

Josh Alters

Topeka/Shawnee

Hometown: Topeka

Sports: Softball, Basketball, Volleyball, Bocce, Swimming, Bowling, Track and Field. Member of Topeka Stars softball team participated in SO North America National Softball Invitational 2015

Volunteer history: Volunteered at nursing homes, Midwest Carpet and Loving Hearts Training Center. Was also responsible for in-home care of a young man with special needs.

Awards/Honors: Certified as Global Messenger in 2012. First SO Kansas athlete elected to Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run Board of Directors. Co-emcee for SO North America National Softball Invitational Opening Ceremony in 2015.

Goals: To attend a Special Olympics World Games and continue to be involved with Special Olympics on different levels

Groups Talked to: Kansas Legislative Annual Shrimp Peel, Summer Games Opening Ceremony Athlete Welcome, WIBW TV interviews, Topeka City Council Meeting (thank you to City Manager for Polar Plunge Support), Topeka Kiwanis, Walmart Grant Ceremony

People I admire: My mom, my coaches and the Law Enforcement Torch Run officers

More About Me: I was a Celebrity Chef at Cutthroat Kitchen, a fundraiser for SOKS. Chef Kevin Derks and I won the competition! But, don't let that fool you, my tool of choice in the kitchen is the microwave!

A Favorite Memory: Carrying the Torch during the Unified Relay for SO World Games as it traveled through Topeka during summer of 2015.

What being a Global Messenger means: *It allows me to promote Special Olympics wherever I go and to everyone I meet, so that a better understanding of each other can lead to inclusion. Both sides have so much to give each other. I have enjoyed traveling and meeting so many new friends.*

Global Messengers are Special Olympics Kansas athletes who tell their story and spread the message and vision of the movement. Each messenger completed the StrengthsExplorer® program to identify their personal strengths. Then with 12 hours of classroom training learned speaking skills, and built confidence in their ability to make presentations. Each was required to give a 5-7 minute graduation speech to family and friends. Josh's personal strengths are reflected above. For more information regarding the Special Olympics Kansas Global Messenger program, or to request a Global Messenger for your event, please contact Public Relations, pr@kssso.org.



Josh's personal strengths

Caring

In your heart, helping others is important. You want to make the world better by helping people.

Relating

You like friendships and keep them for a long time. You widen the circle of friends for yourself and others

Dependability

Trust is important to you, and you are about being seen as responsible and trustworthy