

CAT VOLUNTEER Q&A

Q: We are new to CAT; do we have to volunteer?

A: Yes, all members Bronze-National are required to volunteer at every CAT hosted meet.

Q: My child will not be swimming in the meet, do I have to volunteer?

A: Yes, the volunteer requirement is for all members, even when your child is not competing.

Q: Do we have to volunteer at EVERY meet?

A: No, only CAT hosted meets. Any meet that is scheduled away, does not require a volunteer commitment.

Q: Why do we have to volunteer?

A: CAT is a year-round COMPETITIVE swim team. Meets allow our swimmers to compete several times a year. Our meets are solely run on volunteers which helps keep our membership fees at a low affordable cost.

Q: I have never volunteered before and am new to swimming, what can I do?

A: The BEST position to sign up for if you are new is to be a Timer. Timers start and stop the watches for every swimmer and all positions must be full before the start of the meet. Timers will have a meeting and training with the officials prior to the start of every meet (usually 15 minutes before start) and will go over all rules and answer any questions. This position gives you deck access and is the "perfect" seat to watch your child compete. We suggest that all new swim parents start volunteering in this position to get a feel of the meet and then if they desire to train in a skilled position later, can do so at a later meet.

Q: I must work and cannot volunteer; how can I fulfill my requirement?

A: Anyone can volunteer for you if they volunteer under your account name so that you get credit - friend, family, or even child over the age of 14 years old.

Q: What is a "Session"?

A: A session is a time slot. You can fulfill your positions at any time on any day. If there is a 3-session requirement, you need to have your family name on the sign up 3 times, it doesn't matter if it is on the same day/time. Multiple family members can volunteer at the same time fulfilling your requirements.

Q: Can my child volunteer?

A: Please see the volunteer description page for age requirements for each position. Swimmers 14 years and older may choose to volunteer if they are not swimming.

Q: I have small children; can I bring them to volunteer with me?

A: No, we ask that you please plan for your younger children in advance. It is against USA swimming regulations to have children on deck and against Health Code regulations to have small children in the concessions.

Q: Why do we have to volunteer so many sessions?

A: We calculate the number of sessions by taking the number of positions that need to be filled and dividing that by the number of CAT family members. The number of sessions varies at each meet depending on the needs of the meet and the amount of families that are enrolled in CAT. There will be a notice prior to the meet notifying you of how many sessions are required.

Q: Can I volunteer extra on a meet and then "skip" a meet?

A: If your child is swimming in the meet, it is mandatory that your family either volunteers or accepts the charges to your account for not volunteering.

Q: How much will I be charged if I cannot volunteer?

A: Typically, CAT charges \$40 for each missed session. For example, if a meet has a 3-session requirement and you cannot volunteer at all, you will be charged \$120. If you can volunteer 1 out of 3 sessions, you will be charged \$80. If you can volunteer 2 out of 3 sessions, you will be charged \$40.

Q: What if I will be out of town, can I skip volunteering at this meet without being charged?

A: Unfortunately, when families cannot commit to their required sessions, it affects the entire meet. There is a specific number of sessions allotted for each member, and when they are not fulfilled, other families must fill in. Therefore, you will be charged for exempting the meet.

Q: Is there an exception to the above rule?

A: Yes, we understand that many CAT families commit their time to every meet and that circumstances arise that they cannot volunteer. The CAT staff will review your PREVIOUS volunteer commitments and can grant 1 missed meet per year without charges. This exemption requires that the family not only has volunteered at every previous meet of that season, but has ALSO volunteered a minimum of 2 extra sessions in previous meets. This "no volunteer/no charge" policy is only in effect for those families who cannot volunteer due to not being present at the meet, including the swimmer. If the family has a swimmer in the meet, you cannot volunteer ahead of time to be exempt from volunteering during your child's meet. Again, we cannot run our meets without volunteers, so please keep this in mind when scheduling vacations. This situation MUST be approved by the volunteer coordinator PRIOR to the meet.

Q: I cannot volunteer, when do I have to pay my charges?

A: The charges for not volunteering will be applied to your account on your following bill. You can access your account by logging into the CAT website and can view your invoice at any time.

Q: Can I volunteer extra sessions?

A: YES, YES, YES!!! We are always grateful for the families that are willing to go above and beyond the required sessions, and even more so, our athletes are grateful. Volunteering at our meets ensures a smooth meet and benefits not only our club, but our swimmers. The best seats in the house are on deck being a volunteer, so why not? We appreciate every volunteer whether they commit to the minimum requirements or volunteer on EVERY shift, we couldn't do this without you!! Thank you again for all that you do.

Q: I still have a question that wasn't answered here, who do I contact?

A: You can contact our volunteer coordinator, Andrea Ranson at andrearanson@ymail.com