

# Daniel Baker

**Special  
Olympics**  
Illinois



**Sport: Gymnastics**  
**Hometown: Hinsdale, IL**  
**Age: 32**

**1. How long have you been with Special Olympics?**

Danny has participated in Special Olympics for 23 years. His first sport was track & field. He has also been involved in basketball, but the sport he enjoys competing in the most has always been gymnastics.

**2. How has Special Olympics changed your life?**

Special Olympics has allowed Danny to meet new friends and athletes over the years, and the competition of gymnastics gives him a high sense of self-esteem.

**3. What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome?**

Danny had to overcome his fears and challenges that came with gymnastics: heights, flips, and balancing. Through the years he has developed a fearless attitude when executing his gymnastic events.

**4. What makes you most proud?**

Danny is most proud of his self-appointed role as captain on any team that he is an athlete on. Danny is always proud of his awards and medals.

**5. What are some other accomplishments you are proud of?**

Danny has traveled nationally as well as internationally to Italy with his gymnastics team.

**6. What other interests or hobbies do you have?**

Danny enjoys community events, getting together with his friends at special recreation activities, playing basketball, and just spending time out with family and friends.

**7. Who do you admire most and why?**

Can't answer

**8. What does attending USA Games mean to you?**

Being selected to represent Illinois at USA Games is an honor and makes me proud. I look forward to competing against other athletes from across the country.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**USA GAMES**  
ORLANDO 2022

**9. How are you preparing/training for USA Games?**

Can't answer at this time

**10. Have you been to a World Games or USA Games before?**

This is Danny's first time being selected.

**11. Are you employed? If so, where at and what's your role?**

Danny has been employed with RML Specialty Hospital for 10 years. He maintains patient files, mail, and a variety of office tasks.

**12. Are you currently a student? If so, where and is it a Unified Champion School?**

No.

