



Coach - Swimming
Hometown: Bloomington, IL

1. How long have you been with Special Olympics?

My parents worked for Special Olympics Illinois when I was young, so I grew up going to state and local events. When I was in junior high, I became a Unified partner in bocce. In high school, I became a coach for Special Olympics, initially in swimming. Currently I coach swimming, volleyball, basketball, softball, and track and field. I am a Unified partner in tennis. I also am a mentor for Youth Activation Committee in my school district and help implement the Young Athletes program in the school I teach in.

2. How has Special Olympics changed your life?

Because I grew up in Special Olympics, I knew that I wanted to be a special education teacher from a very young age. I feel that Special Olympics taught me to see people for who they are instead of what they may look like or what they can or cannot do.

3. What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome?

NA

4. What makes you most proud?

Seeing my athletes perform to the best of their abilities - especially when they achieve goals they set for themselves or create new personal bests makes me most proud.

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

NA

6. What other interests or hobbies do you have?

I love hiking, camping, and traveling and am currently training for a half ironman.

7. Who do you admire most and why?

NA



8. What does attending USA Games mean to you?

I am extremely excited to be attending the 2022 USA Games and coach a larger group of athletes. I can't wait to see all of the improvements my swimmers make as we train leading up to the games.

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

I am preparing to be a better coach for my athletes by coaching other levels of swimming, including high school and Masters swimmers. I also am swimming with a team myself to gain more insight from other coaches and swimmers.

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

I have been the head coach for Team Illinois swimming at USA Games in New Jersey and Seattle.

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

I am a Pre-K-5th grade special education teacher. I work with students who have multiple disabilities.

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

I'm no longer a student.

