

Special Olympics Washington Needs Volunteers

North King / Snohomish Counties Area

2024 Fall Season Volunteer Opportunities

There are currently 17 volunteer opportunities around the state this Fall and we're hoping that you'll be able to join us for at least one of them. Below is a list of events in the **north Puget Sound** area (and our large Flag Football event):

- **Sunday, September 15 – Regional Flag Football** (Puyallup)
 - **Location:** Puyallup Valley Sports Complex
 - **Greatest Need:** Set-up, Individual Skills, Tear Down, Merchandise Lead (background check required)
 - **FYI:** The Washington State Fair is open 9:30am-9:30pm this date...combine your trip...help with Set-up and then go to the Fair in the morning (think fresh scones)...volunteer half/all day then do dinner and rides at the Fair...

For the **bowling events** below, the greatest need at all of them are for Lane Monitors and Merchandise Leads. Most roles are offered for AM, PM and All Day shifts.

Saturday, September 21 – Sub-regional Bowling (Lynnwood)

- **Location:** Bowlero Lynnwood

Saturday, September 28 – Sub-regional Bowling (Kenmore)

- **Location:** Kenmore Lanes

Sunday, September 29 – Sub-regional Bowling (Federal Way)

- **Location:** Secoma Lanes

Saturday, October 12 – Regional Bowling (Kenmore)

- **Location:** Kenmore Lanes

*****To view all of the upcoming events for Fall season across the state, click on:**

<https://specialolympicswashington.org/event-volunteers/>

If you would like a flyer for any of the event opportunities to post at work or share with others, please let me know.

New Volunteer Registration Portal

Special Olympics Washington has a new registration portal – not only for event registration but also for team and athlete registration. We're excited for the many opportunities and ease this will bring us in the future but we've discovered a wrinkle or two that still needs to be ironed out. These wrinkles aren't overwhelming, we just want to bring attention to the work-arounds so that your registration and volunteer experience are as smooth as possible. We appreciate your patience as we work through these. We still need you to pre-register but with these tips and requests:

- **ALL Event Volunteers should pre-register by noon on the Monday** before the event. I recruit to the numbers registered. If a large number of you wait to register on-site, there very well may be TOO MANY volunteers.
- While you can see the roles/shifts/numbers needed by clicking on the links found on our volunteer webpage, **you must create an account in the new portal first** in order to register for the event. Your account from our previous registration system does not carry over. You'll only need to log in for future registrations.
- ****Until further notice, volunteers ages 14 and above are strongly encouraged to register as individuals.** Our biggest wrinkle at this time has to do with the Group Registration process. Each volunteer will need to register using their own email address (no shared email). If you absolutely need to register as a Group, PLEASE follow the instructions in the Group Registration User Guide posted on our webpage.
- ****Youth Volunteers, ages 11-13, must have a parent/adult volunteer alongside them and will be unable to register as an individual. Parents, please follow the instructions in the Group Registration User Guide posted.** You'll be asked to send me a follow-up email after completing the Group Registration process so that I can confirm that the correct names and numbers are being shown in my counts.

*****To view all of the upcoming events, possible roles and shift times, click on:**
<https://specialolympicswashington.org/event-volunteers/> Otherwise, simply go directly to the registration portal by following these steps:
STEP 1: Visit <https://portals.specialolympics.org>
STEP 2: Click **"Create a New Account"** which will walk you through the profile creation process
STEP 3: After creating your own volunteer profile, **"Register for and Event"**

If you experience any difficulties, there are several helpful user guides and video posted on our webpage: <https://specialolympicswashington.org/event-volunteers/>. You're also welcome to email me at this email address or at volunteer@sowa.org. We also host drop-in online office hours every Monday at noon and 6pm via Teams. The link can be found in the resource on our webpage.

Thanks again for your patience as we all get used to our new registration portal.

Medical Volunteers Needed

Do you have a medical/first aid background? The Emergency Management Group – Washington provides sideline first aid and medical support at Special Olympics Washington's events and they are seeking medically qualified volunteers for our Fall competitions. A current health care provider credential or license is preferred – FA / CPR / AED certification is required. A per diem may be available for out-of-town travel.

Those interested in contributing their skills to these events can find more information and sign up through the Emergency Management Group-Washington's website. Your participation will not only be greatly appreciated but will also make a significant impact on the success of these community events. Schedules and sign-up information can be found at [2024 Special Olympics Volunteer Signup – Emergency Management Group-Washington \(emgwa.org\)](#) or <https://emgwa.org/so-signup/>

State Fall Games held in Tri-Cities cancelled

If you follow Special Olympics Washington on any of the social media platforms or receive any of our other newsletters/emails, you may have seen that we recently announced that we had to cancel our Washington State Fall Games held in Tri-Cities in early November. If you missed it:

“After a thoughtful and thorough examination of our resources, Special Olympics Washington has made the difficult decision to cancel our State Fall Games. Our Fall Season regional competitions will proceed as scheduled. Like many organizations, Special Olympics Washington is facing a challenging financial landscape which has impacted our revenue streams. These financial challenges are requiring the Special Olympics Washington board of directors and leadership team to make hard decisions to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of our organization. Our mission of providing training and competition opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities remains unchanged. We will continue to provide opportunities for local training and exceptional experiences at our Fall Season regional competitions. Thank you for your understanding and support as together we build a stronger, more resilient Special Olympics Washington.”

Ways You Can Help

The decision to cancel this year’s State Fall Games was certainly not an easy one. If your company, office, organization, faith community, class, team, etc. would like to support our mission in addition to volunteering, please don’t hesitate to reach out and I can put you in touch with the appropriate person. Maybe that’s a sponsorship/partnership opportunity beginning at the \$1000 level. Or maybe organize an in-kind donation drive for things such as food items or gift cards to be used for athlete lunches or volunteer hospitality. Or check with your company’s HR department about matching your volunteer hours with a donation to Special Olympics Washington. Do they already do that? Did you submit your hours from the last time you volunteered? Or designate a small portion of each paycheck through payroll deduction. Join us at an upcoming fundraising event near you. These are just a few examples. If the donation of your time and expertise is what you’re comfortable with, thank you very much. We truly appreciate your gift of time and your dedication to our athletes.

Thank you for your time and dedication to our athletes, we truly appreciate all that you do. I’m sorry to clog up your inbox with one more email from us but many of you are new to our program and may not know to look for our emails from “Volunteer Team Special Olympics Washington”. If you haven’t already, please mark us as a Safe Sender. Again, if you have any trouble registering for an event or setting up your profile, please send me an email. Hope to see you at an event soon.

Susan Greenwood

Program Coordinator

Event Volunteers / Registration / Group Volunteering

Special Olympics Washington

Email sgreenwood@sowa.org

Phone 206-536-1458

Looking for an additional way to support our athletes? We’ve put together an ***In-Kind Donations Wish List*** for the upcoming Fall and Winter seasons: <https://www.myregistry.com/wishlist/special-olympics-washington-seattle-wa/3944498> By creating this Wish List of regularly purchased items, we can allocate the funds towards programs, events, and competitions that will directly benefit our athletes. No obligation – just giving you another option that might be a more comfortable fit for your budget than a larger contribution. ***Thank you in advance for considering an in-kind donation!***