



VOLLEYBALL



Special Olympics
Texas

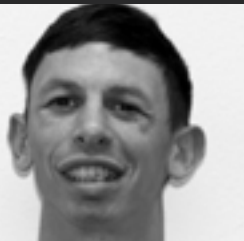
VOLLEYBALL

Jeremy Fox

Age:

30

Hometown:
Deer Park



HOBBIES: Enjoys listening to music, playing video games and spending time with his nieces and nephews.



Special Olympics
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John Lakey

Age:

36

Hometown:
Houston



OFF THE FIELD: A volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, he helped build houses for families in Houston, Dallas and Arizona.



Special Olympics
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VOLLEYBALL

Christopher Garza

Age:

33

Hometown:
Deer Park



SOTX HISTORY: Involved for more than 20 years, he competes in basketball, bowling, softball and volleyball.



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VOLLEYBALL

Rafael Guajardo

Age:

32

Hometown:
Pasadena



GAMES HIGHLIGHT: Can't wait for the chance to represent Team Texas and demonstrate his skills on the volleyball court.



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Robert Lane

Age:

39

Hometown:
Pasadena



MEDAL COUNT: Proud of his collection of medals and ribbons, they cover an entire wall at his apartment.



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Chris DeLeon


Age:


24

Hometown:
Houston




GAMES HIGHLIGHT: Excited to meet new people, he can't wait to travel outside of Texas.


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VOLLEYBALL 

Amanda Mickan
Age:
22
Hometown:
Richmond




STAR POWER: One cool chick, she is the only female on the National Games volleyball team.


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VOLLEYBALL 

Kenny New
Age:
21
Hometown:
Sugar Land




HOBBIES: Kicks back at his family's beach house in Galveston and plays video games.


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Texas


VOLLEYBALL  **COACH**

Michael Barry
Hometown:
Deer Park




SOTX HISTORY: Coach for volleyball, basketball, softball and soccer, he enjoys attending Summer Games with his team each year.
MOTIVATION: Enjoys being part of a team, especially Team Texas!


 **Special Olympics**
Texas


VOLLEYBALL  **COACH**

Mary Ann Fox
Hometown:
Deer Park




OFF THE FIELD: CEO of Enviro-Tech Specialties, Inc., a marine chemical business she started.
MOTIVATION: As a parent and coach, she has seen the impact that Special Olympics has on the lives of everyone involved.


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VOLLEYBALL 

James Shannon
Age:
40
Hometown:
Deer Park




SOTX IMPACT: Shares a close relationship with his team and says that his coaches and teammates are like his family.


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VOLLEYBALL 

Zachary Wallace
Age:
18
Hometown:
Deer Park




SOTX HISTORY: Involved with SOTX for two years, he competes in basketball, bowling, softball and volleyball.

 **Special Olympics**
Texas

VOLLEYBALL  **COACH**

Rory Fox
Hometown:
Deer Park



OFF THE FIELD: Retired from teaching for 29 years, he runs his own business.
MOTIVATION: The parent of an athlete, he enjoys cheering his son on as he trains and competes.





Law Enforcement Torch Run® Final Leg

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics began in 1981, started in Texas in 1985, and is now the movement's largest grassroots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle.

At a basic level, the Torch Run is an event in which officers and athletes run the "Flame of Hope" to the Opening Ceremonies of local Special Olympics competitions, state Games and National Summer or Winter Games. This torch run event is called the Final Leg because it is the culmination of Torch Run events that have occurred throughout the United States.

At its most fully developed, the Torch Run initiative encompasses a variety of fundraising vehicles in addition to the Torch Run itself. Examples of Torch Run fundraising includes T-shirt and merchandise sales, donations or pledges for runners in the Torch Run, corporate donations, special events such as Polar Plunges, golf tournaments or other events that have local appeal.

The Torch Run will begin in Ames, Iowa, and culminate during the Final Leg in Lincoln, Nebraska. More than 200 law enforcement officers from across the nation will run the torch through Nebraska communities before delivering the torch to the Games for Opening Ceremonies.

The Torch Run Final leg is not only a salute to athletes from around the U.S. who will compete in the USA National Games, but also an honor for the participating law enforcement officers who comprise the Torch Run Final Leg Team. The Final Leg Team includes law enforcement runners, Special Olympics athletes and support team members.



Final Leg Runner

Name: Eric Guerrero

Hometown: Beeville, Texas

Day Job: Senior Warden Segovia/Lopez Complex - Texas Department of Criminal Justice

SOTX History: A 16 year veteran of TDCJ, Senior Warden Eric Guerrero has been involved with the Texas Law Enforcement Torch Run for 13 years. He currently serves on the Texas Law Enforcement Torch Run State Committee and volunteers at both Spring and Summer Games.

Motivation: Says his favorite aspects of involvement are experiencing the camaraderie between law enforcement agencies, running through towns with the athletes and seeing the athletes enter the stadium during Opening Ceremonies at Summer Games.

Language Guidelines

Please refer to the following language guidelines when speaking or writing about Special Olympics Texas and our athletes. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to appropriate terminology; your efforts help us properly educate the public.

Appropriate Terminology

- A person has intellectual disabilities*, rather than is mentally retarded; is suffering from, is afflicted with, or is a victim of mental retardation or intellectual disabilities.
- Distinguish between adults and children with intellectual disabilities. Use adults or children or older or younger athletes.
- Refer to participants in Special Olympics as athletes. In no case should the word appear in quotation marks. Do not refer to athletes as Special Olympians or Special Olympic athletes; the correct reference is Special Olympics athletes.
- Use the words “Special Olympics Texas” when referring to the organization. Do NOT use “Texas Special Olympics” or “Special Olympics of Texas”; both are incorrect references.

Terminology to Avoid

- Do not use the label “kids” when referring to Special Olympics athletes. Adult athletes are an integral part of the program.
- Do not use the word “the” in front of Special Olympics unless describing a specific Special Olympics event or official. Saying “the” Special Olympics implies that Special Olympics is a once a year event when, in fact, it is a year-round movement.
- Do not refer to Special Olympics Texas as “Texas Special Olympics” or “Special Olympics of Texas”. The correct reference is “Special Olympics Texas”.
- Do not use the word “special” when talking about people with intellectual disabilities. The term is distancing and inappropriate and describes that which is different about any person.
- Do not sensationalize the accomplishments of people with disabilities. While their accomplishments should be recognized and applauded, people in the disability rights movement have tried to make the public aware of the negative impact of referring to the achievements of physically or mentally challenged people with excessive hyperbole.

Intellectual Disabilities replaces Mental Retardation

In response to a call from our athletes and the growing social unacceptability of the term “mental retardation” around the world, Special Olympics adopted the term “intellectual disabilities” when referring to the people whom we serve. The word “mental” can be confused with the term “mental illness” and the word “retardation” is associated with offensive terms such as “retard” or “retarded.”

