



**Sport: Swimming**  
**Hometown: Geneva, IL**  
**Age: 18**

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

I started participating with Special Olympics and Fox Valley Special Recreation in 2012 with rhythmic gymnastics. I went to the state tournament my first year. Since then I have added swimming and Unified golf to my activities.

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

Special Olympics has given me the opportunity to recognize the talents and abilities that I have and develop them. I have also met so many friends through Special Olympics.

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

When I first started in swimming, my stroke was not very good. I took private lessons for a year and the next year I made the team.

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

I am most proud of my hard work and seeing results at competitions. My parents tell me I can do anything that I put my mind to. It feels really good when I practice hard and have a good event because I know I did my best.

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

In addition to swimming, I also compete in Unified golf with my dad. We won gold in our division. I graduated from Geneva High School and started the SAIL program at Waubensee CC.

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

I like to volunteer through school at the Baker Church and Feed My Starving Child. I really like helping people. At home, I like to travel with my parents to see family. I also like to play games on my iPad/phone and watch Top Chef. I really like to help my parents cook.

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

I most admire my parents for their support and love. They mean so much to me. I also really admire my teachers. They have all helped me achieve my goals and grow as a person.



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

It means to me that my hard work and practice has paid off. I will get to travel to a new place and make new friends – so exciting!

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

My swim season is starting soon, so I will practice with my team and I'm sure with my Special Olympics coach as well.

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

No

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

I am not currently employed, but I have work training through school at the Blue Goose.

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

I am currently enrolled at Waubensee Community College in the SAIL program.

