

# Volunteer Collage

~Evan Badger



Among my time spent volunteering, I spent time helping out my local parish, Saint Teresa of Calcutta over the summer of 2022. Specifically I was involved in helping to set-up, maintain, and take-down the annual church summer carnival fair. Such work included setting-up food stands, tents, games, and seating. During the fair I was tasked with bussing tables, directing people with questions, and aiding in some of the games, such as cornhole, and bottle ring toss. After the fair was over I helped take down and pack tents, chairs, tables, and game stations.



## 2023 UPHS Special Olympics

In the Spring of 2023, my High School, the Spring-Ford Area School District hosted the Special Olympics. A program and tradition shared among many local school districts which involves a day long event where athletes with mental and physical disabilities can compete against one another in a variety of sports and games.



As a volunteer, and representative of my school's National Honors Society, I was at the forefront in aiding in the maintenance of the event. Specifically I was assigned to the tennis courts, where athletes played parachute games, had dance offs, competed in cornhole, and ate, rested, and relaxed. My job was to encourage the athletes, reset the game areas, and join in on the fun.

Throughout the Spring of 2022 and 2023, I volunteered at my local YMCA on Wednesday evenings. In particular I volunteered at a local program called "Shooting Stars", the aim of the program is to give kids and young people with mental and physical disabilities a place to play, hang out, and be on a team working together in a team environment. This program saw members playing and practicing basic basketball principles, and having brief scrimmages. In addition conditioning such as stretching, cardio, and calisthenics were also incorporated to further engage participation and exercise. My job was to aid in the process, be it offering encouragement to participants, structuring scrimmages, workouts, and drills, or even just hanging out with the members and talking with them, striking up conversations and building relationships, making them feel welcome and giving them something to look forward to each week. It was a great program that I am happy to have been a part of and it gave me memories I will cherish forever.

