



2017 Short Course YMCA National Championship Devotion Offered by Hailee Trotter

Hi, my name is Hailee Trotter and I swim for the Powel Crosley, Jr. YMCA Tigersharks.

Everyone, please look around you, look at the people you spend the most time with, and look at the people you'd consider your best friends. Your friends are important. Who you spend time with and get advice from matters a lot to your future. I once heard someone say to never take advice from anyone who isn't smarter

than you in an area. What they meant was, if you need money advice, you need to find someone who manages their money better than you do. If you need relationship advice, find someone who has successful relationships in their lives. Who you walk with, associate with, and take advice from makes a big difference in your life. Most say that the 5 people you spend the most time with during your lifetime makes you who you are.

If you choose to make smart friendships, you'll find that you'll be challenged and avoid a lot of trouble in your life. It might be hard to say no to a bad friendship or relationship, but realize that you're worth it. Your future is important enough to say no to a bad decision. And that leads us up to my point by saying we are all here today at the 2017 YMCA Short Course Nationals because we have all chose to make good decisions that have brought us to this point and I encourage you all to continue. Us swimmers, all have chosen to put in countless hours of hard work into this sport with these people beside us. Our parents and family have chosen to support us and take care of us while doing so. And our coaches have chosen to push us and teach us how to become better swimmers just as well and better people.

We are all here because we have chosen to push ourselves down this path called competitive swimming. There may have been many bumps down the road but that didn't stop any of us from making it here today. I encourage you all to choose today to walk with wise people. Get advice and have close relationships with those who challenge you to be better, and thank the people who have helped you get to where you are today.

Lastly, great job to everyone so far and I wish you all the best of luck as this meet is coming to a close.

Now, let's bow our heads in prayer:

Lord, Thank you for getting us all here safely. Thank you for our amazing swims to be humble about and our not so good swims to learn from. Thank you for the relationships we have created throughout this journey. Please continue to guide us down the path of success through the rest of this week. In your name we pray, Amen.