

2024 YMCA SWIMMING COACH OF THE YEAR



Erik Nelson, Ridley Area YMCA

The 2024 YMCA Swimming Coach of the Year is Erik Nelson from the Ridley Area YMCA. He is the Association Competitive Aquatics Director and has coached the RAYS since 1995. He has built the program from a small developing team into a national YMCA power with multiple national champions and national YMCA record holders. The competitive success of the team is an offshoot of Erik's greater priority to nurture the holistic development of swimmers at all levels. He uses the YMCA's core values of Honesty, Caring, Respect and Responsibility as the cornerstone of the program and models those values in his leadership. He is recognized for making every child feel special, regardless of outcomes in the pool.

Erik is also committed to the broader YMCA swimming community, serving on the YMCA Coaches Association Executive Committee and the Penn-Del League board. He has been a mentor to other coaches and always makes himself available to lend a hand or ideas to make the sport better for athletes and coaches alike.



