

McKenzie Ruhnke

*Special
Olympics
Illinois*



Sport: Youth Leadership Experience
Hometown: Vernon Hills, IL
Age: 19

1. How long have you been with Special Olympics?

I have been in Special Olympics for four years. I've done bocce, soccer, and basketball, and this is my first year doing track and field and bowling.

2. How has Special Olympics changed your life?

Special Olympics changed my life by making new friends, having fun playing sports with new people, and learning that people with and without disabilities can play sports together.

3. What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome?

The biggest obstacle I have overcome is when my parents got divorced when I was a sophomore in high school.

4. What makes you most proud?

The things that make me most proud are the accomplishments in my goals. For example, a goal I had was to be able to go to state for bocce ball when I was a sophomore in high school.

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

Another accomplishment I made was to graduate high school at age of 18 even though most of my last year of high school was online.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
ORLANDO 2022

6. What other interests or hobbies do you have?

My interests are running, walking, biking, being outside, being with people, coloring in a coloring book, watching movies and diamond art. The clubs I did in high school were Spark, Book Club, Best Buddies, Vhgive, Student Diversity Council and Dare To Empower. The sports I did in high school were cheerleading freshman year and track and field all four years of high school.

7. Who do you admire most and why?

I admire my grandpa on my dad's side because he was able to work hard to be a fireman for 40 years in Chicago. Then he moved to Tucson, AZ, and was a fireman there and he is still alive today.

8. What does attending USA Games mean to you?

Attending the 2022 USA Games means meeting new people and exploring how states in Special Olympics do in 2022 USA Games. I looking forward to meeting new people and having fun with all the people at the 2022 USA Games.

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

I am preparing and training for the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games be making sure everyone is ready to go and making sure I am ready to take pictures and videos of 2022 Special Olympics USA Games.

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

I never participated in a World Games or USA Games in my lifetime.

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

I am employed at Jewel Osco in Libertyville, IL as a bagger, cart person, and soon to be a cashier.

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

I am a student in transition program D128 and student at College of Lake County. My team is the D128.

