

**Alison Olson: Oregon Youth Soccer Association**  
**TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year**



**Eastside Timbers TOPSoccer Buddy**

Alison has worked as a buddy with many of the Eastside Timbers TOPSoccer players and her ability to change her approach and communication style to fit the needs of each player is truly a gift. Parents of athletes are always impressed with how she listens and interacts with all the participants. She explores all types of opportunities to be of service and fully engages with all the participants to each of their individual needs.

Alison believes in the TOPSoccer program wholeheartedly and can be often found explaining the program and assisting in events to promote TOPSoccer. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Alison has been instrumental in supporting all of the players participating in activities. She demonstrates listening skills, has been a great support in mirroring the questions being posed, and often demonstrates the skills being taught by Coach Joslynn. Alison helped make Zoom practices more manageable for everyone involved. With Alison's help, all the new buddies did an excellent job of working with the coach and stepping into a unique virtual environment.

**Recommendations:**

“I have witnessed her promoting TOPSoccer in the community. Her enthusiasm in working with other buddies is extraordinary. She shares similar values as US Youth Soccer. I have witnessed her character development as she has grown in involvement with the program. She works well with all the buddies and the coaches. With my nonverbal granddaughter, she is always making a connection. She listens and enthusiastically responds.”

— Grandparent of TOPSoccer Player

“Alison is a kind and gentle volunteer. She offers a calming presence! She is flexible and is a go-to person for coaches, volunteers, and athletes. She is a nursing student at St. Scholastica and works for oncology at OHSU. Alison went to the University of Oregon. Go Ducks! She loves all sports, especially soccer, basketball, and golf!”

— Joslynn Bigelow, TOPSoccer Eastside Timbers Director and Head Coach