

Information Guide

Topic: Special Needs

Who?- People who have special needs have a mental, physical or emotional disability. There are many types of disabilities and syndromes and each one is different and has its own effects on a person.

Where?- People who have special needs sometimes have homes or camps for them that can be anywhere. One type of camp that you could help out with are the special Olympics. This event is year round and has over 4.5 million athletes compete in about 17 countries. You can volunteer to help out with it.

When?- There is no specific time where volunteering is needed. Just remember to check the hours of the place you will be volunteering at!

What?- Here is a list of things to do and places to work at in order to help people with special needs.

- Volunteer at the Special Olympics
- Care for those you know who have disabilities like a neighbor
- Collect funds to donate to places such as Volunteers of America

Why?- It is always important to help out your community and those who are less fortunate. By giving back, you can gain knowledge about the places you live in and touch the lives of countless people.

Before:

Before you go, remember to educate yourself and your child on who you will be helping and what you will be doing. Be positive and share smiles with other people throughout the experience.

After:

Talk about what you learned and experienced during the activity. List ways you helped and made an impact on the special needs community.

Resources:

- *Danny and the Merry-Go-Round* By Nan Holcomb
This story is about children learning to accept differences between one another and becoming friends.
- *Ian's Walk: A Story About Autism* By Laurie Lears
This book is about learning about what having autism means and what it is like to have it.