



SYMONS RECREATION COMPLEX

FALL 20
26

Your First Stop to Success at Symons

Meet our Member Services Specialists



Back Row: Rayvn, Vicki, Rose, Eileen

Front Row: Carmen, AZ, Sharon



Cindy, Rhonda, Dennis

Walk into Symons Recreation Complex and you'll be greeted with a smile and a friendly hello by one of our nine Member Service Specialists. They're here to welcome you, answer any questions you might have, and help you with fees and memberships. You'll find someone here ready to help from 5:30am - 8:00pm on weekdays, 8:00am - 12:30pm Saturday and 1:00pm - 4:00pm Sunday. Stop in today and discover why people say Symons feels like family.

Whats been Happening:

Free Middle School Memberships

Thanks to a grant from the Green Bay Packers Foundation, all 7th and 8th graders from the Richland Center School District were eligible to receive a free summer student membership to Symons in 2026, a \$141 value per student.

Symons Director of Development Mike Hardy commented, "With help from the Green Bay Packers Foundation, we wanted to keep middle school-aged kids involved in active, healthy activities over the summer months. This is a time of year when kids can fall into isolated habits, relying on social media and television to fill their days instead of interacting with peers and staying active. Our hope is to expand the program in the future and provide more kids with an early start to a healthier lifestyle that they can build on as they grow." To receive a free summer student membership, students must have been a 7th or 8th grade student in good standing during the 2025-2026 school year and students had to fill out and return the registration form with a parent's signature. Nineteen students received free memberships! See you next year!



Free Youth Swim Lessons

A total of 94 third graders from St Mary's and RCIS received free swim lessons at Symons Recreation Complex during the 2025-2026 school year, thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the W.R. and Floy Sauvey Family Foundation and a \$3,000 grant from the Richland County Campus Foundation.

RCIS teacher Viki Campbell commented, "I'm so excited for the kids to take advantage of this opportunity. For many of them, it's their first exposure to water." Director of Operations Kyle Ewing, who directed the program, had high praise for the swim instructors: "Their unwavering flexibility and professional dedication are the glue holding this program together." As for the kids, they thought swimming lessons were "cool," "fun," and "thumbs up!" Thanks to additional grants received, this program will be offered again in 2027!



Symons Sharks Swim Team

"Go out there, do your personal best, and have some fun." That's the philosophy of Chad Hying, Head Coach of the Symons Sharks Swim Team. Just wrapping up its 36th year, the Symons Sharks is a summer swim team open to area girls and boys ages 5-18. Hying believes kids can learn important life lessons from swimming on a team, like getting along with others and contributing individually to something bigger than yourself. He always welcomes new swimmers and says, "If you're driving by Symons with your kids and their suits and we have practice, stop in, say hi and we'll toss you in with the Sharks. Who knows? It may be the start of a 'frenzy'." This summer, 92 kids registered for swim team and participated in daily practice, two home meets, and eight away meets, finishing fifth overall in the Southwest Wisconsin Conference.

SRC Staffing - Adapting for the Future



Mike Hardy, Eileen Stevens, Kyle Ewing

Effective Spring 2026, Symons Director Mike Hardy took on a new role as Director of Development, Assistant Director Kyle Ewing as Director of Operations, and in July, Eileen Stevens as Member Service Manager. Why the changes? To promote short-term facility excellence and long-term sustainability. Hardy has 30 years of experience helping organizations transition from relying on tax subsidies to a more sustainable mix of grants, donation campaigns and partnerships. His immediate priorities are the County-funded HVAC replacement and a phased renovation of the facility to create new private family changing areas and upgrade current locker rooms, paid for by grants and donations, not tax dollars, and also provide new adaptive sports and fitness programming. Ewing has over 10 years of teaching, coaching, wellness programming, and facility management experience at the School District of Mauston. His primary goal is to continue to increase membership, since "sustained membership growth supports our long-term objective of reducing the need for external fiscal support." Stevens, who has extensive experience in program administration at the State of Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin and multiple non-profit boards, will be the point person for nine member service specialists who cover the front desk. She aims to "deliver consistent, excellent service to our members and visitors and share the benefits of this amazing facility that this area has at our fingertips."

**CELEBRATE
PINK**

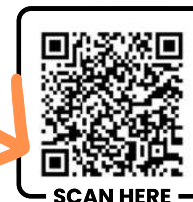
Symons
RECREATION COMPLEX
OPEN HOUSE

**FREE ADMISSION
ALL WEEKEND**

PUMPKINFEST
5K/10K & 15 MILE WALK
2026
Symons
RECREATION COMPLEX



Trail Dedication



Pumpkinfest 5K/10K

October 5-9

October 24 & 25

October 24

November 7

December 12

Find more info on upcoming events visit Facebook, Instagram or www.symonsrec.com



A few of the items purchased with your help

Foundation

Corner

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of members like you, the Symons Recreation Complex is becoming stronger each day. We invite you to help us maintain this momentum by participating in our Fall Fundraiser. Excitingly, Symons members have committed to matching all donations made by the end of November 2026, up to \$50,000! Our ultimate goal is to raise \$100,000! As a 501(c)(3) organization, your donation may provide tax benefits. Additionally, you have the opportunity to direct your contribution to the Symons Endowment Fund. Donate today and help us create a lasting legacy of wellness.



Donation Link
or go to
symonsrec.com

Member Spotlight



Longtime Symons member Torrey Hill grew up in Muscoda, graduated from Riverdale High School, and then moved to River Falls, Wisconsin, where he raised two children. Eight years ago he moved to Florida. He says that when COVID hit, he had reached his peak weight of 705 pounds and was feeling very unhealthy.

At that point, he made a decision to change his life. He went on a keto diet, started exercising, and saw some weight loss success. Moving back to Richland Center, he joined Symons Recreation Complex to continue his health journey. When he had lost enough weight to have knee replacement surgery, water training in the pool made a huge difference in his recovery.

Torrey comes to Symons every morning and every evening and says, "I love all the classes that Symons has to offer. Lydia and the other trainers help take the guesswork out of getting in shape." He is a youth counselor at Forward Home for Boys and says that bringing the boys to Symons to utilize the pool, gym, and weight room has been such a blessing.

So far, Torrey has lost 460 pounds and continues to lose weight and build muscle. His advice for others? "If you are looking for a place to start working on yourself, no matter what level you're at, Symons is the place for you. They've got things for every level of ability and also coaching staff that will help you on your way. The staff and the people at Symons are top notch and feel like family."



Would you be interested in being featured in the Member Spotlight, or do you know someone whom Symons has assisted in achieving their goals? We'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to a Foundation Member or inform a Member Services Specialist at the front desk.