

## MyKayla Skinner

Olympic Silver Medal-Winning Gymnast

Acclaimed for her indomitable tenacity and daredevil skills, Olympic silver medalist MyKayla Skinner became the oldest U.S. Olympic gymnast since 2004 when she competed in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. With the spotlight on her, she vaulted her way to a silver medal, bringing the trademark resilience and competitive spirit that have earned her a reputation as a powerhouse performer and model teammate to the global stage.

Exclusively represented by [Leading Authorities speakers bureau](#), Skinner is a champion on and off the gymnastics floor. Having competed at the highest levels of athletics, she shares with audiences the story of her inspiring — and sometimes unconventional — road to the winners' podium at the Tokyo Olympics. Her optimism, fire, and flair can be felt throughout the room as she provides an Olympian's perspective on performing at a championship-level in high-pressure situations, overcoming adversity, and charting your own path to achieving your goals. Skinner possesses the incredible ability to ignite a spark in her audience, and her motivational message on what it takes to push past challenges and reach peak performance when it matters most is one that resonates with groups in every setting.

Following in the footsteps of her two older sisters, Skinner began competing in gymnastics at five years old. A standout athlete in her formative years, she capped off a highly successful junior career by being named to the junior U.S. national team in 2011 and becoming the junior individual all-around champion at that year's American Classic. She made the transition to the senior team in 2012. After qualifying as an alternate for the 2016 Olympic team, Skinner made the decision to step away from elite gymnastics to compete for the University of Utah, where she became a two-time NCAA champion. In 2019, she left school and announced her intention to return to elite gymnastics and once again pursue her dream of competing in the Olympics, mounting a comeback for the ages. The road back was anything but easy. A year-long extension of training, COVID-induced pneumonia, a bone spur in one heel, and tendonitis put her motto of "Never give up" to the test, but she overcame every obstacle in front of her to make it to the Tokyo Olympics.

At the Tokyo preliminaries, Skinner placed fourth on vault and eleventh in the all-around, but did not qualify to compete in the finals due to the two-per-country limitation. She publicly retired from gymnastics the next day, but, following Simone Biles' unexpected withdrawal from the vault competition, got a second chance to shine and won the silver medal.

In addition to her Olympic and NCAA medals, Skinner has medaled in several high-profile competitions, including the U.S. National Championships and World Championships, is the NCAA record holder for consecutive routines without a fall (161), and the University of Utah's record holder for most All-America awards. She has been featured in major outlets including NBC, The New York Times, and People, as well as the Peacock documentary Golden: The Journey of USA's Elite Gymnasts.

Skinner and her husband live in Utah where they are completing their undergraduate degrees and developing their popular YouTube channel, which has close to 20 million views