

# R-Word Event

Spread the Word to End the Word is an on-going effort to raise the consciousness of society about the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of the word "retard(ed)" and encourage people to pledge to stop using the R-word. The use of the word R-word hurts individuals with intellectual disabilities, their family members, and their friends. The campaign, which peaks in March every year (but is ongoing throughout the year), is intended to get schools, communities and organizations to rally and pledge their support. Spread the Word to End the Word™ is a youth driven campaign and every day there are young people, as well as family members and advocates, who are creating positive change within schools and communities to foster dignity, respect, acceptance, and tolerance for all individuals with intellectual disabilities.

## **What are some ideas for other rallies?**

Many students around the country have hosted rallies in the past. Each one is a little different, so you should put together a youth leadership team to start planning the details. You'll need to figure out how many people will attend, who will be your speakers, which Special Olympics athletes will be there, and how you can make the event exciting for everyone who is there.

## **How do I get the Special Olympics Community involved in my event?**

Many students around the country have hosted rallies in the past. Each one is a little different, so you should put together a youth leadership team to start planning the details. You'll need to figure out how many people will attend, who will be your speakers, which Special Olympics athletes will be there, and how you can make the event exciting for everyone who is there.

## **Who do I talk to to hold an event at my school?**

This often depends on your school. You should definitely work with a teacher to help you and your youth team as you plan for the event. You might also need to get permission from your principal, and you'll want to talk to your school office about setting up a time and place. Make sure you do this early so you can set up a timeline!

## **Where do I get the R-Word Supplies?**

Every year in March, for the annual Spread the Word to End the Word Day, Special Olympics designs t-shirts, posters, pins and other materials. You can find out how to get these materials through your state Special Olympics office or by ordering them online at [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org).

## **What different clubs can I use to help me out?**

Every year in March, for the annual Spread the Word to End the Word Day, Special Olympics designs t-shirts, posters, pins and other materials. You can find out how to get these materials through your state Special Olympics office or by ordering them online at [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org).