



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
MINNESOTA 2026

2026 Special Olympics USA Games Protocol: Minor Volunteers

Purpose

This document outlines the requirements for the participation of individuals under the age of 18 and no younger than 15 ("minors") as volunteers at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games. The purpose is to ensure a safe, welcoming, inclusive, and compliant environment for all participants, while creating meaningful opportunities for youth engagement.

1. Eligibility

- All volunteers must be at least 15 years or older as of June 01, 2026.
- Minors aged 15 to under 18 will be eligible to be considered for a volunteer role once their parent or legal guardian has completed the volunteer registration process on the minor's behalf.

2. Supervision Requirements

- Minors must be supervised at all times by a designated adult (either a parent/guardian or an approved chaperone). And the supervisor must maintain line of sight at all times.
 - Minor volunteers without the required supervision as outlined in this document, will be denied the opportunity to volunteer.
- If minors are part of a group (i.e.: school, youth organization), they must be supervised by an approved chaperone. The designated adult-to-minor supervision ratio must not exceed 1:10. Any request to exceed this ratio must be reviewed and approved in advance by the Volunteer Functional Area Lead and/or the Local organizing Committee on a case-by-case basis.
- Chaperones are categorized as Class A volunteers and must:
 - Be at least 21 years of age.
 - Complete the online registration process.
 - Undergo background check facilitated by the 2026 USA Games through Sterling, which will be processed at the chaperone's own expense.

3. Volunteer Roles & Restrictions

- Volunteer roles assigned to minors will be age-appropriate, exclude high-impact tasks involving hazardous equipment, driving, high-risk environments and sensitive responsibilities.
- Suitable roles may include: greeting attendees, distributing materials, assisting with activities, transferring information between venues, supporting set-up and cleanup.

4. Code of Conduct

- All volunteers must read, agree to, and adhere to the terms and expectations set forth in the Volunteer Code of Conduct. As part of the registration process a parent or legal guardian must also review and acknowledge these expectations.
- Any behavior deemed to be in violation of the Volunteer Code of Conduct, disruptive to the Games, or inappropriate, as determined by the LOC in its sole discretion, and may result in



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immediate dismissal from their volunteer role and held under the supervision of a Special Olympics designee until pick up by a parent, legal guardian or chaperone.

5. Training and Orientation

- All minor volunteers must attend the mandatory volunteer training and orientation sessions prior to the start of the Games. A parent, legal guardian or chaperone must accompany the minor to all training and orientation sessions.
- All minor volunteers must attend the mandatory on-site volunteer briefing and role preparation sessions prior to the start of performing their volunteer role. A parent, legal guardian or chaperone must accompany them.

6. Health & Safety

- A parent or legal guardian must provide up-to-date emergency contact information for the minor volunteer at the time of registration.
- First aid support will be available on-site to all volunteers.

7. Consent & Documentation

- By signing the Registration Form, parents or legal guardians are granting the use of the minor's likeness, photo, video, name, voice, words, and biographical information which can be used by the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games and its partners and sponsors.