



McGaw YMCA Swim Team (MYST)

Philosophy and Guidelines On Parent Volunteering



As part of the YMCA, the McGaw YMCA Swim Team (or “MYST”) supports the Y values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. These values contribute to the success of MYST in developing young swimmers as well as state and national champions.

Another key to MYST’s success is family support of the team, coaches, and swimmers. MYST is not just a swim team; it is a community. And like any community, the more people who are engaged in it, the stronger it will be. The most important thing you can do to support our team is to come to meets and cheer on our swimmers. But almost as important is to volunteer.

We understand how busy today’s families are, but the fact is that our swim team cannot run smoothly without the volunteer support of all of our families. And there are so many ways to help that you are certain to find an opportunity that fits your family’s lifestyle and schedule. Accordingly, MYST expects that all parents or caregivers of swimmers will volunteer throughout the season.

In particular, parent volunteering at both home and away meets is absolutely essential. If all parents share volunteer duties and take turns timing, marshaling, and filling other roles as needed at meets, then no parent has to bear an unequal responsibility of volunteering at a meet or throughout the year. And the more volunteers we have at each meet, the less time each volunteer has to remain in his or her position. Thus, *if you have a swimmer participating in a home or away meet, you should ensure that at least one parent or family member is available to time or help in whatever way the meet requires.*

Plus, there are some excellent reasons to volunteer at meets, other than that it’s the right thing to do.

- When you time or officiate, you get a poolside view to watch your swimmer.
- If you become an official, you get to eat the yummy food that’s for officials only.
- It’s usually cooler on the pool deck.
- You set a good example for your kids, who love to see their parents help their team.
- Meets can be long (and, let’s admit it, can get a little boring); timing gives you something more productive to do than play on your phone between races.
- And finally, you don’t want to be the parent who sits in the stands meet after meet and watches while your friends time, marshal, officiate, run the bullpen, and generally help the meet run smoothly!

On the back of this page is a list of the many ways in which you can help our team. Prior to meets and other team events, a SignUp Genius link will be sent in the newsletter and via the MYSTList (our listserv) describing the volunteer help that is needed (including number of volunteers needed and time commitment for each job).

Have any questions or other ideas about what you can do to help? Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Amy Lammers, at amlammers07@gmail.com.

Remember: When your child joins MYST, so do you!

MYST Volunteer Opportunities

At home meets

Official
Head timer
Timer
Volunteer check-in
Greeter
Meet announcer
8-and-under helper
Concessions
Gear table
Set-up
Break-down
Awards

At Ten and Under Wonder Meet

Set-up
Swimmer check-in
Volunteer check-in
Parking lot attendant
Concessions
Gear table
Greeter
Bag tag table
Marshal/Security
First aid
Bullpen
Head timer
Gym announcer
Meet announcer
Runners (high school and middle school)
Awards
Break-down

At away meets

Official
Timer
Marshal

Banquet (April)

Set-up
Greeter
Buffet coordinator
Clean-up

Brown Deer Party (December)

Set-up
Server
Custard run
Clean-up

Other

Parent Advisory Group member
Volunteer coordinator
Concessions coordinator
Ten and Under Wonder coordinator
Brown Deer Party coordinator
Fundraising coordinator
Banquet coordinator
Committee member/volunteer at-large
Newsletter editor
Official training
Stuff swimmers' folders with ribbons