

2016 Susan Huckleby WZ Diversity and Inclusion Report

The 2016 Western Zone Diversity and Inclusion Camp was held June 16-19 at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

Montana Swimming was well represented at the 2016 Western Zone Diversity and Inclusion Camp and Regional Diversity Summit held June 16-19 at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. KATS swimmer AJ Popp was the lone Montana athlete at the camp and she enjoyed two a day practices designed by the five camp coaches along with other fun activities. She's a champion s'mores fixer too! (AJ's report on the camp is below.) Mrs. Toni Popp (KATS) attended as a Regional Summit participant and she found the camp to be a great learning experience and met several new friends. She is excited to help with plans for a Western Zone multicultural heritage meet planned for 2019. Susan Huckleby, BTST, attended as the Montana Swimming diversity and inclusion chair. Susan is also a member of the WZ diversity and inclusion committee that hosts the camp. Susan enjoyed meeting all the committee members that she's spoken with over the years via the phone and is thrilled that the camp had 40 athletes in attendance from across the Western Zone and over twenty participants in the regional diversity summit. Susan presented a workshop on outreach membership.

The next Western Zone Diversity and Inclusion Camp is planned for 2018. The committee is seeking applications from interested hosts for the camp.

Sabir Muhammad joined the campers as the national athlete. Sabir is one of the most well known African American swimmers. He swam for Stanford and was the first African American to compete for a men's varsity swim team. In 2000, Muhammad competed in the Short Course World Championships, winning silver and bronze medals and becoming the first African American to win a medal at a major international swimming competition. He competed as a championship finalist at the 2000 Olympic Trials in the 100 meter freestyle and as a semi-finalist in the 50-meter free, unfortunately missing the cut to make the Olympic team. In his career, Sabir broke 10 American records, became a two time Short Course World Championship medalist, a four-time U. S. Open champion, a five-time World Cup Swimming champion and two-time runner-up at U. S. Nationals. In 2009, Muhammad made a comeback after years off and earned another National Team spot in the 50 freestyle during ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships. Sabir is 6'7" tall.

Susan Huckleby