Parent Volunteers Make PAC Possible!

PAC counts on parent volunteers to make our swim meets a success. Approximately 18-20 parent volunteers are needed for each away meet and at least 25 volunteers for each home meet as timers, judges, scorers, snack bar helpers, etc. We will be looking for help from every family throughout the season and we are sure that every parent can find a meet job that he/she enjoys doing. A brief description of the meet jobs is provided below – reach out to a Board Member if you have a question.

Announcer: This is a great job for someone with a strong voice, energetic personality, and an ability to correctly pronounce names (and keep your sense of humor when you don't). You announce the names of the swimmers in each event, and work with the Starter/Referee to keep the meet moving quickly and smoothly.

Deck Parent: The deck parent helps the coaches organize the swimmers scheduled for upcoming events and get them psyched up for their swim.

Finish Judge: These judges stand at the end of pool and observe the end of the race. They help decide the order in which the swimmers finished the event (i.e., who won). No technical knowledge of swimming is required, but it does require a keen ability to focus your attention for close races.

Runner: After each race, the runner collects the times from the timers in each lane and takes them to the scoring table. You stay on the move throughout the meet, so it's great exercise.

Scoring Table: Scorers from each team record the results following each race and track the team scores. There can be some pressure at the table, and the job requires knowledge of the computer program (Meet Manager) used for the computerized scoring system. The scorekeepers are critical to the success of the meet and they are often the only ones who know which team is winning. Our team's experts are always happy to train new scoring table workers and will show you the ropes and offer shadow opportunities for this essential job.

Snack Bar: The snack bar is a great place to work if you're a naturally social person who likes to busy throughout the meet. This is the primary fundraiser for our team and helps fund our end-of-the-season awards and other extras. You get to interact a lot with both kids and parents.

Starter/Referee: This is the most technically demanding job. The Starter/Ref runs the events in the meet by ensuring that the swimmers start simultaneously and oversees all the other meet officials. This is a leadership position that requires experience and a take-charge personality. It is up to the Starter to keep the meet moving.

Stroke & Turn Judge: These judges determine whether a swimmer touched the end of the pool during a turn and whether the technical aspects of the swimming stroke are legal. It requires knowledge of the US Swimming stroke regulations and a willingness to fairly disqualify swimmers when appropriate. Those who are interested in this job "apprentice" with someone who has done it before. Volunteers will be provided with a copy of the rules and a master with whom they can apprentice. There is also a training program available from the league.

Timer: This is the most popular meet job among both new and experienced swim parents. You use a stopwatch to time the swimmer in your assigned lane. There are three timers per lane, and the median of the times is used as the official time (or as backup for electronic timing systems). It's cooler on the pool deck than in most observation balconies, and you get a much better view of the action.

Timing System Operator: This job is for someone who likes to play with electronic gizmos. The timing system uses an electronic signal from the starter's device and the touchpads in the pool to determine the swimmers' times and order of finish. This information is displayed on the scoreboard and is fed into the computer program used by the scorekeeper that keeps track of the official results. This job requires a couple sessions of on-the-job training, which our team leaders will be very happy to arrange.