

**Are you student that longs to make a difference?
Are you passionate about inclusion? Are you ready to change the world?
Then, just maybe, you are cut out to be a...**

Unified Champion Youth Leader!

Your mission this school year will be to advocate for respect and inclusion, engage in and promote Special Olympics' activities, and provide opportunities to all people regardless of their abilities. As you educate, motivate, and empower others to become agents of change in your school and the community, you will be leaving a lasting impact. At the end of the school year, if you have shown great dedication to the mission of Special Olympics Washington by making a difference in your school and community, you will be honored and recognized as a Unified Champion Youth Leaders!

To be considered a Unified Champion Youth Leader, you must be enrolled in a school or college and complete actions (below are some examples) in 5 of the 6 categories during the 2016-17 school year:

Community Awareness

- Speak at an assembly
- Present at a meeting
- Host an informational table
- Post 10 times on social media platforms
- Plan a School/Community event with your ALT

Play Unified

- Join or Start a Unified Sports team
- Participate in a Unified Experience
- Attend Camp UNITY

Leadership Development

- Attend a conference
- Attend a workshop
- Attend a summit

Fundraise

- Participate in a SOWA fundraiser
- Build a Polar Plunge Team
- Start a fundraiser at your school to support your Unified Club or Unified Sports teams

Volunteer

- Give 25 hours of your time and talents at a local, regional, or state games, summit, or other SOWA event

Leadership in Action

- Plan and organize an event
- Lead an awareness activity like Spread the Word to End the Word
- Start a Unified Sports team or Unified Club
- Host an Area or District Youth Activation Meeting
- Recruit and train other youth to be leaders!

Through striving to be a Unified Champion Youth Leader, you will:

- Learn important leadership skills and put them to the test
- Gain valuable experience to put on your resume, and
- Contribute to creating acceptance, respect, and inclusion for all students.

[Sign up today](#) to let us know your interest being a Unified Champion Youth Leader! By completing the [online form](#), it will allow us to support you in meeting all the criteria and get on our mailing list!

Best of luck, future Champion Unified Youth Leader!

(Sign up link: <https://goo.gl/forms/FJrpKsX8h0r1iBFg1>)

Special Olympics Washington

Morgan Larche | Director, Program Development | PO Box 1640, Richland, WA 99352 | Tel (206) 693-2616 | Email mlarche@sowa.org
www.SpecialOlympicsWashington.org



Frequently Asked Questions

When do I have to pre-register by?

Aspiring Unified Champion Youth Leaders are encouraged to sign up by September 30th, however you may sign up at any time. The sooner you sign up, the sooner you will hear about opportunities to enhance and utilize your leadership skills! Again, you can sign up at <https://goo.gl/forms/fJrpKsX8h0r1iBFg1>.

What resources will you provide me to be successful?

Special Olympics Washington will provide you with links to handbooks, guides, articles, and dates to attend conferences, booths, events, or workshops. SOWA can also connect you with other student leaders or Athletes, as well as supportive administration. Anytime there is an opportunity to enhance or use your leadership skills, SOWA will notify you!

How will I be recognized?

Unified Champion Youth Leaders will receive a t-shirt, certificate, picture on our website/social media, and recognition at Summer Games Opening Ceremonies.

What if I don't reach 5 of the 6 categories?

Students who complete less than 5 of the categories, but still at least 2, will be recognized as a Unified Youth Leader. You will receive a certificate and your name listed on our website/social media.

What if I reach all 6 categories?

Students who reach all 6 categories will be entered into an elite competition for a chance to be awarded one of the two "Unified Champion Youth Leader of the Year" awards. Unified Champion Youth Leaders of the Year will be additionally recognized with a plaque.

What reporting is required?

Each student should submit a Quarterly Submission Form for SOWA to see what actions have been completed in each category to date. Some actions will require an adult signature for verification or other proof (ex. Screenshots of social media posts, pictures of the event, etc.).

When do I need to complete final reporting of the leadership I have completed during the school year?

Final reporting will be due May 10th.

When should I get started?

Right now! 😊