



## **YOUTH VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT SCHOOLS PRESENTATION – PRESENTER’S GUIDE**

**July 2023**

### **Who should use this guide and why?**

*It's advisable this guide should be used by a Special Olympics volunteer who is still going to school who could (with permission from their school and support from their club), address their fellow school pupils to inform them of Special Olympics and volunteering in their local club.*

*The guide is designed to prompt the speaker on what to address in a presentation on this topic based on feedback given to Special Olympics Ireland from youth volunteers.*

*A presentation pack is provided to accompany the guide with power point slides. Being mindful that some people do not have a lot of experience at presenting, the slides contain a lot of text as backup. It is best not to read too much from slides if possible but draw from your own experience at each slide.*

*There are 3 video clips with the presentation. Internet access is required so please test them at set up. Videos are great to bring to life what you are trying to say and lets your audience get a better picture of the context.*

*This has been created with the support of youth volunteers. It is suggested that the presenter speaks from their own experience as a volunteer, this guide supports that by providing structure*

Presentation/ Discussion Point	Instructions	Resources
<b>Introduction and Purpose</b>	<p>Introduce yourself – name and ...”I’m a volunteer in xxx Special Olympics club”</p> <p><i>“Purpose of this presentation is to let you know what it’s like to volunteer in our Special Olympics club and if you like what you hear, consider volunteering with us”</i></p>	
<b>What is Special Olympics</b>	<p>To keep this interactive</p> <p>Ask your audience what they know about Special Olympics</p> <p>Accept answers and let them know the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sports organisation for people with an intellectual disability from the age of 4 with no upper age limit</li> <li>• 8,000 athletes across the island</li> <li>• 294 clubs</li> <li>• Special Olympics is not Paralympics</li> <li>• Athletes train in a club every week during the year (summers off)</li> <li>• Athletes get involved in competitions in their sport at local and all – island level</li> <li>• Every 4 years there is a World Games where athletes from all over the world compete</li> <li>• Started by Eunice Kennedy- who was the sister of JFK because their sister had an ID.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>What do athletes get from being part of a club</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to get involved in a sport that otherwise may not be available to them in their local community</li> <li>• Make friends, have a social outlet and get exercise at the same time</li> <li>• Develop personal and sports skills</li> <li>• Learn about healthy living</li> <li>• Make community connections</li> </ul> <p>The following video shows athletes who trained to represent Ireland in the World Summer Games 2023 in Berlin talking about their ambitions and what their sport with Special Olympics means to them:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZhVJp7pgZMo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZhVJp7pgZMo</a></p>	
<p><b>Your club</b></p>	<p>Talk about your club, give the following details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Club name</li> <li>• Where the club trains</li> <li>• What night/day and what time</li> <li>• What sports</li> <li>• How many athletes and age ranges (approximately)</li> <li>• How many volunteer (approximately)</li> <li>• Anything fun about your club e.g.,</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Your experience:</b> <b>What you do at your club</b></p>	<p><b>Describe</b> what you do as a volunteer at your club Give as much practical information as you can from the minute you come in the door until the session is over</p> <p><b>Tell</b> them how often you go and what other types of people are there volunteering</p> <p>To give you an idea of what being inside a club is like, watch this video from a bowling Club in Roscommon</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://vimeo.com/78111111">SOI - Bowling (vimeo.com)</a></p>	<p>You can use a video of your own club if you wish (if you have one)</p>
<p><b>Your experience:</b> <b>What it was like for you when you started volunteering</b></p>	<p>Let the group know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How long you have been volunteering</li> <li>• How you got involved</li> <li>• What you knew or didn't know about volunteering in a SO club before you started</li> <li>• What it was like for you when you started volunteering (if you were anxious about it please let your audience know)</li> <li>• Let them know how other people in the club supported you and showed you the ropes</li> <li>• Talk about the athletes, what you might have perceived about the athletes before you started volunteering and what you see now</li> </ul>	

<b>The questions people ask:</b>	<p>The following are typical questions other youth volunteers have had: (these were said to Special Olympics Ireland during a series of focus groups with youth volunteers):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is Special Olympics the same as Paralympics (no)?</li> <li>• What can I do in a club?</li> <li>• Do I have to be a nurse or a Special Needs specialist to volunteer with Special Olympics?</li> <li>• Do I have to be very sporty to volunteer with a club?</li> <li>• Do I have to know all the rules about a particular sport to volunteer with Special Olympics?</li> </ul>	
<b>What you love about volunteering:</b>	<b>Tell</b> your audience what you love about volunteering (speak from your heart and your experience and in your own words)	
<b>Any learnings about volunteering</b>	<p>Think about what you have learned since volunteering and <b>share</b> that with your audience.</p> <p>If you need to add to your list, here is what other youth volunteers have said are the benefits of volunteering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You learn new skills like teamwork, leadership etc.</li> <li>• You feel part of your community</li> <li>• You learn more about inclusion</li> <li>• You make new friends</li> <li>• If you are into a particular sport you get lots of opportunities to develop and think about coaching</li> <li>• It's great experience for your CV</li> <li>• It pushes you out of your comfort zone</li> </ul>	
<b>How do you sign up</b>	<p>You are at the end of your presentation.  Ask your audience if they have any questions for you and answer them as best you can  Ask if they are interested? Give them the club details to apply</p> <p>Leave your audience with a final video where you can hear what volunteers and parents have to say about their experience with Special Olympics</p> <p><a href="#">Team Ireland behind the scenes   Day 7 - YouTube</a></p> <p>Say thank you and goodbye</p>	