

# Michelle Mayer

**Special  
Olympics**  
Illinois



## Team Media & Communications Hometown: Normal, IL

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

I have been a staff member with Special Olympics Illinois since April 2020. I work on the marketing communications team, working on digital/online communication statewide as well as work in media relations for the central and southern parts of the state.

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

Special Olympics has changed my life in so many ways. There are changes I expected - I moved closer to my family when taking the job, so being more a part of their everyday lives has been wonderful. I also am working on a strong team of marketers and communicators, which challenges me to be better professionally every day. But, it has also brought a positivity and change on prospective to my life that I did not expect. When you are watching someone tell you how a program like Special Olympics has made all the difference in their life, or seeing someone strive to be better, you can't help but be affected by that.

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

N/A

### 4. What makes you most proud?

I am proud of each member of Team Illinois and how hard they have worked to get to the USA Games.

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

N/A

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

I enjoy live music, theatre, and trivia.

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

I think Chris Nikic is so inspirational. The dedication he showed to his discipline is very admirable



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**USA GAMES**  
ORLANDO 2022

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

I am so excited to be a part of the team and be there as these athletes compete and accomplish their goals.

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

I am working to learn about all of the athletes and their goals!

**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 am the Assistant Director of Media and Public Relations at Special Olympics Illinois.

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

No

