SPECIAL OLYMPICS CONNECTICUT/ATHLETE LEADERSHIP ROLES

THE ROLE OF THE GLOBAL MESSENGER
Global Messengers are athlete ambassadors who, through oral and written communications, share their Special Olympics story, inspire greater awareness and understanding of the organization's programs and impact and advocate for the Special Olympics movement.

Qualified candidates must be registered Special Olympics Connecticut athletes and must train and compete in at least two sports annually. They will have a dedicated speech coach (who is registered as a Class A Volunteer) and commit to attending online and in-person trainings (at least six per year) and fulfilling assignments, as needed (at least three per year). They will also have their own means of transportation and maintain a professional appearance and manner during all Global Messenger activities. They must be able to access email, text messages and online Zoom meetings.

Assignments may include, but are not limited to, speaking at Special Olympics CT Opening Ceremonies, presenting to potential sponsors and donors, representing Special Olympics at fundraisers and events, writing thank you letters, recording video messages for supporters and contributing to all aspects of Special Olympics CT's communications and marketing efforts. The term for serving as a Global Messenger is three years.

THE ROLE OF THE HEALTH LEADER
The Health Leader will meet all the criteria of a Global Messenger and speak and interact with others at meetings with health partners and health partners. The Healthy Leader, upon receiving training, will be expected to motivate peers on maintaining good nutrition, hydration and physical activity and help Special Olympics CT athletes establish healthy lifestyles and set personal health and fitness goals.

The goal for this team is to raise awareness about the health needs of athletes and also the different health programs that Special Olympics CT offers. The primary focus will be on health and promoting social inclusion.

THE ROLE OF THE UNIFIED GLOBAL MESSENGER TEAM
The Unified Global Messenger Team will include ONE Special Olympics CT Athlete and ONE Unified Partner. These two individuals will meet all the criteria of the Global Messenger, but will complete all training and assignments working together as a team.

THE ROLE OF THE UNIFIED HEALTH LEADER TEAM
The Unified Health Leader Team will include ONE Special Olympics CT Athlete and ONE Unified Partner. These two individuals will meet all the criteria of the Global Messenger, but will complete all training and assignments working together as a team, with a focus on Health programs.

THE ROLE OF THE MENTOR
The Mentor supports the Athlete Leader to help them become a more effective communicator and to ensure they fulfill all assignments on time and in a professional manner. The mentor should conduct a minimum of monthly calls or check-ins with their athlete leader and attend trainings and events, as required, with their athlete leader. All Mentors must be Class A Volunteers with Special Olympics CT.