What will you learn from leading a Youth Innovation Project?

**Instilling meaning and purpose**
As a Youth Leader who will drive the changes for the world towards inclusion, having a vision for the future will take you far. Through the planning phase of your Youth Innovation Project, you are instilling meaning and purpose in your project to create an inclusive school and/or community climate. Keep the meaning and purpose in mind when carrying out your project.

**Execution skills**
Implementing a project is not the easiest process. Through Youth Innovation Project, you will have the opportunity to practice the skills needed to execute your project. From recruiting volunteers to budgeting, from goal setting to project management, etc., Youth Leaders will be continuously learning as their project unfolds and will come away with valuable skills for the future.

**Information exchange**
Once your project gets approved, you will be added into a Microsoft Teams group along with other Youth Leaders from around the globe who are leading projects. In the group, you will be able to connect with other youth leaders, share your progress, read others’ updates, and participate in different activities initiated by Special Olympics Innovation Grants Team.

**Network building**
From local communities to global platforms, you are building a network of inclusion. Moving from school to school, or from community to community, you are also taking the network with you and expanding it. As future leaders in different industries, you will utilize these network
and leverage what you learned from the experience to contribute to this inclusive world from different aspects.

**Sense of mission**

Determination to implement an Innovation Grant project brings your mission to life—the mission to engage more youth leaders like you, the mission to expand Unified Schools, the mission to sustainably keep the movement of inclusion going in your school or community.

**Leadership kills**

**Local leadership skills:** It is necessary to be ambitious leader; however, it is equally important to make sure your local community influenced by your inclusive actions. By implementing your project, you are showing local leadership skills. By influencing people around you, you are multiplying the efforts you put into your own project with collective actions taken by your friends and family.

**Global leadership skills:** After practicing your local leadership skills, we are moving forward to global leadership skills. Throughout the duration of your project, you will be provided numerous opportunities to learn about how to be a regional and a global Youth Leader by exchanging information with Youth Leaders across the world via digital platforms and hearing from previous Youth Leaders who successfully finished their projects. These unique and valuable conversations will broaden your horizon and stimulate your mind to equip you with a global view on how to be inclusive and innovative.