

Caroline Colianne

*Special
Olympics
Illinois*



Sport: Athletics
Hometown: Evanston, IL
Age: 40

1. How long have you been with Special Olympics?

I've been with Special Olympics for 16 years. I participate in track and field, swimming, basketball, volleyball, field hockey, softball, and flag football. I am also a Global Messenger.

2. How has Special Olympics changed your life?

I won two gold medals, one silver medal, and one bronze in swimming at the 2014 USA Games in New Jersey. It gave me the ability and confidence to apply for a job teaching swimming. I have been teaching swimming at the Evanston YMCA since 2014.

3. What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome?

When I was in high school, some people made me feel like I was a nobody and didn't belong because I was different.

4. What makes you most proud?

I am living independently and have a life of my own.

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

I have a job teaching swimming and I also work at the children's center. I also learned to snow ski. I have won many medals competing in Special Olympics. I have tried to show people, through being a Global Messenger, that good things can happen if you believe in yourself.

6. What other interests or hobbies do you have?

I belong to a theatre group in Evanston. I am also part of a life skills group.

7. Who do you admire most and why?

My family. They are always there for me and believe in me.

8. What does attending USA Games mean to you?

I am looking forward to making new friends and hopefully seeing old friends. I love sports and hope I am able to win for Special Olympics Illinois.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
ORLANDO 2022

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

I am trying to eat healthier. I am working out by going to the gym and running/walking and using my Fitbit.

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

I participated in the 2014 USA Games in swimming.

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

I work at the Evanston YMCA. I am working part-time at the children's center there. I also teach swimming lessons at the YMCA.

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

No

