

# Kenneth Ogden

*Special  
Olympics  
Illinois*



**Sport: Bocce**  
**Hometown: Chicago, IL**  
**Age: 25**

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

I began Special Olympics in 2010. In high school, I would attend the Spring Games competition annually. In 2015, I joined the Special Recreation program at Vittum Park of the Chicago Park District. In the Special Recreation program I became a Vittum Viking! I now compete in approximately 10 sports a year.

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

Special Olympics has changed everything in my life. I have a team. I travel with friends and stay at hotels. I keep healthy and push myself more than before. I went from being inactive to active.

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

Skiing is my biggest challenge. At first, it looked very hard. It was very challenging and I had to be very brave to try. I overcame my fear of the hill.

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

My greatest achievement has been that I got my own personalized bowling ball.

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

I was chosen to be interviewed by CAN-TV about skiing.

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

I do community service at Vittum Park and the surrounding area. At Vittum Park, I often lead groups in litter pick up and landscaping for Earth Day. I have volunteered for surrounding schools, Edwards Center for Young Learners, and Academy for Global Citizenship. I have also volunteered to pack food packages for the homeless at the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

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

I admire my mother, Maggie Pantojas. I relate to her because she is very active. She takes care of her body and works out regularly.

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

It means that I have succeeded at something that I thought was near impossible. I am one of the best bocce players in the state of Illinois. I am most excited for the experience. I am so excited to spend time with Team Illinois.



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
USA GAMES  
ORLANDO 2022**

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

I am practicing at my park and I have plans to meet up with Team Illinois bocce to practice together.

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

I have not participated in USA Games - this will be my first time.

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

No

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

No

