



**Sport: Swimming**  
**Hometown: Gurnee, IL**  
**Age: 26**

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

I have participated in Special Olympic swimming with the Libertyville Stars Swim program since I was 10 years old.

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

Special Olympics has allowed me to have an activity that I love and teammates that are lifetime friends. I get to compete in swimming meets for my sport just like my brother and sister do for their sports.

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

Because of my physical disability, it was very hard for me to learn to walk. Swimming helped me take some of my first steps in the water. I am very glad that I have been able to stay in the water with Special Olympic swimming.

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

I am proud of getting a job and living independently after I graduated from Cove School. I have been working daily in the school cafeteria at Gurnee Schools and will have been there as an employee with Arbor for six years. I also have begun to live on my own. I go to work and activities including Special Olympic swimming and training.

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

I have over 50 medals in Special Olympics swimming over the years. I also participate in a weekly theatre group and like bowling and fitness.

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

I also participate in a weekly Theatre group and like bowling and fitness.

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

I admire my brother and my sister.



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

I am so excited about this opportunity to participate in the 2022 USA Games. It means so much to me! I'm looking forward to everything – the competition, meeting new friends, and my teammates and I spending an incredible week at the games and athlete village. I'm also excited to have my friends and family there cheering me on.

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

I am training with my local swim club, Stars Swimming. I'm also swimming with a local special recreation team and doing training and exercise when I'm not swimming. I'm also doing a fitness class. I can't wait to start using my Fitbit as well.

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

This is my first.

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

I work full time for Arbor Foods in the school cafeteria of Woodland Middle School in Gurnee. I have been there for six years.

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

No

