



2020 YMCA SWIMMING COACH OF THE YEAR

SUE WELSH Hamilton Area YMCA (NJ)



For the past 38 years, Sue Welsh has led the Hamilton Area YMCA Swim Team program. While building a successful team, she has helped her athletes achieve at every level from learning to swim to competing in Olympic Trials.

She has coached high school, state and national champions along the way.

While she has certainly guided her swimmers and teams to athletic success, it is Sue's holistic approach to coaching that has earned her the respect and appreciation of so many. Swimmers, parents and fellow coaches reflect that this is what makes her truly stand out. Firmly committed to the YMCA's core values of Honesty, Caring, Respect and Responsibility, Sue celebrates teamwork and selflessness as much as best times. She has built an inclusive and supportive team culture that is a hallmark of the program.

Sue "focuses on maturing the swimmer as a whole person; she does not just concentrate on a swimmer's athletic abilities," according to a team parent. As testimony to this approach, Sue stays connected to alumni of the team long after their age group swimming careers are over.

Sue's leadership is not reserved only for her athletes. Parents and fellow coaches have also benefitted from her guidance and encouragement during her 40+ year coaching career. As one coach explains, "she treats all around her, whether it be athlete, coach, parent or sibling with the upmost respect, compassion and humility." A parent in the program adds that "she always takes the time to listen [to parents] with an open mind and she offers suggestions when needed."

Congratulations, Sue. SwimOutlet joins in recognizing you as the **2020 YMCA Coach of the Year** with a gift card.

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