Volunteering with the WSU Special Olympics

Purpose and Implementation:

This project highlights the experiences that we have had as coaches and mentors of the WSU Special Olympics. The organization has had an impact on our lives as we have diligently worked to develop the program by providing meaningful opportunities for athletes and volunteers.

*Our overall goal of this project is to encourage volunteerism with the Special Olympics because of the many benefits that come to all who are involved.*

As Special Olympics Coaches, we have not only had the opportunity to train and mentor our athletes, but we have also learned how to function as community engaged leaders. We have been involved in multiple aspects of the organization including event and volunteer coordination, coaching, and community partner collaboration.

We plan and coordinate a variety of events where athletes can integrate with their peers who may not have a so-called disability. The goal behind this is that people would not be able to tell who has a physical disability and who does not.

"The athletes are friendly, competitive, and love unconditionally. I've learned immensely about myself and the Special Olympics mission while working with and coaching the wonderful people on Weber State's team. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside them."

- Rylan

"From my time as a Special Olympics Coach, I have gained a greater sense of volunteerism, compassion, and leadership. I have been able to see the direct benefit it has had on my personal life and development. Most importantly, I have been able to make lifelong friends."

- Jake

Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.