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SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS ANNOUNCES DELEGATION FOR THE 2022 SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES

More than 75 Athletes and Unified Partners to Compete in Orlando, Florida

Nov. 23, 2021 – Normal, Ill. – Special Olympics Illinois is proud to announce that it will send an 104-member delegation to represent Illinois at the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games, being held June 5 – 12, 2022 in Orlando, Florida, USA.

Team Special Olympics Illinois (#TeamSOILL) is comprised of 69 athletes, six Unified partners, 21 coaches, three Youth Leadership participants, and five additional staff. The delegation will compete in nine of the 19 Olympic-type sports offered, including track and field, bocce, bowling, Unified golf, gymnastics, powerlifting, soccer, swimming and flag football. There is also a team of alternates.

Note: A full list of the delegation for Team Special Olympics Illinois is included at the end of this release.

You can view the Team Illinois Livestream Announcement [here](#), or via our [Facebook](#) or [Twitch](#) channels.

Special Olympics Illinois athlete Eric Baumann has been selected to coach flag football. Eric said to his teammates, “I am so proud of each of you. Congratulations – your hard work has paid off. Team Illinois is ready to tackle USA Games!”

The Special Olympics USA Games, which is hosted every four years, will mark the largest humanitarian event in Florida’s history. The event will unite more than 5,500 athletes and coaches from all 50 states and the Caribbean. Over 10,000 volunteers will fill more than 20,000 volunteer shifts during the week. It is anticipated over 125,000 families, friends and spectators will witness the inspiring athletic accomplishments in 19 Olympic-style team and individual sports and more than 30 events at world-class venues across Orlando, centered at ESPN Wide World of Sports at Walt Disney World Resort.

Athletes, Unified partners and coaches were selected for Team Special Olympics Illinois based on their competition scores from previous local games as well as their performance at a series of qualifying tryouts.

“We’re so excited for the athletes and coaches who will travel to Orlando next year,” says Special Olympics Illinois President and CEO Dave Breen. “It’s a great honor to be selected to represent your state at USA Games, and it’s also a great experience to compete against peers from across the country,” he says, “We can’t wait to see the amazing things Team Special Olympics Illinois will accomplish!”

About the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games

The 2022 Special Olympics USA Games is scheduled for June 5-12, 2022, in Orlando, Fla. Jersey Mike’s Subs is the Presenting Partner and the event is hosted by Disney. During this magical week, more than 5,500 athletes and coaches from all 50 states and the Caribbean will travel to Florida to unite in one of the country’s most cherished sporting events. The USA Games is hosted once every four years and showcases 19 Olympic-style team and individual sports and 30 events throughout the week including forums and VIP receptions. Website: www.2022usagames.org.

About Special Olympics Illinois

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit sports organization offering year-round training and competition in 18 sports for more than 23,100 athletes with intellectual disabilities and over 13,000 Young Athletes ages 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities. It strives to be a global leader in shaping a culture where people with and without intellectual disabilities are fully integrated into the community by providing year round opportunities in competitive sports, health education, leadership and personal development.

If you are interested in being a part of Special Olympics Illinois and its vision, contact your local region, call 800-394-0562 or visit our website at www.soill.org. Follow Special Olympics Illinois on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Team Illinois Delegation (by sport)

Athletics

Gavin Morrow - *Belvidere*

Sabrina Veverka - *Gilberts*

Caroline Colianne - *Evanston*

Rebecca Davis - *Gurnee*

Matthew Gorski - *Chicago*

Jaden Gryga - *Frankfort*

Joey Kauffman - *Channahon*

Ean Yerbic - *Canton*

Brian Antczak - *Pontiac*

Brandy Stowers - *Pontiac*

Jordan VanKooten - *Chatham*

Kraig Dahnke - *Teutopolis*

Alex Huegen - *Bartelso*

Faith Short – *O'Fallon*
Josie Stover – *Mill Shoals*
Kaydee Parini - *Ozark*

They will be coached by Matt Nelson - Chicago, Tim McDonald – Oak Park, Lexie Cuppett - Troy, and Leonard Woodson - Chicago.

Bocce

Karyn Mrotek – *Palos Heights*
Frank Kajdanowski - *Chicago*
Kenneth Ogden - *Chicago*
Kathleen Gastler - *Godfrey*

They will be coached by Maggie Rutenbeck - Bloomington.

Bowling

Nico Techen – *Winthrop Harbor*
Lexie Slota - *Mokena*
Alicia Marta - *Springfield*
Todd Peddycoart - *Monticello*

They will be coached by Michelle Dwyer - Elmhurst.

Flag Football

Alex Anderson - *Evanston*
Grayson Deeney - *Evanston*
Riley Hoffman - *Evanston*
Michael Brennan - *Naperville*
Ryan Gronowski - *Naperville*
Louis Pisani - *Naperville*
Cory Williams - *Chicago*
Christian Arreola - *Chicago*
Peter Hertl - *Chicago*
Ryan Peacock - *Beardstown*

They will be coached by Phil Eide – Mt. Prospect, Rob Queenan - Chatham, and Eric Baumann - Vienna.

Gymnastics

Chris Kenter - *Palatine*
Mareena Mattison – *Prospect Heights*
Kyle Tuckey – *Palatine*
Daniel Baker - *Hinsdale*

Lucas Miezal – *Harwood Heights*
Colleen Costello - *Millstadt*
Maddie Harnar – *Swansea*

They will be coached by Glen Marks – Arlington Heights, Jaimie Yagunich - Chicago, and Jennifer Hitt - Edwardsville.

Powerlifting

Kirk Nelson - *Evanston*
Ben Brizzolara – *Sugar Grove*
Matthew Ruegsegger - *Montgomery*
Isaiah Cunningham - *Chicago*
James Naughton - *Chicago*
Alysia Specht - *Frankfort*
Brian McWhorter - *Normal*
Andrea Langford - *Decatur*

They will be coached by Chris Sturm - Bensenville; Kelly O'Reilly – Hanover Park; and Brenden Cannon - Chicago.

Soccer

Luke Angelos – *Vernon Hills*
William Angelos – *Vernon Hills*
David Dubois – *Vernon Hills*
Bridgett Bolotin – *Vernon Hills*
Hailey Spytek – *Vernon Hills*
Albina Giza – *Vernon Hills*
Eric Eitel – *Vernon Hills*
Noah Hewitt – *Vernon Hills*
Chase Miller – *Vernon Hills*
Chris Morozin *Vernon Hills*

They will be coached by Andy Compton – Mt. Prospect, and Vince DeLuca - Libertyville.

Swimming

Alexandrea Fix - *Gurnee*
Catherine Reed - *Mundelein*
Mari Landwehr - *Geneva*
Charles Nilles - *Willowbrook*
Connor Nolan - *Woodridge*
Matthew Danaher – *Chicago*
Jenna Dobson – *Frankfort*

Joseph Coffelt – *Hometown*
Katherine Harms - *Bloomington*
Sammy Jackson - *Bloomington*
Jacob Seelbach - *Springfield*
Marisa Prendergast - *Vienna*

They will be coached by Tara Murphy - Chicago, Jeff Price - Shiloh, and Miranda Henson - Bloomington.

Unified Golf

Allen Platt - *Gardner*
Mike Malcolm - *Morris*
Todd Tomaszewski - *Frankfort*
Mark Stanfa - *Homewood*

They will be coached by Todd Mallo – Orland Park.

Youth Leadership Experience

Jake Besenjak – *Park Ridge*
Katrina Hassman – *Park Ridge*

They will be chaperoned by Melissa Garritano - Chicago.

Alternates

David Kelly - *Geneva*
Matthew Buck – *Tinley Park*
Rikki Kirsch - *Ottawa*

The alternate coaches are Lisa Wisniewski – Chicago, Michele Evans - Bloomington, and Doug Dowell - Bloomington.

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