

I am very excited to announce that Montana Swimming athletes O'Shay Birdinground (Billings YMCA Seahawks) and Andrea Three Irons (Hardin Otters) are two of the athletes featured in the newly released USA Swimming Native American Cultural Resource Guide. These two outstanding swimmers have their stories featured in the guide which highlights accomplishments of outstanding Native American swimmers.

O'Shay and Andrea and their families have found new friends, success in and out of the pool, and a supportive community in swimming. Read their stories on pages 12 and 13 in the guide. Congratulations O'Shay and Andrea! Montana Swimming is very proud of you, your accomplishments, and your families!

The guides are part of a series of cultural resources released by USA Swimming. Look closely and you may also recognize a few other Montana swimmers in another photo or two in the guide. (The guide can be found under the diversity/disability tab on the website, then diversity & cultural resources.)

The 2018 Western Zone Diversity and Inclusion Camp will be held June 14-17 at San Diego State University in San Diego, California. Plans for the camp are proceeding exceptionally well and the camp committee feels it will be an outstanding camp. Montana Swimming will be able to send two athletes ages 14-16 plus the diversity and inclusion chair and a coach. The LSC covers the camp registration fees and travel costs. Currently Montana Swimming only allocates \$300 per person for travel to the camp so I would ask that that the LSC consider covering the entire cost of the travel to the camp for the participants. I would also like to encourage Montana Swimming to send at least two participants to the diversity summit to be held at the camp and also cover the registration fees and travel costs. Mrs. Toni Popp attended the diversity summit in 2016 and her daughter AJ attended the 2016 WZ diversity and inclusion camp in Salt Lake City.

The Montana Swimming website features a tab for diversity and inclusion as well as disability swimming. Numerous resources can be found there.

Information about the Montana Swimming athlete outreach membership policy and more information about outreach membership can be found on the website.

As a member of the Western Zone Diversity and Inclusion committee and the Western Zone Diversity and Inclusion camp committee I have been busy working with the committee members to develop the camp and other diversity and inclusion activities and resources. Information is posted on the Western Zone website.

If you have question about diversity and inclusion please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Huckleby  
Montana Swimming Diversity and Inclusion Chair