

Jenna Dobson

*Special
Olympics
Illinois*



Sport: Swimming
Hometown: Frankfort, IL
Age: 36

1. How long have you been with Special Olympics?

I started Special Olympics in 1995 in Washington playing Unified soccer and basketball. When we moved to Illinois in 2001, I played basketball, volleyball, tennis, bocce, softball, golf, swimming and track (Unified golf, Unified volleyball, Unified tennis, and Unified bocce).

2. How has Special Olympics changed your life?

It has taught me sportsmanship, patience, kindness, and how to be on time! I have been able to meet new friends and participate in many sports and social activities. I have learned how to take directions from other adults and learned how to prepare and get ready for events.

3. What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome?

My biggest challenge might be the exposure to friends with disabilities other than my own and how to help them if needed.

4. What makes you most proud?

All the medals and ribbons I have won and earned. I really enjoyed getting the Ron Kinsley sportsmanship awards during basketball.

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

I'm proud of the Ron Kinsley Awards during basketball and medals and ribbons earned. I enjoyed being in the school choir and bowling.

6. What other interests or hobbies do you have?

I enjoyed my jobs at Jewel and Evilena's consignment store. Through my church involvement, I have helped feed people at the Morningstar Mission in Joliet, helped at the food booth during Fall Fest in Frankfort, helped organize the church garage sales, and helped prepare and serve church members during coffee hour.

I love listening to music, going to movies and Broadway shows.



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
ORLANDO 2022**

7. Who do you admire most and why?

All my coaches, all my family, and all my friends. I admire them all because they are great people.

I enjoy basketball the most because it is fun just being out on the court with my friends.

8. What does attending USA Games mean to you?

It means I am being honored and recognized in a sport that I enjoy. I look forward to competing in a new venue against other athletes from other states. I definitely look forward to all the activities and festivities at USA Games in Orlando.

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

I have been in a virtual exercise program three times per week for one and a half years. I will be practicing my swimming as often as I can.

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

None

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

Not currently

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

No

