

# Sammy Jackson

*Special  
Olympics  
Illinois*



**Sport: Swimming**  
**Hometown: Bloomington, IL**  
**Age: 24**

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

I have participated in Special Olympics since 2012. My first event was swimming, and over the years, I've done basketball, football, and track.

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

I have made very good friends with the athletes on my team. We had a great coach, Glenda, who always made sure everyone was included and held parties outside of the training season.

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

My biggest obstacle I've overcome was getting my first full-time job. I got the job on my own and have worked at Walmart for over a year now.

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

Winning the medals makes me proud and watching my teammates win medals does too.

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

I was able to get my driver's license and buy my own car.

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

I'm interested in classic video games. I like to collect old video game systems that work and play older games on them.

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

My big brother, Thomas, because of many things: he was a Marine, he plays video games with me, he's always kind, and always makes time for me.



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
USA GAMES  
ORLANDO 2022**

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

I look forward to competing with other athletes from all over the United States and going to Disney World.

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

I'm working with my coach, Lori. I am swimming at the local pool and I am exercising at home.

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

I haven't participated in other games. I was nominated before for the World games in California but I wasn't chosen.

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

I work at Walmart at nights stocking shelves.

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

I'm not in school.

