

Common Questions About the Young Athlete Program (YAP) Registration for Schools, Classrooms and Community Groups

Q: I cannot give out student names due to confidentiality. Can I skip the roster?

A: No, but we can accept first name and last initial to keep confidentiality. This is sufficient for most schools.

Q: I am a teacher not a volunteer - do I have to fill out the volunteer form?

A: Many teachers leave this blank causing a return in paperwork. Special Olympics is (outside of the classroom) a volunteer organization. We do recognize your employment status, but the forms provide the information needed. We also need to know if you have had a background check and if so, in what school district. Those without a background check must submit a Class A volunteer form available by request at sportsinfo@sonj.org or calling 609-896-8000.

Q: What if I forget to list two references (or any other information)?

A: Your registration form will be returned for completion. Don't forget to read the Protective Behaviors section on our website <http://www.sonj.org/Coach/Protective.php> and check it off on your application.

Q: Can my children/students without intellectual disabilities participate?

A: Yes, we encourage unified participation and please count/list **all** of your students for equipment purposes. The top of the roster asks for the total number of classified students, but group equipment is given for use of all of your students.

Q: My students can get a free kit for home (valued at \$140), does that include all students?

A: No, our funding sources provide home kits only to children with intellectual disabilities/IEP. Non classified students can purchase the kits from Flaghouse, our supplier if interested.

Q: How can my students with intellectual disabilities get a home kit?

A: We will provide registration brochures (hard copy of pdf for email) for you to send home or online at www.sonj.org

Q: Is there a different registration form for a school/classroom group and a community (non school sponsored) group?

A: Yes, please be sure that you complete the "**School/Classroom Registration**" from if you are operating as a school sponsored activity. Any others should register with the "**Group Registration**" form & need a class A volunteer form.

Q: Why do you need my email or an alternate phone number?

A: We ask that you distribute our flyers for free YAP/SONJ events (4 times per year) to your students. For funding reasons we are required to survey YAP programs & will need to be able to contact you. We DO NOT sell or distribute contact information for any reason other than SONJ & YAP. All surveys should take about 5 minutes to complete.

Q: Can I charge a program fee? What if I need more equipment?

A: No, YAP is free and needs to be offered free to participants. Our equipment supplier is Flaghouse. If your budget allows, you may order additional equipment and supplies directly from them. Please feel free to specify Special Olympics New Jersey Young Athletes Equipment. Some programs ask the students to bring in addition equipment from their home kits... for example one group made the "world's longest balance beam" lining up 24 balance beams from the kits.

Be creative & have fun!!

Q: What if I cannot answer or complete portions of my YAP registration form?

A: If incomplete, please expect a delay in processing your request for your free YAP Activity Guide and Equipment. Your registration will be returned with information marked for completion and shipment will be held until the complete application is processed. *See sample of return form below:*

Your YAP paperwork could not be processed for the following reasons:

- Contact Information Program Email Phone Other: _____
- Volunteer Information Missing Incomplete
- Class A Class B School District for background check Protective Behaviors
- Roster Missing Incomplete
- Wrong Form – Please use School/Classroom Group(Non school/classroom group)
- Signatures Missing _____
- References Information Missing Incomplete
- Other: - _____

Q: I have additional questions, who can I contact?

A: Please call SONJ at 609-896-8000 with any additional questions or comments about the free YAP program.