

Special Olympics Utah is more than sports **IT CHANGES LIVES.**

From Emma Wilson's first swimming lesson, she was hooked. At four years-old, she started lessons and has been swimming ever since. "When Emma was born, the doctors told us she would never walk or talk. They said she would be blind and have seizures," said her mother Stacy. "None of that happened. She proved them all wrong."

"She has had always had to find her own way of doing things because she can't use her right hand," said Stacy. "But swimming has given her a lot of confidence. It's something she absolutely loves and can do by herself." Or as Emma says, "In the water I feel free."

Emma, age 16, is a sophomore at West Jordan High. Stacy believes her involvement in Special Olympics Utah gave her the confidence to try out for and make the high school swim team. "Whenever things get hard, I think 'Just Keep Swimming' from the 'Finding Nemo' movie," said Emma.

"Swimming has brought her out of her shell. She puts herself out there and tries new things," said Stacy. Emma is a member of her school's FFA Organization and the Belle Voix choir. And for the first time, she competed with her team in softball at the 2015 Summer Games.

Emma loves to play basketball, ride her bike and watch movies. She has a newfound hobby: cooking. She enjoys trying new recipes and helping in the kitchen. Her future goal is to be a marine biologist and work with animals.



ATHLETE: Emma Wilson
TEAM: U of U
Participating since
2003

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