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2017 YMCA SWIMMING COACH OF THE YEAR PRESENTED BY SWIMOUTLET.COM

KIRBY BEIERLE

Missoula Family YMCA
Missoula, MT



Kirby has been coaching with the Missoula Family YMCA for 14 years and has served as head coach for the past 9 years. She supervises and inspires five assistant coaches and is also the coach representative for Montana Swimming.

The Missoula Family YMCA Aquatic Director, Rose Kahane, says of Kirby, "With a holistic model as the core of her coaching philosophy, Kirby creates opportunities for the swimmers on MYST to develop in personal, social, mental, as well as technical, tactical and physical aspects of themselves. As a strong advocate of inclusion, Kirby has welcomed several swimmers with special needs onto the team. Helping each kid figure out and develop what they CAN do to enjoy the sport of swimming is always her goal."



Brendan Campbell, one of Kirby's swimmers, "Kirby taught me how 'swimming is a metaphor for life' by making it apparent that there is more to swimming than competition. Swimming is about learning empathy, sportsmanship, how to accept failure and how to respond to it. I cannot imagine a better representative for the Y and the sport of swimming."

Kirby developed a mentoring program within the team to build confidence, leadership and a strong community. She uses bead and button incentives to promote sportsmanship, commitment, nutrition, team support and more. One of her mantras is "you can touch the wall first, and still show your core values."