

POTOMAC WOODS SWIM TEAM

April 2009

Dear Swim Team Members and Families:

Spring weather has just arrived but we are looking ahead to summer and another fun swim team season. The swim team committee has been very busy over the winter preparing for what we know is going to be another great swim season. We are happy to report that Jon Leong will be returning as Head Coach.

Please join us on **Monday, May 11th, 7:00pm, at St. Raphael's Church Trumpet Room/Gym** (entrance across the street from Ritchie Park Elementary School) for our pre-season team meeting and registration for new and returning swim team members. Team shirts will be distributed to swim team members and Aardvark Swim & Sport will be at the meeting with our team suit available for purchase. We will be getting a new suit this year*. We will also have PW merchandise for sale including our sporty PW car magnets & flags as well as shorts, sweatshirts and team caps! Bring your checkbook, as you will need separate checks for registration and merchandise purchases (no cash or credit cards for PW items).

All swimmers are encouraged to attend this meeting. Coach Leong will hold a team meeting while the swim team committee speaks to the parents. There will be an opportunity to ask questions to the coaches and committee members.

Attached is the registration form for the 2009 season. To help us with all the administration details, we ask that you **complete and return the registration form by mail prior to the meeting** (by April 30th if possible). Pre-registration prior to this date helps ensure that we are able to get the right size t-shirt for your child. Please take extra care and print clearly when completing the form. All swim team communication from this point forward will be made through email, web site, and the swim team bulletin board at the pool. Please note that you must be an active member of the pool in order to be on the PW swim team.

Our pre-team program will continue in the same format as last year. At a minimum your child must be able to totally submerge in water, as well as float in order to participate in pre-team. For children who are not yet comfortable in the water, our coaches and some of our lifeguards, offer private lessons at the pool. If you register your child for pre-team at the beginning of the season, it is possible that the Coach will move him/her to the swim team before the end of the season. If this occurs, your child will receive a team shirt and attend the season ending banquet which includes a trophy for participation.

We still need parents to become certified officials. We are hoping that more of you will become certified so the burden will not fall on the shoulders of the few who have attended the training. Please call Paul Doremus (301-545-0586) if you would like more information about becoming a certified official. Clinic times/locations are available at www.mcsl.org.

The Potomac Woods Swim Team could not and should not function without parent volunteers. Every meet, home or away, requires 20-30 volunteers to function. This does not include the hours spent by the committee in preparation for the meets. **Each family must fill a volunteer position, excluding snack bar, at least 3 times during the season.** If you would like to fulfill all your volunteer commitment hours in the snack bar, you must work a minimum of 6 hours during the season in the snack bar. Attached is a sheet that details all the positions that need to be filled at each meet. We have a job for every talent!! If you have any circumstances that would preclude you from meeting your parent volunteer responsibilities, please contact one of the swim team committee members.

Time trials for swim team will be at 8:00am on Sat., June 13th at Potomac Woods. Coach Leong needs parents to time during the trials. Look for a sign-up sheet on the swim team bulletin board once the pool opens. Thank you in advance for your help!

We look forward to seeing everyone on May 11th. If you know of anyone new to the pool who would like to sign up for swim team, please direct them to the swim team page on the web site. A copy of this letter and the registration form will be there.

The Dive Team committee will also be available at the May 11th meeting for information and registration.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call any of us or send an email to swimteam@potomacwoodsswimclub.org.

Sincerely,

Swim Team Committee Members

Peg Hincke, Chair	301-299-8576	Susan Kaminsky	301-279-9258
Tina Benjamin	301-404-4344	Amy Kaplan	301-279-5805
Ronnie Blockowicz	301-762-2553	Beth Kelley	301-294-3032
Kelly Crosby	301-762-1907	Amy May	301-309-6998
Jonathan Dinman	301-294-0904	Beth Mittl	301-838-3397
Paul Doremus	301-545-0586	Christine Sharkey	202-494-5855
Debbie Howley	301-294-5977		

*Our team swimsuits for the 2009 season is the Nike Aquaburst in Varsity Red \$50.60 (including tax for female suit) and the Nike Aquaburst Jammer \$29.60 (including tax for the male suit). The boys can also wear an all black jammer. We may have a new suit for the 2010 season. Most of the companies are switching to one-year suits but they may continue this suit since it is new this year. Aardvark will be at the May 11th meeting with suits to try on and purchase. They will be accepting checks and all major credit cards at the meeting. If you cannot make the meeting or prefer to wait, suits can be purchased at Aardvark Swim & Sport in Wintergreen Plaza on Rockville Pike (301-309-3660). Be sure to mention that you are with Potomac Woods Swim Team in order to receive the team discount.

POTOMAC WOODS SWIM TEAM SWIM MEET VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Referee (certification needed) - The home team provides the referee. They are responsible for running the meet. They are the final arbiters of all decisions and questions regarding the meet. They sign off on all stroke and turn violations. Referees work directly with the starter, Stroke and Turn judges, timers, coaches, and team reps. During “B” meets, divisional and relay carnivals extra referees may also be used to help with stroke and turn violations at the opposite end of the pool to keep the meet running more smoothly. Referees must be certified as Stroke and Turn.

Starter (certification needed) - The visiting team provides the starter. The starter is responsible for starting the event (sounding the horn), announcing the event to the swimmers and making sure the start is clean. Starters must be certified as Stroke and Turn.

Stroke and Turn (certification needed) – Both teams provide two at all meets. Stroke and Turn judges observe all starts, finishes, turns and strokes. Stroke and Turn officials must have good eyesight and be knowledgeable on the correct stroke and turn technique. They must also be able to be fair and impartial.

Head Timer – The home team provides the head timer. Head timers are responsible for collecting all sheets and cards at the end of the event, telling timers to “clear your watches” and signaling the referee when the timers are ready for the next event.

Announcer – The home team provides the announcer. Announcers are responsible for announcing each event and calling the swimmers to the clerk of course.

Clerk of Course – Both teams provide one. At the beginning of the meet, the clerk of course helps coordinate late entries with the coaches and automation

Timer – Both teams provide nine timers. Timers are responsible for timing and recording events. Timers are **not** responsible for stroke and turn violations.

Scorer – Each team provides one. The scorer helps the computer operator with organizing the score sheets and reviewing the computer data for accuracy.

Ribbon Writer – Both teams provide one. During “A” & “B” meets, the ribbon writer places the labels on the correct ribbon and then separates them by team.

Snack Bar – Volunteers help with set-up, clean up and staffing of the Snack Bar during the meets. Six one-hour shifts in the snack bar would fulfill your volunteer requirement.