

Ryan Peacock

*Special
Olympics
Illinois*



Sport: Flag Football
Hometown: Beardstown, IL
Age: 40

1. How long have you been with Special Olympics?

I have been with Special Olympics for approximately 34 years. I started with basketball and track and then did bowling, softball, weight lifting, and flag football.

2. How has Special Olympics changed your life?

It has allowed me to participate in sports while learning the games and the sportsmanship. It has also helped me learn how to be part of a team and be a good team player.

3. What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome?

I was born weighing three pounds and have had developmental delays. My speech was affected which has caused some problems communicating with people, but I have always found a way for others to understand what I am saying.

4. What makes you most proud?

I am proud to be able to represent my teams in all the sports I play and especially proud to represent my state in this amazing opportunity.

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

I am a 1999 graduate of Beardstown High School. I have earned many metals while participating in Special Olympics and have even gone to state championships throughout the years.

6. What other interests or hobbies do you have?

I help others in the community housing program I live in. I have learned various carpentry skills with the help of the HUD Supervisor, who also is one of my coaches in basketball and softball. I enjoy fishing, video games, and spending time with my family. I also like taking care of my little Yorkie mix, Miah. I love animals.

7. Who do you admire most and why?

I admire my coaches for all my sports. Special thanks to Richard Larkin for his faith in me and for nominating me to participate in this. I admire my family and love them very much and have a huge amount of respect for all my teammates. I also admire my cousin, Randy Pherigo, who has gone above and beyond to help me and my mom. He is a great guy.



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
ORLANDO 2022**

8. What does attending USA Games mean to you?

It is such a great honor to participate in the USA Games. I have never been able to travel this far so that is exciting and a little overwhelming, but it's been nice to meet my coaches and my new teammates. It means a lot to be picked to represent my hometown, BASA, and the state of Illinois.

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

Practice, practice, practice.

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

I have not.

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

I work for a store called New To You, which is through Cass County Hope and Recovery Center. I help carry items and store them in the second-hand store, as well as doing odd jobs at apartment buildings where I live with my dog, Miah. I have been taught some carpentry skills and help maintain the grounds.

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

I am a 1999 graduate of Beardstown High School.

