



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **WeCOACH to Host Youth & High School Women Coaches Academy Class #5 Fueled by Gatorade**

August 15, 2025 – WeCOACH will host its fifth annual Youth & High School Women Coaches Academy *Fueled by Gatorade*, on August 16, 2025. Established in 2021, this dynamic virtual leadership program, inspired by the premier WeCOACH-NCAA Women Coaches Academy, welcomes youth, club, middle and high school women coaches from all sports.

Through a blend of expert-led workshops, interactive peer-to-peer learning, and collaborative discussions, the Academy advances holistic coaching by building leadership skills and strategies that drive personal growth and professional success. Participants engage in an inclusive environment designed to foster connection and community across the sports landscape.

Class #5 will welcome coaches representing 17 sports across 27 different states. The 2025 Academy will provide insights on topics such as the Importance in Hydration in Sport fueled by Gatorade, Fit to Win: Foundations for Coaching presented by the Marines, Discovering Your Coaching Values, Leadership 6-S: Coaching with Empathy, and a Creating Champions Coaches Panel.

"When we develop coaches, we elevate the entire coaching profession. At the youth and high school levels, professional development is essential to building confident, capable leaders who are equipped to navigate challenges, elevate their teams, and thrive in their careers. This Academy is where coaches strengthen their skills, expand their networks, and ignite their passion for coaching," said Vanessa Fuchs, CEO of WeCOACH.

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WeCOACH awarded over 50 scholarships to this year's Academy participants thanks to generous funding from donors and partners. WeCOACH extends deep gratitude to Gatorade for serving as this year's presenting partner and recognizes the following Academy partners whose support makes our programs possible: BAND, BSN SPORTS, Marines, U.S. Club Soccer and USA Weightlifting.

### **2025 Youth & High School Women Coaches Academy Class #5 Participants:**

**Mylene Amparo**, Dishchiibikoh Community High School, Assistant Volleyball Coach  
**Alise Barrett**, Coach/Official, Lacrosse & Field Hockey  
**Tanya Bautista**, Woodland Soccer Club, Head Soccer Coach  
**Theresa Buhlman**, Clayton Valley, Assistant Basketball Coach  
**Katie Catarius-Holmes**, Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School, Head Softball Coach  
**Shaina Chafin**, Team Takeover, Director of Athletics & Basketball  
**le-Chen Cheng**, Harker School, Head Golf Coach  
**Katrina Conners**, Beach FC - Virginia Beach, Head Soccer Coach  
**Meagan Cunningham**, Smithfield Soccer Club, Head Soccer Coach  
**Sarah Davila**, Freedom Weightlifting, Assistant Weightlifting Coach  
**Kimberly De Santiago**, USAW, Weightlifting Coach  
**Dawn Dennis**, Hayden High School, Head Cheer Coach  
**Arianna Dolock**, Northbridge High School, Head Basketball Coach  
**Christine Dorman**, Uncorked Performance Training LLC, Sport Consulting & Weightlifting  
**Sylvia Irene Elliott**, California High School, Educator/Track & Field Coach  
**Chelsea Fessler**, USSP Vyper Academy, Director of Soccer  
**Astrid García**, Winder, Georgia  
**Kim Geiser**, White Bear Lake Youth Association, Volunteer Assistant Ice Hockey Coach  
**Keitha Gilmore**, Carver Military Academy, Head Cheer Coach  
**Letticia Gilmore**, The Heritage Foundation, Director of Athletics & Football  
**Erin Hamilton**, Coral Shores High School, Head Weightlifting Coach  
**Keisha Harley**, City Schools of Decatur, Head Cheer Coach  
**Stacy Hayes**, St. Cloud High School, Volunteer Assistant Weightlifting Coach  
**Nicole Hermon**, Corliss High School, Head Volleyball Coach  
**Beth Hill**, Heritage High School, Head Tennis Coach  
**Emily Isaacs**, Pius X High School, Assistant Softball Coach  
**Shelley Izuno**, Punahou School, Head Soccer Coach  
**Karen Johnson**, Washington Township High School, Assistant XC/Track & Field Coach  
**Dianne Johnson**, Family Biz Builder, Head Tennis Coach  
**Erica Jolly**, Debbie's Dance Company, Dance & Strength Coach  
**Mikaela Jones**, Niles West High School, Head Water Polo Coach  
**Gerlynn Joseph**, Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD), Head Soccer Coach  
**Brianna Kerley**, Eagles View Academy and Wolfson School for Advanced Studies, Head Basketball Coach

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**Carmie Landeen**, FC Tampa Rangers, Technical Soccer Director  
**Jeovana Lopez**, Amon Carter Riverside Highschool, Head Basketball Coach  
**Latrina Lumpkin**, Eagles View Academy, Assistant Basketball Coach  
**Rachel Mackey**, Tacoma Schools, Head Cross Country Coach  
**Jennifer Mavis**, Reno Apex SC, Director of Coaching Soccer  
**Janet McCormick**, Mind Over Talent, Mental Performance Coach  
**Angela Moore**, Young Women's Leadership Academy, Head Cross Country Coach  
**Maria Ortiz**, Young Women's Leadership Academy-Fort Worth, Head Soccer Coach  
**Charice Paoli**, Little Blackhawks, Glacier Ice Arena, Lead Supervisor & Head Coach  
**Eva Penny**, Hillside High School, Head Swimming & Diving Coach  
**Vanita Phinisey**, Golden Triangle Tennis, Head Tennis Coach  
**Morgan Powell**, Women's Sports Foundation  
**Tina Predojevic**, 575 Volleyball PCVC, Director of Volleyball Operations  
**Audra Putman**, Elkmont High School, Assistant Basketball Coach  
**Margo Rettig**, Ralston Valley High School, Assistant Tennis Coach  
**Lisa Roberts**, Clinton High School, Head Softball Coach  
**Simonette Sancho**, King's Schools, Head Golf Coach  
**Summer Sandoval**, American River FC, Associate Head Soccer Coach  
**Katie Sims**, Greenhills School, Head Cross Country Coach  
**Bianka Solano**, IR Academy, Head Soccer Coach  
**Alisha Sommer**, Saint Helena High School, Head Basketball Coach  
**Jessica Southern**, Lake Worth Christian School, Assistant Athletic Director Basketball  
**Brittany Steward**, Victory Health  
**Susan Sullivan**, Lake Road Elementary, Head Tennis Coach  
**Whin Sylla**, Germantown Friends School, Associate Head Field Hockey Coach  
**Lisa Talcott**, Crawfordsville Middle School, Head Weightlifting Coach  
**Haley Teofilo**, Dragons FC, Volunteer Assistant Soccer Coach  
**Stephanee Velez Rivera**, Orlando Christian Prep, Head Basketball Coach  
**Jessica Vue**, Kickers FC, Assistant Soccer Coach  
**Jody Watty**, Atascadero Youth Soccer, Head Soccer Coach  
**Corri Wilson**, Community Rec Sports, Volunteer Assistant Soccer Coach  
**Courtney Wyrick**, DCYSC, Assistant Soccer Coach  
**Kim Zollinger**, Yucaipa HS, Redlands Blues SC, Co-Head Soccer Coach  
**Latoya Zubowicz-Hill**, Fenwick High School, Head Cross Country/Track & Field Coach

To learn more about the Youth & High School Women Coaches Academy, *fueled by Gatorade*, please visit: <https://wecoachsports.org/programs-events/hs-academy/>.

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## **ABOUT WeCOACH**

Founded in 2011, WeCOACH is a one-of-a-kind 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to recruiting, advancing, and retaining women coaches in all sports and levels through year-round professional growth & leadership development programs. Prior to Title IX, over 90% of women's collegiate sports teams were coached by women. Today, over 50 years later, the data indicates that number has decreased to 41% across all three NCAA Divisions, with only 7% women head coaches of color. Only 5% women coach men's teams. At the youth level, the data is hard to estimate, approximately less than 20% of teams are coached by women. WeCOACH launched MOVE the NUMBERS in 2022 to help change the landscape for women coaches and the student-athletes they lead. If she can see her, she can be her. For more information visit [MOVE the NUMBERS](#).