

# Maggie Rutenbeck

*Special  
Olympics  
Illinois*



**Coach - Bocce**  
**Hometown: Bloomington, IL**

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

I started volunteering in 1977, started coaching in 1994, and have been to several World Games and two other USA Games.

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

Special Olympics is a constant in my life. The opportunity to work with athletes as they take their given abilities and make more of them through sports is my true joy.

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

My challenges have been small. I am on this earth to applaud the skills, talents, and abilities of others.

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

Representing my state and country with Special Olympics athletes on the world stage

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

Coach of the Year at Special Olympics Illinois

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

I enjoy gardening, swimming, rock hunting on Lake Superior, and helping at Midwest Food Bank.

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

I admire my athletes for all they accomplish through sports and make full lives with jobs, family, and friends.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**USA GAMES**  
ORLANDO 2022

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

I just love seeing our athletes on the national and world stage, competing to the best of their ability, shining for the spotlight for all to see and for the world to recognize their abilities.

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

Every day is a training day for life.

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

Yes, I've been to several. I was the head coach of swimming for Illinois in 1999, the head coach for snowshoeing for Great Lakes Region in 2001, head coach of snowshoeing for USA in 2005, assistant coach of track for Illinois in 2006, head coach of bocce for USA in 2007, sport manager of cross country for USA in 2009, head coach of snowshoeing for USA in 2017, and coach of bowling for Illinois in 2018.

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

Yes – I work at City of Bloomington Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts. I'm also the Program Manager of SOAR (Special Opportunities Available in Recreation).

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

N/A

