

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



GENERAL

What is Over the Edge?

Over the Edge is a Canada-based special events company that provides signature events for non-profit organizations. Participants are invited to fundraise in exchange for the once-in-a-lifetime experience of rappelling “Over the Edge” of a local building. In Delaware, the Over the Edge crew handles the technical aspects of the event, and Special Olympics Delaware recruits “Edgers” to participate in the event and raise money on their behalf. Special Olympics Delaware holds the site license for this event, and as such, it cannot be replicated within the state.

When is it?

Special Olympics Delaware’s Over the Edge event is always the second Thursday in May. We rappel all day – from 9:00am – 5:00pm.

Where is it?

300 Delaware Ave, Wilmington, DE 19801 - Our downtown Wilmington building is a Brandywine Realty Trust property, and it is 17 stories high (that’s 222 feet!).

How do I get started?

To go Over the Edge, individual participants must first register online with a \$50 fee – this secures your spot and counts toward your overall fundraising total. Each Edger must raise a minimum of \$1,250. Once you are registered, we will be in touch every step of the way!

What do the funds raised benefit?

All funds raised from the Over the Edge event help fuel Special Olympics Delaware (SODE)’s mission to provide year-round sports training and competition to thousands of children and adults with intellectual disabilities throughout the state. All SODE programming is free of charge to our athletes and their families. When you go Over the Edge, you support our athletes who show their determination, courage, and bravery every day.

FAQ



FUNDRAISING

I don't have much experience fundraising; how do I do it?

Our online registration and fundraising platform, Classy, makes it easy for you to reach donors near and far! When you register, a personal fundraising page is automatically created for you. You can add photos, update your fundraising goal, and customize the messaging on the page. Although this is the simplest and most popular way to begin fundraising, be sure to check out our fundraising toolkit for more ideas. We will also be in touch all along the way providing fundraising support.

What if someone wants to write a check or donate cash?

Checks should be made out to Special Olympics Delaware, and "Edger's Name - OTE" (i.e. Meredith Grey - OTE) should be written on the memo line. You should collect checks and cash from your donors and send them to the Special Olympics Delaware office. We don't encourage you to mail cash - either drop it by our office, get a cashier's check to mail, or turn it in on event day. Our address is: Special Olympics Delaware, 619 S College Ave, Newark, DE 19716. It is important that we know what the donation is for, so make sure you provide that information when you send in cash or checks.

What happens if I do not raise at least \$1,100?

Each individual Edger is required to raise a minimum of \$1,100 to rappel. And you will! The fundraising process will be easier than you imagine. As soon as you reach the fundraising requirement, we will reach out to schedule your rappel time. We need to have that schedule finalized by Monday of event week. If you have not raised at least \$1,100 by that date, we will be in touch to discuss next steps.

What is the fundraising requirement for a team?

When participating as a team, the fundraising requirement is still \$1,250 per person. The great thing about team fundraising is that you will be able to reach a much larger circle of donors than you ever could as an individual. We can "share" money amongst team members so that as long as the team fundraising total = the number of team members x \$1,250, you are good to go!

FAQ



PARTICIPANTS

Are there age requirements to rappel?

There is no upper age limit for this event. As far as a minimum age requirement, we ask that anyone under the age of 18 contact the Special Olympics Delaware office before registering.

Are there weight restrictions to rappel?

The equipment safety standards enforced by Over the Edge require that participants must be between 100 and 300 lbs to safely rappel.

What should I wear when I rappel?

Dress comfortably! Do not wear overly loose, baggy, or bulky clothing. Wear soft-soled, close-toed shoes or sneakers. The harness goes around your legs, waist, and shoulders – we recommend wearing long pants. Long hair must be tied back. You will be given a pair of gloves and a helmet to wear while you rappel. Costumes are allowed but are subject to the same limitations as clothing.

Can I rappel with a camera / valuables?

Personal cameras are not permitted. You won't have a free hand to take photos anyway! If you are using a GoPro it must be securely fastened to you to the satisfaction of the OTE staff. On event day, you will turn in droppable items like keys and cell phones, or jewelry that can get caught on things. No phones are allowed on the roof. We will have volunteer photographers capturing photos throughout the day, and you'll be able to download the images (for free!) after the event.

What else should I expect on rappel day?

Over the Edge has prepared a great "What to Expect" document that will walk you through everything that goes on during event day. Find it in our Edger Toolkit!

Who else is going Over the Edge?

Be on the lookout for "Edger Updates" that will come in your email leading up to event day. These updates will include a list of who has registered to join you.

FAQ



TECHNICAL

Is Over the Edge safe?

Absolutely! Over the Edge has never had a single incident or accident at any event since their inception in 2003. Every Over the Edge event is set up as an industrial worksite and as a result is compliant with all federal and state OSHA Fall Protection Standards and OSHA Federal and State Laws. To read more about safety, visit the Over the Edge site.

Who will be setting up the rappel gear and what qualifications do they have?

All members of the Over the Edge technical team are IRATA and SPRAT certified industrial rope access technicians. They also rely on the help of volunteers from local fire departments, SWAT teams and AMGA Guides to assist with the ropes. Most volunteers have been doing our event for years and/or have extensive training in areas like rope rescue and/or are instructors in rope rescue or climbing.

How old are the ropes? When are they inspected and by whom?

The Over the Edge technical team regularly orders new ropes. They are inspected by a qualified technical staff at the start and end of each event. During the event, safety checks are performed for each person before they rappel, and all the rigging is re-inspected periodically throughout the day.

Do I get to practice before the big rappel?

Yes, you will go through a training on event day. This training, led by the OTE technicians, will help you get used to the harness, rappel device, and technique for descending the building. We also offer practice sessions at the Delaware Rock Gym in Bear – these sessions are not mandatory, but give you the chance to learn about the equipment and process, and even meet a couple of the ropes volunteers you'll work with on event day. Look for dates and times for the Delaware Rock Gym practice sessions in your Edger Updates.

Still have questions?

Please contact Hayley Ferrara at hayley.ferrara@sode.org or 302-831-1258.