

WHY WE HOST SWIM MEETS

(Adapted from Wilton Wahoos & Head Coach Randy Erlenbach)

A. To Have Meets, we need to Host Meets

As a team, we believe competitive swimming is a tremendous activity for young people; teaching our student-athletes competitive skills, while gaining enduring lessons & experience ... even occasionally, about something inside, they didn't know was there. Competition is a key part of how we teach our swimmers to be their best, and without competitors they'd be no one to challenge us, to push us & partner with along the way.

Our athletes test themselves at every meet; to show themselves (*and their coaches*) what they've learned, and what they need to work on next. In their commitment to improve, our Coaches & athletes create a foundation for teaching. And racing regularly is the means to measure one's improvement. Beginning with the CATS Classic, we host meets for our new athletes, developing swimmers and more accomplished competitors. In the last few years we've hosted dual meets, intra-squad meets, a last-chance meet ... even a meet just for swimming the mile! We host meets to provide a positive competitive experience for our swimmers to challenge themselves, gain new experiences & have fun!

B. Fund Initiatives we can't otherwise, by fees alone

Registration fees pay for a myriad of essentials to run CATS and fund operations. Yet, there are a number of opportunities for CATS to leverage technology, new equipment & novel initiatives, which require funding separate from registration & meet fees. To balance an equitable fee structure, while striving to improve our overall program, we're building on recent progress and planning to host meets more regularly, to generate funds for these initiatives. This year's CATS Classic was our best overall CATS Meet; -and- our SILVER MEDAL Recognition in USA Swimming's Club Excellence Program qualifies us for a modest grant, from USA Swimming, to further build on CATS capabilities.

C. Build our CATS Community & Bring us Together as CATS

Organizing & Hosting a Swim Meet is a significant endeavor. Planning, coordination & execution are all part of making a multi-day swim meet successful. However, that's not all it takes. There's always unforeseen issues & complications ... not to mention the 8 year-old female athlete who mistakenly jumps into Lane 2, right in front of a hard-charging High School boy, just reaching cruising speed in the 200 Fly! When we come together to host a CATS Meet special things happen. Your efforts; contributions of time & treasure; as well as commitment to create a worthy experience for our athletes & families, is becoming a great part of our CATS Community.

D. Contribute to our IL Swimming LSC

As members of our Illinois Swimming Local Swim Committee, or LSC, CATS participates in the 2nd largest LSC in USA Swimming. IL Swimming sponsors our athlete's participation in USA Swimming Central Zone Events; recognizes athletes and volunteers throughout the LSC; and provides leadership and governance for all clubs, regardless of size or tenure. IL Swimming also sponsors LSC Championship Meets each Winter & Summer, which culminate the Short-Course & Long-Course Seasons, respectively. By co-hosting this year's Short-Course Championship Senior Championship Meet with Westmont, CATS is directly contributing to the overall effectiveness and success of IL Swimming's Mission - promote the sport, athletes and membership, to achieve excellence in swimming.