



Coach - Gymnastics Hometown: Edwardsville, IL

1. How long have you been with Special Olympics?

I have coached gymnastics for Special Olympics for over 20 years. I have been blessed to coach at both the USA Games and the World Summer Games. I have recently been selected as a Global Sport Advisor with Special Olympics International.

2. How has Special Olympics changed your life?

It has introduced me to amazing people and allowed me to travel to destinations around the US and the world making lifelong friends.

3. What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome?

Supporting my athletes not only in the gym but in their daily lives is challenging but worth every effort.

4. What makes you most proud?

Seeing my athletes make and sustain friendships with their own teammates but also with other competitors from our state, our country, and around the world.

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

Being selected as a Global Sports Advisor in gymnastics

6. What other interests or hobbies do you have?

I love to read and to tap dance. I enjoy community theater productions both on the stage and behind the scenes as well as a patron.

7. Who do you admire most and why?

I admire my mom! She worked full time and raised us to be conscientious and caring members of society. My mom supports me in everything that I do!



8. What does attending USA Games mean to you?

I am honored to be selected for the USA Games! I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. Also, the USA Games is always a great learning experience. I'm also a huge Disney fan so I think it's exciting to be coaching on the WDW property.

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

Lots of walking!

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

Yes -- 2011 World Games - Athens - Local coach and spectator; 2014 USA Games - New Jersey - Coaching gymnastics; 2015 World Games - Los Angeles - Coaching gymnastics; 2018 USA Games - Seattle - Coaching gymnastics; 2019 World Games - Abu Dhabi - Coaching gymnastics

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

I am a speech therapist at Belle Valley School District

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

No

