

# Get to know our Swim Team Coaches

## Coach Schumacher

Meet Coach Nick Schumacher, often known as Mr. Schumacher, who brings 14 years of dedicated experience teaching Physical Education at Bloomer Elementary School. Coach Schumacher is the proud father of a trio of Sharks on the team: Draya, Elly and Trajon. He is ready to lead the upcoming swim season, marking this his impressive 28<sup>th</sup> season as a youth sports coach.

### What inspired you to become a coach?

I was inspired to become a coach by my love for sports and a deep desire to help young athletes grow, both in their skills and as individuals. Seeing the potential in each child and being able to guide them on their journey to success is incredibly rewarding. It's a privilege to witness their progress, build strong relationships, and be a positive influence in their lives.

### Can you describe your coaching philosophy and the principles that will guide your coaching decisions?

My philosophy revolves around creating a nurturing and supportive atmosphere where children of all age groups can thrive. My coaching decisions are guided by the belief that success isn't solely defined by winning races or standing on the podium. Instead, it's about personal improvement, achieving better times, and instilling a sense of accomplishment and self-worth in each young athlete. I prioritize the journey of growth and the joy of progress, fostering an environment where every child can feel proud of what they've achieved.

### If you could have a swim race against any fictional character or animal, who would it be?

Swimming against Speedy Gonzales would be a wild adventure. With his lightning speed, the race would start with a burst of excitement. As I dive in, it's not just about speed but also strategy. Speedy's zany moves add fun, but I'd stay focused, using the best techniques. Win or lose, racing this iconic character would be a memorable, thrilling experience.

### Imagine we had a friendly, giant, talking shark as our coach. What advice do you think the shark would give to swimmers?

Our wise, giant, talking shark coach "Boomer" would say, "Swimmers, remember to stay in your lane, support your teammates, and always keep a positive attitude. Keep pushing your limits, but don't forget to have fun! And most importantly, listen for that whistle; it's the key to success in the water!"



## Coach Rogge

Introducing Coach Denise Rogge! You may recognize her as the proud mother of three of our impressive Sharks: Ivorie, Izak, and Iris. Beyond being an enthusiastic swimmer and triathlete, she's an Ironman! The Rogge family shares a passion for aquatic adventures and racing to new horizons together.

### What do you think is the most rewarding aspect of coaching for you?

The only thing better than witnessing someone improve upon their abilities (in any sport or skill set) is seeing them build pride in themselves and recognize their dedication and hard work paying off.

### What are some of your favorite swimming memories?

Since my children were young, I've been bringing them to the pool for lap swimming. As a family that thrives on competition, we frequently find ourselves engaged in racing each other, with the twist that, as a long-distance swimmer, they are much MUCH faster than me!

### Do you have any interesting stories about when you competed in swimming?

I've had the privilege of competing in some stunning places, and here are a few standouts: Lake Superior, where the race started in bone-chilling 54-degree water (brrr)! Mirror Lake, where the crystal-clear water was warmer than the air. Devil's Lake, the location of my first 2.4-mile open-water swim, offered breathtaking scenery with every stroke. Finally, Lake Monona, where I completed my first full Ironman race and endured one of the last chaotic mass starts.

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be, and why?** Waterbending. :) The ability to control the element of water would be incredible, given the combination of captivating beauty and formidable power.

