

Frequently Ask Questions

Who can join?

The SHARKS swim team is made up of area youth boys and girls ages 5 to 18. You need not be a member of Symons Recreation Complex (SRC) to join the team, and it is not necessary to be a great swimmer either. You'll be amazed at how quickly your skills improve!

How do I know what age group/level my child should be swimming at?

The team competes in various age groups against their own gender. Age groups include: 8 & under, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-18. Their placement is determined on their age not their skill level.

When is swim practice held?

Practice begins on Tuesday May 31st from 6:30pm-7:30pm. After the first week, the practice schedule is Monday thru Friday at 6:30pm. Tuesday and Thursday morning practices will begin on June 14th from 9:30-10:30am. All practices are held at Symons Recreation Complex.

Do I have to attend all practices?

You are encouraged to attend as many practices as you wish.

What additional expenses can I expect?

If your child plans to compete in meets, you may wish to purchase a team swimsuit. (A team suit is not required). If you would like to place an order for a swimsuit, talk to the front desk staff. In addition, children will need to provide their own goggles and towels.

What meets can my child attend?

You choose which meets you want to participate. In order to qualify for the conference, meet, your child must participate in 4 meets during the season. (It is not a requirement to participate in the conference meet.) The Sharks will be hosting the Conference swim meet this year.

Where do I sign up for meets?

Approximately one week before a scheduled meet, a sign-up sheet will be posted on the communication bulletin board, across from the women's locker room at Symons. This sheet includes, date, time, location of the specific meet(s). It is essential that swimmers and/or parents sign up if they will be attending the meet. What if I don't sign up for a meet by the due date (usually two days before the meet)? The coaching staff will assume the swimmer is not attending the meet and no entry cards will be prepared for that swimmer.

What are entry cards?

Entry Cards are prepared for and are specific to that meet. Entry cards are prepared from the sign-up sheets for the meets,(see previous question).If a swimmer doesn't sign up for a meet, no pre-printed entry cards will be available for that swimmer.

The entry card states the event & event number, the name of the participant along with gender & age group. Entry cards are given to the timer prior to the race beginning. For each event, each swimmer has an entry card. (Except for relays)

How do I know what events I will swim in at the meet?

The coach determines what events each swimmer participates. The events that you swim in may vary depending on how many swimmers attend a meet. Each swimmer can participate in 3 individual events and 2 relay events per meet.

How do I know when my child swims an event?

Swimmers must listen to the announcer. The announcer will call for swimmers of a certain event to report to the bullpen area. The bullpen is the designated location for the swimmers to wait for their race. In the bullpen, swimmers are arranged by the heat (group) and the lane that they will race. When it is time for the swimmer to race, they will hand their entry card to the timer, at their lane.

What should I bring to the swim meets, home and/or away?

Pack a swim bag to include goggles, swimsuit, cap, towels, and dry clothing. Mark each item with your child's name. Pack snack food, water, suntan lotion, bug spray, sunglasses,

umbrella/rain gear, blanket, and/or folding chairs. A concession stand is usually available at each meet.

How do I get to away swim meets?

Directions to away meets, are available at Symons front desk or found at www.symonsrec.com. Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from meets. Plan to arrive at a meet 15 minutes before warm-ups begin. Check in with your Head Coach upon arrival. Admittance to events and parking is (usually) free for spectators.

How can I help?

To have a successful program, we depend on cooperation and support from parents.

There are different roles for each parent to participate in to make meets run smoothly, fulfill fundraiser needs, and provide an enjoyable and rewarding swim team experience.

Why do we need to raise funds?

The fee to enroll in swim team is used to pay the coaches salaries All money to support the swim team is raised through fundraisers which help pay the operating costs of the organization. Operating costs involve pool fees, part of the swimsuit cost, meet entry fees, awards, ribbons & trophies.

What committees can parents be involved?

The success of the Sharks swim team is dependent on the volunteer support that we receive from families. Opportunities are available to be active in the following committees:

Concessions

Fundraiser

Meets

Media

End of Year Party

What can I help with during Home Swim Meets?

Consider supporting your child by volunteering to help at home swim meets. We need over 30 volunteers at every meet. Volunteer opportunities include:

Starter – a person who gives the signal to begin a race.

Timer – a person who tracks the time of a swim event, using a stopwatch, and records swimmers times. (Need 6 people)

Runner – a person who obtains swim time cards from timers and delivers to computer input. (Need 2 people)

Bull Pen – an area where swimmers are temporarily held, and staged, prior to the start of their event. (Need 4 people)

Public Announcer (PA) – a person who uses a public address system to announce events to swimmers and audiences.

Computer input – a person who take the results (from runner) of each race and put into the computer software, and prints labels and current score results for the meet.

Ribbons – Put labels on the ribbons according to place & then divide by team. (Need 4 people)

Set-up/Clean-Up – a person who helps set up for or clean-up after the meet. The more people that are available to help is great! (Need 5 people)

Concessions – a person who helps prepare/sell food during the meet. (Need 6 people)

What donations are necessary?

Each family should donate items for the Sharks concession stand. Sign-up sheets, of what food/beverage items needed for concessions, are listed on the communication bulletin board (across from the women's locker room at Symons). Each family should bring one or two items to an assigned meet.

As a parent of a swimmer, how do I get updates of swim team happenings?

Be proactive! Provide Symons with your email address, check communication bulletin board (across from women's locker room at Symons), participate in volunteer opportunities, and ask questions!

What is the End of Year Celebration?

The End of Year Celebration is an event to recognize the accomplishments made throughout the swim season. The event is generally held in August. Details will be communicated during swim season.

Other Questions??

Please contact Denise at denise@symonsrec.com or phone 647-8522