

Annie Riddering

*Special
Olympics
Illinois*



Assistant Staff
Hometown: Homewood, IL

1. How long have you been with Special Olympics?

The first Special Olympics event I remember attending was a Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games when I was probably seven. I did the Polar Plunge in middle school and high school. In between my junior and senior year in college, I interned for the Chicago Ducky Derby. I started my official career with Special Olympics Illinois in November 2018.

2. How has Special Olympics changed your life?

Special Olympics truly has changed my life for the better. I have formed so many relationships with people all over and from all different backgrounds. I get teased for this, but even after the now hundreds of Special Olympics events I have attended, I still catch myself getting teary eyed at moments because I just am so happy to be involved in such a great organization.

3. What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome?

I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2019 after going completely blind in one eye for about a month. While I have had a few hiccups since then, I am doing well now.

4. What makes you most proud?

Being able to plan an entire SOILL event from start to finish

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

Graduating from the top public university in Indiana (Boiler up!)

6. What other interests or hobbies do you have?

I like to work out, read, cook, and volunteer at a local animal shelter.



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7. Who do you admire most and why?

My sister, Alli, is who I admire the most. She is always striving to better herself and never lets any obstacle slow her down.

8. What does attending USA Games mean to you?

I am so excited to attend USA Games! Since I began my career with Special Olympics Illinois, attending USA Games has always been a goal. I am hoping that I have the opportunity to check out some of the sports that SOILL does not currently have.

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

I am working on my cardio to prepare myself for the lots of walking and long (fun and exciting) days.

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

N/A

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

Special Olympics Illinois - Region E Assistant Director

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

N/A

