materials distributed before and after the Project UNIFY July meeting
- ◆ Be agents of change in their own school communities by hosting a Spread the Word to End the Word Day.
- ◆ Attend R-Word Rallies and help with R-Word tents at State Games.
- ◆ Implement one of the components listed above at their school
- ◆ Participate in scheduled conference calls and attend any scheduled meeting to be held throughout the year.

Youth Forum Staff Contact Information

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Special Olympics

Be a fan™

Project UNIFY

