



Sarah Jablonowski
Arthritis Walk Youth Honoree
Lake County, Illinois

Sarah was just six years old when she was officially diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA); but has displayed symptoms since the age of 1 ½. Despite the pain and swelling that JRA causes, Sarah remains as active as possible.

This middle school student loves spending time with her friends, jumping on the trampoline, fishing and playing travel soccer; which she has done for the past three years. When asked what she is most proud of Sarah replied, “That I’ve been able to push through pain and do whatever I want to do, instead of having to sit out and not participate.”

Sarah is a member of her school’s Drama Club and names Language Arts as her favorite subject. She has big plans for the future and is considering going into the family business with her mom, or maybe becoming a cosmetologist. Sarah’s entire family including the family dog, Coco help her stay active and pressing forward with her dreams.

Sarah has attended the Arthritis Foundation’s Camp JAM, where she was introduced to other kids with arthritis. Sarah had a great time and said, “I didn’t know any other kids with arthritis before I went to camp. I want to share my story with other people so that they will know that kids get arthritis, too. I hope that a cure for arthritis is found so no other kid has to go through what I’ve had to go through.”

The Arthritis Foundation is in awe of Sarah’s strength and courage. It is because of these qualities that we have named Sarah Jablonowski as the 2013 Arthritis Walk Youth Honoree.

About the Arthritis Foundation

The Arthritis Foundation (www.arthritis.org) is committed to raising awareness and reducing the unacceptable impact of arthritis, which strikes one in every five adults and 300,000 children, and is the nation’s leading cause of disability. To conquer this painful, debilitating disease, we support education, research, advocacy and other vital programs and services.