



Sport: Athletics
Hometown: Belvidere, IL
Age: 22

1. How long have you been with Special Olympics?

I've been with Special Olympics for six years. I participate in basketball, bowling, track, snowshoeing, and golf. I've been a Health Messenger for three years, giving speeches to local businesses.

2. How has Special Olympics changed your life?

Special Olympics has changed my life because the first time I went to state for track I realized I wanted to experience college. This led to more challenges like traveling on my own with friends and getting a job, and I still dream of moving out on my own or with a friend.

3. What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome?

My biggest obstacle I have overcome so far in my 22 years of life would be apraxia and profound audio processing disorder. I did not speak until age nine and was not able to be in school until fifth grade because my system could not handle the environment. Around nine years old and after a lot of work, therapy, and specialists, my system began to organize speech and I was able to start to attend school. I graduated high school with a full diploma. I now work at Meijer grocery.

4. What makes you most proud?

I feel most proud when I have worked hard and earned my way whether that's in my sports, my school, or my jobs.

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

Project Search Graduate in 2019, I practiced in Winnebago sheriff explorer - the first time completing whole Torch run with them, I was selected for National Honor Society, I was picked for Student Council three years, I was voted Outstanding Student in 2018 by teachers, I won my first gold medal at State Bowling, I was the first lead, Prince Eric, in Little Mermaid, and I built a large scale Millennium Falcon lego set.

6. What other interests or hobbies do you have?

I enjoy Winnebago Sheriff Explorers, Riverside Community Church, Belvidere Park District, Lego building and LEGO club, hiking with my dog, puzzles over 1,000 pieces, Wii Mario, reading, and Three Stooges.



7. Who do you admire most and why?

I admire my parents the most because they are always there for me. My dad taught me my work ethic. He sits on my shoulder and holds the standards for everything I do. My mom taught me everything else. She has been my physical therapist, speech pathologist, sensory therapist, teacher, coach, advocate, and most of all my biggest supporter.

8. What does attending USA Games mean to you?

It's a big honor to me to earn this experience. I am looking forward to meeting all the people and my events.

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

Right now, I am working out with my mom in the basement but I hope they get me a real coach soon.

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 have worked at Meijer grocery as part of the stocking team for three years.

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

No

