

Connor Nolan

**Special
Olympics**
Illinois



Sport: Swimming
Hometown: Woodridge, IL
Age: 19

1. How long have you been with Special Olympics?

Connor has been swimming with the Greater LaGrange YMCA Special Olympics swim team for nine years. He also plays basketball for Hoops 99 for Transitions 99 in Downers Grove, Illinois.

2. How has Special Olympics changed your life?

Special Olympics has given me the opportunity to train, work hard, and compete with my peers in swimming and basketball. I love working hard to win gold medals in Special Olympics.

3. What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome?

Fortunately, I have not encountered a major obstacle in my Special Olympics training.

4. What makes you most proud?

I am proud to represent the state of Illinois in the Special Olympics USA Games in June 2022.

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

In addition to competing in multiple sports with Special Olympics, I am a percussionist. I play drums, marimba, and multiple other percussion instruments. I have been in band since I was in the fourth grade. I played in the marching band, jazz band, and concert band at Downers Grove South high school. My rock, called Chrome 47, has performed at the Chicagoland Buddy Walk for the last six years.

6. What other interests or hobbies do you have?

I enjoy traveling, camping, and visiting National Parks. I have been to 41 states and over six different countries. I also enjoy riding my bike, kayaking, and hiking.

7. Who do you admire most and why?

I admire Michael Phelps because he is the greatest Olympic swimmer ever. I met Michael Phelps at the 50th year anniversary celebration for Special Olympics in 2018. I also know all of the lyrics to the musical Hamilton. I love watching Hamilton. I hope to meet Lin-Manuel Miranda at the USA Games.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
ORLANDO 2022

8. What does attending USA Games mean to you?

Competing in the USA Games will be an amazing experience for me. I look forward to training hard and representing the state of Illinois. I will win a gold for my team.

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

I have already begun training for my swimming events. I usually ride my bike at least twice a week and swim at the YMCA a couple times a week.

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

I have not participated in World Games or USA Games before.

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

Not employed

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

I go to the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Currently I am enrolled in the percussion ensemble class and in the spring semester I will be taking two music classes: percussion ensemble and a jazz combo. I am also enrolled in the Transitions 99 program in Downers Grove, Illinois.

