

2022 Legacy Coach Award Recipient

Christine Chapon – Running for a Better Oakland

The Legacy Coach Award has been initiated by the Pacific Association's Coaches Committee in recognition of the many influential coaches who have served in our association and have selflessly strengthened our sport(s) through teaching, mentoring, and promoting our profession. Criterion is weighted heavily on coaches who were not only great coaches, but who also inspired and trained/ mentored many of us to become coaches ourselves. Previous recipients are: Jim Hunt (Humboldt State), Jim Santos (Hayward State), Bud Winter (San José State), Margaret Dixon (Oakland PAL), Walt Lange, (Jesuit HS), Kirk Freitas (Chico State), Ed Parker (Millbrae Lions TC), Darrell Hampton (Oscar Bailey TC-Berkeley HS), Willie White (Berkeley HS, Berkeley East Bay TC and Cal State Hayward), Will Pitman (3M Youth TC), Lee Webb (Logan HS-Mission Valley Youth TC), Ken Grace (Chabot College), and Peter Brewer (Castro Valley-Alhambra HS's)



Christine Chapon is a former molecular biologist who was born and raised in France where she had an aversion to running as a child. Since then, Christine has formed a great love of running and is now devoted to contributing to the East Bay community and coaching youth.

Christine began her involvement with 'Students Run Oakland' in 2003 which evolved into the larger 'Running for a Better Oakland' (RBO) of which she has served as Head Coach, Chair of the Board of Directors and the most active fund raiser with funds going towards college scholarships for members.

Running for a Better Oakland (RBO) is a non-profit organization that encourages Kindergarten-12th grade Oakland students to develop healthy lifestyles through running. By providing training and encouragement, RBO helps students build confidence and set goals, giving them tools for achievement and hard work they can draw on in all areas of their lives while offering scholarships to continue their education.

Christine also serves as volunteer coordinator for the SF North Face Endurance Trail Challenge, the Oakland Running Festival, the Lake Merritt Joggers and Striders, while co-directing the Woodmonster Trail Race.

Christine is a USATF Level 2 and RRCA Marathon Coach, and coaches, in addition to RBO, at Piedmont Middle School since 2010.

So pervasive is Christine's work in our running community, Scena Performance created The Christine Chapon Award, otherwise known as The Frenchie. This annual award is meant to acknowledge individuals from our community who have distinguished themselves both through great running and through service to the broader community, and Christine represents the generosity of spirit we should all strive for.

Nominator Enrique Henriquez relates, "*Christine is an Angel...and she's one of the most honest, inclusive and welcoming individuals that you will ever know. She never speaks badly about anyone and can always be found making new friends. A very easy person to talk to and be around with, an extremely dedicated, passionate and caring individual*".

Running for a Better Oakland website for more information: <https://www.rboakland.org/>

