

**CAREY ALLCHURCH, Saskatoon Comets
2022-23 Crestline Coach SMHA Volunteer of the Year**

Congratulations to all of the Finalists for the 2022-23 Crestline Coach SMHA Volunteer of the Year Award:

- **Sandra Peters, Aces**
- **Sarah Sokoluk, Bobcats**
- **Camella Gicoli, Flyers**
- **Paul Krahn, Renegades**
- **Jenn Frank, Wild**

SMHA is proud to announce **Carey Allchurch of the Saskatoon Comets** as 2022-23 Volunteer of the Year Award winner. Carey was Team Manager for the U13C Comet Eclipse in 2022-23. She definitely went above and beyond this past season!

Below is the nomination information submitted to SMHA for Carey from the parents and players of the Comet Eclipse:

Carey has gone above and beyond to ensure that the girls on Comet Eclipse have had an amazing hockey season on and off the ice. Below are just some highlights:

To help develop the girls on the ice skills, she has booked extra ice times, physical training sessions, and power skating sessions. If parents/guardians are unable to get their daughter to the early morning sessions, she has offered to pick up players, so that the player don't miss out. During the holiday season, she organized multiple sessions at various outdoor rinks throughout Saskatoon with hot chocolate and snacks provided for players and their families. Carey makes it a priority to take pictures at games, events, and functions as a way to include parents/guardians who are not able to attend.

The off-ice experiences that Carey has organized for these Comets players has been unique. She started the season by organizing a volunteer opportunity at a nursing home where the players and siblings raked leaves and cleaned up an outdoor space. The volunteer opportunities were provided throughout the hockey season in various ways, like at New Hope Dog Rescue. During the holiday season, she organized a Christmas card writing event where the players made homemade Christmas cards for the elderly in nursing homes. Carey personally delivered the cards to the nursing home. The team did a book study on Haley Wickenheiser's book, and Carey hosted a book discussion and wacky hair night at her house. The girls had a great night talking about hockey and their take-aways from the book.

Carey has provided my daughter, Colby, and the other Eclipse players with many opportunities to give back to others and be ambassadors for Comets hockey in the community. There were two community events that Carey organized that gave the players great opportunities to bond as a team that also showcased the Comets organization.

...2Carey Allchurch

First, she organized a float in the Santa parade. The players worked in Carey's garage to create a large hockey float. I know that there were many, many hours that she and her family also worked on the float as well. On the day of the parade, the players wore their Comets jerseys and handed out candy canes and coupons for Pizza Hut pizza to the crowd. The players had a fantastic time and created some great memories that I know will stay with them for a lifetime.

The second event was a family movie night at the Broadway Theatre to watch the Mighty Ducks movie. Carey created posters for the players to post in their community, and she organized opportunities for the players to be on the radio to showcase this event. She encouraged all hockey players to wear their jerseys to the event, and many Comets hockey teams attended as a team event. To inspire all the hockey players in the crowd, especially the female players, Carey arranged for two U of S hockey players to speak to the crowd prior to the movie about their journey through hockey and the lessons that they have learned from playing sport that has been helpful in life. In preparation for the event and at the event, Carey arranged for all of the players to have a role, which ranged from introducing the U of S players, introducing the movie, thanking everyone for coming, baking home-baked goods, and selling the home-baked goods. Cookies with the Comets logo airbrushed on the cookies were Carey's contribution to the event! It was a terrific, family-friendly hockey night!

Carey has been incredibly thoughtful in creating events for the players that help them bond as a team and help them recognize each teammates value on the team and as a person. One example of this is for Valentine's Day she provided each of the players with slips of paper to write individual messages to each of the players and coaches on the team. Players were asked to write what they appreciate about each person or a memory from the hockey season. Carey got all of the individual messages back from the players and glued them on to large green hearts. Each player was given a heart with their personalized messages from the teammates and coaches along with a red rose. My daughter couldn't wait to read all the messages to our family and her grandparents. She has the heart on display in her bedroom.

Carey's communication with parents and guardians has been fantastic! She updates TeamLinkt promptly when there are changes to the schedule and posts for polls for feedback and input. She has been very inclusive by inviting siblings and families to the events that she organized, like outdoor skating and attending Blades and Huskies games.

I'm my 40+ years hockey I have never seen a better team manager or volunteer. Carey goes so far beyond the call of duty to provide the best possible experience for our girls. From tournaments, mental health, off ice training, extra ice times, team dinners, team sleep overs, out of town gatherings, off ice training etc. Carey is completely selfless and will put all her efforts into prioritizing our girls, coaches and parents. I've never seen anything like it before.
-Wally Lambert, head coach of the U13 Comet Eclipse

Congratulations Carey – 2022-23 Crestline Coach SMHA Volunteer of the Year!

SMHA has nominated Carey Allchurch to Hockey Sask for their 2023 Volunteer of the Year Award