

# Maddie Harnar

**Special  
Olympics**  
Illinois



**Sport: Gymnastics**  
**Hometown: Swansea, IL**  
**Age: 23**

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

I have been with Special Olympics for 15 years. I participate in golf, snowshoe, cheerleading, volleyball, basketball, bowling, swimming, and the Wellness program.

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

Special Olympics has helped me to make and keep friends, be patient, and take turns. It makes me so happy to be involved, to be able to participate, and to become more independent.

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

Special Olympics challenges me to do my best!

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

I'm most proud of being able to do artistic gymnastics.

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

Special Olympics helps me to be a good team player and friend.

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

I enjoy reading dancing, singing, and being with friends. I am active in the Down Syndrome Association of Greater St. Louis and participate in many of their events, including employment initiative, book club, ukulele club, improvisation, bingo, and Fusion Friday.

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

I admire my older sister, Mallory. She was also a gymnast.

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

It makes me glad, excited, and proud to be part of Team Illinois!



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**USA GAMES**  
ORLANDO 2022

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

I go to gymnastics practice and participate in Project Champions gymnastics Zoom program every week.

**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 at Beno J. Gundlach flooring company in the office.

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

I attend College For Life classes at Lewis and Clark Community College.

