

It's those late nights with friends, those summer songs that you can't get out of your head. It's late-night drives and early morning hikes, but really it's waking up not knowing what the day will bring and not really caring. There's nowhere to be and nowhere you can't go.

"It's crazy how different life is than it used to be."

"Like what do you mean?"

"A few years ago we were just sitting at home, new to all of this. Like, we didn't even know each other, and we probably wouldn't have even been friends. But here we are. I don't know, it's just wild to think about."

"Yeah, you're right. Like you don't realize how much you're changing while it's happening."

"I'm proud of you, you know."

"I'm proud of you too."

"Hey, wanna go for a drive, maybe go to Red Rocks?"

"You know it. Let's go get some ice cream, we've got all the time in the world."

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HEAD RISING ABOVE THE WATER, KATE-HEYDEN STICKLEY, 10, takes a breath. Stickley had been swimming since she was six years old. "I started on my neighborhood team. I liked it so much that I started swimming year round pretty much the year after," Stickley said. Photo by K. Tucker.