

# Albina Giza

**Special  
Olympics**  
Illinois



**Sport: Unified Soccer**  
**Hometown: Vernon Hills, IL**  
**Age: 18**

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

I have participated in Special Olympics since 2018. The sports I've played include soccer, basketball, floor hockey, snowshoeing, bocce, and swimming.

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

If it weren't for Special Olympics, I would not be an athlete, play sports, or be a part of a team. It also gave me a chance to try several new sports (i.e. floor hockey, snowshoeing and bocce). It keeps me active and allows me to socialize and make friends.

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

Comparing myself to others.

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

I'm very proud of how much I've grown and matured over the years, and how I've become more confident and outgoing.

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

I made the high school honor roll, won State Basketball in 2019, and earned Certificate of Work Ethic Proficiency in 2021.

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

For several years, I volunteered at two barns assisting with equine therapy sessions for people with disabilities. I completed a summer internship at the county not-for-profit disability rights organization. After high school, I plan to go to community college and earn a Veterinary Assistant Certificate. I enjoy horseback riding and fishing.

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

I admire my mom because she has helped me grow and is there for me. She is persistent, dedicated, supportive, and has a great sense of humor.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**USA GAMES**  
ORLANDO 2022

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

It's such an honor. I'm so excited to be going to the 2022 USA Games! This is going to be a once in a lifetime experience. I know it's going to be a lot of hard work and preparation, but it will be so much fun too. I'm really looking forward to traveling with my team and coaches to Florida and having my parents come and watch me play soccer. It's going to be so cool.

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

I've been walking, running and swimming on a regular basis. Team practices will start soon.

**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?**

I work part-time at Sunset Foods as a bagger. I really like my job.

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

I am a senior at Libertyville High School in Libertyville, IL.

