

HCBC Coach of the Year 2018 – Sara Sellmer

Sara is the owner and coach of Z eventing, located in Kamloops. This past year, Sara has coached riders of all ages from starter through advanced horse trials, in BC and the western United States. This year, Sara competed mostly on client horses, in a wide range of levels. This is, as well as in the past, Sara is also involved in the BC Young Riders program and helps organize fundraisers for the young riders, as well as learning opportunities such as clinics and course walks.

Sara stood out as a nominee for coach of the year this year for two reasons. Firstly, for her dedication to a student of hers that is legally blind but still has dreams to event, and secondly for her stepping up and tacking on a bunch of another trainers clients at a show when said trainer got hurt.

This particular student of Sara's who is blind first competed HC at topline this year, where she was coached through dressage and then Sara stood in the ring with her to help her navigate the show jump course. Later on, when the student wanted to complete the cross country phase as well, Sara organized for a bunch of her clients and friends to run sections of the starter course at Campbell Valley with the student in a relay fashion, to allow her to safely navigate the course. At the Mary Swanson horse trials this fall, Sara rode a lead horse, with her student close behind on her own mount so that she could have a little more independence but still safely complete the course.

At the Island 22 championships this year, another coach was injured from a fall on cross country day, and was unable to attend the final day of competition. Sara took on about nine other riders, along with all of her own students, to walk courses and help warm up and ensure that they were all looked after. Sara is professional, friendly, and very knowledgeable, which led to everyone having a very successful year. Sara Sellmer is truly a dedicated, committed, and talented coach and that is why she is the coach of the year.