



TITLE: Opening Ceremony Lead

GOAL/IMPACT

Special Olympics Southern California (SOSC) is dedicated to creating opportunities for our athletes to find strength, success, confidence, and joy on and off the playing field. Making each competition meaningful to the athletes and to their families is important.

The Games Management Team (GMT) is a group of volunteers that manages all aspects of the games. The GMT concept incorporates several groups within a team to alleviate overload on one person. The GMT consists of the Games Director, Competition Director, Managers and Leads. Combined they are responsible for carrying out the mission, goals, planning and conducting high quality games while adhering to the predetermined timelines.

The Opening Ceremony Lead plays a key role in competitions ensuring that athletes, law enforcement, and volunteers are ready to kick off competitions and celebrate big wins.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Recruit singer for National Anthem and Special Olympic Athlete to say the Athlete Oath
- Write script for Opening Ceremony
- Emcee or recruit emcee
- Be the stage manager for the Opening Ceremony
- Coordinate with Torch Run coordinator when applicable (not all events have torch run)
- Greet, thank, and orient day-of Opening Ceremony volunteers prior to their shift
- Lead day-of volunteer team in staging and executing Opening Ceremony Parade of Athletes

TRAINING & SUPPORT

- Weekly staff support leading up to competition to review timeline, GMT conference calls, if applicable
- Shadow opening ceremony as part of training and on-site guidance until confidence is built
- Receive overview of tools and training needed for the assignment – SOSC Opening Ceremony Procedures
- Continuous support from Sports Manager
- Training leading up to competition

COMMITMENT

- Minimum 1-year commitment to gain experience and build infrastructure. 2 years preferred
- Prepping the opening ceremony before the event may require approximately 2 office visits the week leading up to competition, approximately 90 minutes each
- Must be able to attend competition dates – 6-10 hours, depending on competition
- Day-of competition hours may vary, throughout a 8-10 week season



- Most regions have 8 or more competitions per season. We request the Opening Ceremony Team commit to at least 4 competitions to establish continuity
- We offer several sport competitions. Spring: Swim, Track, Basketball, Bocce and Flag Football. Fall: Tennis, Golf. Summer: Bowling

QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS & REQUIREMENTS

- Must be 18 years or older
- Understanding of event management, sports, Special Olympics programs or volunteer activities
 - Have volunteered at previous SOSC competitions first
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent organizational skills and initiative to improve processes
- Detail oriented and ability to multi-task
- Ability to work closely with a team and delegate work where possible
- Calm personality and cool under pressure is essential

BENEFITS

- Direct interaction and impact on SOSC athletes!
- Build a strong team to work together to achieve our vision of acceptance, inclusion, and well-being for people with intellectual disabilities through sports
- Experience enthusiasm, joy, and personal achievement alongside our athletes
- Endorsement on LinkedIn for excellent work