



Tips for Volunteers

If you have limited experience with Little People, you may find the following information helpful.

General: There will be two kinds of Little People attending the event; dwarf athletes and dwarf fans. For both types, this is the one time of the year when they get to be together as a large group. They will be focused almost exclusively on each other. As a volunteer, part of your job is to be helpful - if your customers don't ask for help, you can certainly offer it, but please don't be offended if your help is turned down.

Physical Issues:

1. Most Little People are not just short - they may also have especially short arms and legs, which can mean things like:
 - Doors may be awkward to push open or hold open
 - Concession counters may be too high and/or deep
 - Steps can be challenging, especially without railings
 - Long walks are even longer
 - Bathrooms are a trip: having a raiser or stool (or two) available at sinks and urinals can be very helpful
 - Showers (for athletes) usually can't be re-aimed
2. Some Little People also use crutches, canes, wheelchairs and scooters. Chances are you already have experience with people who use similar adaptive tools.

Social Issues:

1. Adults with dwarfism expect to be treated as adults, which means:
 - No pats on the head (or attempts to physically pick people up)
 - No "how cute" or "how adorable" comments
 - Avoid short jokes or pet names
2. Children with dwarfism are likely to act like kids, so stay alert!

Thanks for being part of the 2013 World Dwarf Games. The memories made at these events often last a lifetime for the athletes, the fans, AND the staff - have a good time!