Special Olympics Ireland

Where to find volunteers within your community

Existing Volunteers

Your biggest advocates are your current volunteer base. Get your volunteers to help with recruitment by encouraging them to sign up a friend, family member or colleague. Asking these groups of people if they are willing to offer some time is a quick and easy way to boost the volunteer pool. Many people don't volunteer because they are not asked or realise the number of people involved in making a club operate successfully.

Local Schools

Build up a relationship with local schoolsin your area. Many students are keen to gain work experience, others need to volunteer as part of their Transition year, while other are simply helpful and like meeting new people. Deliver a presentation to the students about the club and how they can get involved, have an athlete tell their story on what being part of the club means to them.

Higher Education

Students are often encouraged to volunteer in order to build their experience within a relevant field, network and to build up their resume to help them secure a job at the end of their education. Check if a nearby college has any sport courses where students are required to complete a practical placement. This arrangement offers a solution to both the needs of the club and the student.

Sporting Clubs

Your Local Sport Partnerships is a great way to link up with local clubs for the sports that the club participates in. It can offer a way to connect with the current or past members, especially if looking for particular skills. If a person plays or has played that particular sport for enjoyment then there is a chance that they would be willing to share their knowledge and skills.

Local Businesses

Approach businesses in the local area to advertise your opportunities with their employees. With hybrid working, people may have more free time to be able to support your club that had previously been spent commuting.



Every county now has a Volunteer Centre that has a database of volunteers looking to volunteer. They can advertise volunteer opportunities for your club and promote it with the volunteers they meet through their office.

Similarly if you live in a county with a college there is a website that acts in the same way where volunteer opportunities can be advertised to the colleges student body. This is particularly useful if you have a sport that's in the college and are looking for coaches/assistant coaches.