

Catherine Reed

*Special
Olympics
Illinois*



Sport: Swimming
Hometown: Mundelein, IL
Age: 31

1. How long have you been with Special Olympics?

I've been with Special Olympics for 17 years. I began with Libertyville Stars swimming in 2004.

2. How has Special Olympics changed your life?

It enabled me to have confidence to swim at Mundelein High School for four years. I also played Water Polo at MHS, and I earned a varsity letter in my senior year. It also enabled me to join the Libertyville Masters Swim Team where I have trained and competed since 2010.

3. What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome?

I always try to believe in myself. That started with swimming and I have been able to continue to believe in myself as a person who can achieve my dreams.

4. What makes you most proud?

Going to the Illinois state tournaments 14 out of 15 years. Also, I'm proud of earning a varsity letter in water polo at Mundelein.

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

I've won 124 medals overall, including 34 Illinois state games medals and 23 masters state championship medals.

6. What other interests or hobbies do you have?

I like crafts like making bracelets, coloring, and playing with our dog, Lucy. We also participate in the annual Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll fundraising drive.

7. Who do you admire most and why?

I admire Michael Phelps and Katie Ledecky for swimming. I also admire my mom and dad.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
ORLANDO 2022

8. What does attending USA Games mean to you?

A dream come true! It means making new friends and teammates on Team Illinois, traveling to Orlando, and most of all, swimming in the meet!

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

I swim nearly every day for between 75 minutes and 2 hours. I swim around 10 miles per week. My masters coach is working with me on my stroke, backstroke flip turns, and starts. I also usually log over 20,000 steps per day between my work and walks at home.

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 been employed as a utility clerk at Jewel Food Stores for five years. I have been employed there longer than any other front-end clerk. I do bagging and cart retrieval.

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

No, but I am studying for my driver's education test. I hope to get a driver's license someday.

