



THE SANDPIPER SKINNY

Sandpipers of Nevada

Volume 19

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SANDPIPERS ACHIEVE GOLD-MEDAL STATUS FOR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The Sandpipers of Nevada has again been recognized as a Gold Medal Club by USA Swimming's Club Excellence program for the 5th straight year. The Club Excellence program identifies swim teams that execute strong, well-rounded programs that produce elite 18-and-under athletes. The top 20 clubs earn the Gold level ranking. **The Sandpipers finished 3rd in this year's rankings—our highest finish yet!**

In accordance with USA Swimming's Excellence program recognition, Sandpipers were named a 2020 Podium Club. This honor is given to teams that have obtained a Gold Medal ranking for four consecutive years, making this Sandpipers' second podium year! The four other teams that were given this honor are Carmel Swim Club, Nation's Capital Swim Club, Pleasanton Seahawks, and Marlins of Raleigh.

This sequential recognition proves the diligence of every Sandpiper. Obtaining a Gold-medal status is a difficult feat—and an excellent one to highlight—but it's tenfold more difficult to be named a Podium Club and retain that title.

Consistency is key. The Gold Medal rankings are awarded based on a point system. Swimmers first have to qualify for the Gold Medal rank, then based on their overall performance, they are given a certain amount of points for their individual swims. Athletes can only score points for their highest-earning four events. In 2009, Sandpipers of Nevada had 3 swimmers (Cody Miller being one of them) score Gold Medal points for our team. This year—because of the extraordinary work-ethic, determination, focus, and our team values—twelve Sandpipers scored points.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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- **TYR DC Championships**
Feb. 15-17 / Pavilion Center
Hosted by *Sandpipers*
- **March Rock the Blocks**
March 6 OR 13 / Desert Breeze
Hosted by *Sandpipers*
- **SCS 14 & Under JOs**
Mar. 12-15 / Pasadena, CA
Hosted by *ROSE*
- **TRA LCM Invite**
April 4-5 / UNLV
Hosted by *TRA*
- **Sand vs BCH Duel Meet**
April 19 / Pavilion Center
Hosted by *Sandpipers*
- **April Rock the Blocks**
April 24 / Desert Breeze
Hosted by *Sandpipers*
- **Open Water Nationals**
April 24-26 / Fort Myers, FL
Hosted by *USA Swimming*
- **Cinco de Mayo Invite**
May 1-3 / Pavilion Center
Hosted by *Sandpipers*
- **DSS Memorial Day Invite**
May 22-24 / Muni. Pool
Hosted by *DSS*
- **May Rock the Blocks**
May 29 / Desert Breeze
Hosted by *Sandpipers*
- **Last Chance JAG Qualifier**
June 6-7 / Pavilion Center
Hosted by *LVSC*
- **JAG**
June 11-14 / La Mirada, CA
Hosted by *RMDA*
- **Narwhal Invite**
June 12-14 / Mesa, AZ
Hosted by *MAC*

Many of our athletes had points that couldn't be counted towards our total, based on the four-event maximum. In addition, 5 of our total 46 events came from open water swims.

This tremendous honor is attributed to the incredible dedication and determination of our

athletes, coaching staff, parents, and volunteers. We are proud of what we have accomplished. You should be too! We wouldn't have achieved any of this without you. Thank you for all of your efforts. Let's continue this success and strive to be a Gold Medal Club every year.

SANDPIERS FIND SUCCESS AT US OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Seven Sandpipers traveled to Atlanta, Georgia December 4th through the 7th to compete in the *U.S. Open Championships*. This was one of the fastest, highest attended meets of the year. Almost all of the U.S. National team athletes and Olympic hopefuls competed in Atlanta, including our own **Cody Miller**, who once again dawned a blue and yellow cap in his 3rd and 1st place finishes for the 100 and 200 breaststroke.

Miller wasn't the only Sandpiper to swim to success! **Erica Sullivan** was the runner up American in the 1500 Freestyle, taking 3rd place overall. **Bella Sims** and **Katie Grimes** also had huge swims, shattering **five** team records in the process. Bella also earned another Olympic Trial cut in the 1500 freestyle, as did **Paige Kuwata** in the 200 Butterfly.

Great job Sandpipers! Keep up the incredible work into the new year! #20in20

LET'S BUILD A POOL!

The Sandpiper staff has been hard at work the past several months exploring options for building new pools in Las Vegas with community partners. We've received a commitment from one of our partners and look forward to opening a new aquatics center.

Our goal is to raise \$5,000,000 for this project. We—the Sandpipers—strive to provide the most and best swimming opportunities in all of Las Vegas. Help your team continue this tradition and support our mission to build a pool!

All interested parties should reach out to Coach Jake (usaswimcoachjake@gmail.com).

TEAM BREAK INFORMATION

For those of you looking to plan summer vacations, please plan around the dates below accordingly. Something else to keep in mind is that next season, 2020-21, will be more family friendly in terms of team breaks, duration of team breaks, less travel meets, less camps, etc. We purposely plan a more relaxed year in our training cycles because we understand how much family sacrifice is made over the years, especially the past two years. Thank you for your constant commitment to your athletes and our program!

Team Spring Break:

April 4 – 13

Group dependent, check with your Coach

Team Summer Break:

July 25 – August 9

**THE SANDPIPER SUPPORT TEAM WISHES ALL OUR FAMILIES A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



Volunteer Hours: Please watch for opportunities to finish up Short Course Hours over the next month. Be sure to log into you Sandpiper Account via the Team Website and check your Service Hours. You should try to be completing an average of 2 hours per month to meet the 14-hour requirement. The Support Team recommends using www.sandpipersofnv.com to sign up for Volunteer Positions as you can see more details about the job, etc. *not the OnDeck App.*

Help Wanted: Committed Sandpiper family members interested in training and learning how to Operate the CTS (timing system) and Assist at the Admin Table for upcoming Sandpiper Hosted Meets. Looking to get a few more Sandpipers trained and to volunteer on a regular basis in these imperative jobs at our Swim Meets. If interested please contact us at: sandvolunteerteam@gmail.com

If you have any connections for food donations, discounts on food, such as bagels, donuts, sandwiches or restaurants that would donate a lunch/meal for Officials and Coaches, please contact us. You can fulfill your service hours by supplying food donations at Sandpiper Hosted Events. Reach us at: sandvolunteerteam@gmail.com

The Volunteer Team can be reached at sandvolunteerteam@gmail.com

FOLLOW THE SANDPIPERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



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For up-to-date news, event information and more, visit the team website: www.sandpipersofnevada.com

SUPER FINALS ENDS WITH A WIN

Team Plays Host to Ten Visiting Teams

The *Las Vegas Super Finals Invite*, Sandpiper's annually-hosted meet, took place December 12th through the 15th at the Pavilion Center Pool. This year, things were a little different.

The format of this meet is SUPER fun! In prelims, swimmers compete in 11-14 years old and 15 and older age groups. Only one heat of each age group per event qualifies for finals instead of two. After those swimmers compete, there is one final heat—the Super Finals—where the top 8 swimmers, regardless of age, compete for the win.

This year, though they did not have finals events, the 10 and under athletes competed in the same prelim sessions as the 11 and overs. Regardless, some things never change: Over 120 Sandpipers competed at Super Finals. Many of the finals and Super Finals heats were filled with yellow caps! The SAND athletes did a tremendous job racing, cheering, and performing when it mattered.

Shout out to all the volunteers who made this meet possible! Something as large as this is difficult to coordinate and even more cumbersome to keep running. Thank you everyone for your hard work! You make it possible for the swimmers to have fun while competing.

Want access to your time database, Sandpiper news, workout log and more on the go?

Make sure to download TeamUnify's *OnDeck* app to access to the Sandpipers from your mobile device!
(Available in the Apple and Google Play stores)



SANDPIPERS OUTSWIM COMPETITION IN TEXAS

3rd Straight Team Championship for SAND

Twenty-four Sandpipers traveled to Lewisville, Texas December 19th through the 22nd to compete at the *KMSC Pro-Am Classic*. Though our numbers were small, our results were large.

Over the course of the four day meet, the Sandpipers proved they were there to race. Many of the athletes placed in the top five for their events. Even more placed in the top sixteen, earning our team a plethora of points. Mix in shattered team records, excellence at competing, and a winning group support, and the Sandpipers brought home the gold medal for overall best team, beating the second-place team by over 600 points.

Not only did Sandpipers win high point for the males, we also placed the **top three spots** on the females' side. Shout out to **Sawyer Grimes**, **Bella Sims**, **Katie Grimes**, and **Paige Kuwata** for their success! The competition was highlighted by Sullivan and Sims breaking SCS Records in the 1000 & 1650 Freestyles respectively. Both of Sullivan and Sim's winning times had some serious historical implications. Sullivan became the 2nd faster performer of all time in the 1650 with her 15:23.81. Likewise, Sims' 9:32.59 in the 1000 is the 2nd fastest 1,000 Freestyle ever in the 13-14 Age Group. What do both of these swims have in common? The fastest ever in both events is Katie Ledecky... you might have heard of her...

These feats, as well as the incredible swims our athletes had, are thanks to our continual effort and support for each individual member of Sandpipers. While these twenty-four athletes represented SAND in Texas, we all represent Sandpipers daily.

For up-to-date news, event information and more, visit the team website: www.sandpipersofnevada.com

SANDPIPERS REPRESENT AT LOCAL MEETS

Age Group Swimmers Take Advantage of Unique Opportunity

On December 9th, Sandpiper Stroke Schools, Yellow 2, and our YMCA location's Intro, White 3, and Yellow 3 groups competed at a super fun, small meet hosted at Adelson Educational Campus. To many of our athletes, this was their first competition. To all of our athletes, this was their first competition that took place in a short course meters pool! This meet was a great way to introduce our swimmers to racing and supporting each other, all while competing in a different format.

Two weekends later, Sandpipers competed at the *LVSC Frosty Fling Invite*. Over 100 athletes represented our team on the blocks. This meet was full of cheering, great races, and yellow caps! Between all of that and the results that followed, the Frosty Fling was a great way to end the year!

CALLING ALL SANDPIPERS!

Have you ever wondered how to become more involved in your child's swimming activity? Sandpipers is looking for new Officials to begin the certification process. Officials are a crucial component to every meet and every sanctioned/approved swim meet requires a minimum number of trained/certified Officials. Without certified Officials, Sandpipers would not be able to offer sanctioned meets. Officials are essential to providing a fair and well-run swimming event for all competing swimmers. Please consider supporting your swimmer and our Sandpipers team by becoming a valued Sandpiper/USA Swimming Official.

Southern California Swimming is the governing body for USA Swimming in Nevada. Sandpipers is looking for parents interested in becoming entry-level Officials, called Stroke & Turn Judges. Stroke and Turn Judges are the Officials that observe swimmers during competition to ensure that the technical rules of USA Swimming are followed. The training/certification process to become a certified Stroke and Turn Judge is very straightforward and one that you can navigate at your own pace.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

Stroke & Turn Judge Candidates: First, you will begin by shadowing a more senior Official on deck during Sandpipers swim meets. Then, you will take and pass an online, open book test. After passing the test you will complete (5) apprenticeship sessions (on-deck training with another certified Official). You can work during a meet session when your child is swimming or during other sessions - whichever works for you.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

1. Contact our Officials Coordinator, Shay Kerby, to let her know that you're interested in becoming an Official. Shay can be contacted via email at kerbyfamily@me.com or you can simply call her at 520-665-8714 and she can get you started.
2. First year certification costs include a USA Swimming Non-Athlete Membership Fee (\$65), a Clinic Fee (\$16), and payment for a background check required by USA Swimming (\$38). The USA membership and background check are not required until after your apprenticeship period.
3. Once you are certified and begin working at meets as a certified USA Swimming Stroke and Turn Judge your Sandpipers service hours will be covered.

That's it! Please support our team by becoming a USA Swimming Certified Official.

SAND CLAIMS THIRD PLACE FINISH IN ATLANTA

Team Effort Proves Major Success

48 swimmers represented Sandpipers of Nevada at the *Dynamo Eastern Classic* in Chamblee, Georgia, January 17th through the 19th. These swimmers, ranging from 10 to 18 years old, traveled with four chaperones and four coaches, and without their families, in order to compete.

The Dynamo Eastern Classic's format is different from many other meets. Each competing team can only bring 50 athletes maximum, with a 600-athlete limit (12 teams). This year, marking SAND's first time attending, four of the Top-10 club teams in the nation competed. In order to swim with the best, SAND compiled swimmers from seven different groups to complete our roster.

Friday's events were timed-finals while Saturday and Sunday were prelim-final. All days of competition SAND filled the deck with cheers and determination! The meet was an excellent array of finals-swims, personal bests, team records, and a feat of the strongest camaraderie, as well as the toughest relays. Not only did SAND prove themselves by placing third over-all, but they also showed respect, passion, and the drive that every SANDPIPER learns in practice. To top it all off, the meet was super fun!

Thank you to all who attended, especially the chaperones, volunteers, and coaches whom made it possible for SAND to compete. Everything we do is a team effort. This trip to Atlanta is the epitome of what we do well: support each other.



SAND ROCKS FIRST 2020 STOP IN TYR PRO-SWIM SERIES

Eight Sandpipers Travel to Knoxville

January 16th–19th, eight Sandpipers traveled to Knoxville, Tennessee to compete in the *TYR Pro-Swim Series*. The second stop in the series, and first competition of the Olympic year, saw many world-class athletes. **Katie Grimes, Bella Sims, Erica Sullivan, Audrey Yu, Dylan Becker, Sawyer Grimes, Paige Kuwata, and Abby Dunford** joined the best in this fun, exciting meet!

Over the weekend, Bella broke 3 team records (13-14 200Free, 200 Fly, 400 IM) and earned Olympic Trial Qualifications in the 200 fly and the 400 IM. Katie broke her own record in the 200 Backstroke, as did Audrey in the 50 free. To top off the great Sandpiper effort, Erica swept the distance events, obtaining gold in the 400, 800, and 1500 free.

For up-to-date news, event information and more, visit the team website: www.sandpipersofnevada.com

11 SANDPIPERS EARN TOP 100 18-UNDER RANKS

Eleven Sandpipers earned spots on the 2019 18-Under World 100 list! This list is comprised of the best 18 & Under swimmers in the World, as determined by FINA and according to their age-defined world ranking. The goal of this program is to acknowledge the excellence achieved by these athletes and their respective teams.

Congratulations to these Sandpipers for making the top 100! **Arabella Sims** (13th), **Katie Grimes** (17th), **Paige Kuwata** (38th), **Chloe Freeman** (85th), **Reese Hazan** (95th), **Audrey Yu** (98th), **Brennan Gravley** (12th), **Dylan Becker** (23rd), **Tyler Edlefsen** (29th), **Sawyer Grimes** (34th), and **Joseph Gutierrez** (39th).

FINAL 2019 TEAM RECORD UPDATE

2 SCS records and 32 team records fall at end of year; 2019 Total finishes at 184

2019 Toyota US U.S. Open– [LCM]

Katie Grimes: Women 13-14 400 Free—4:11.61; 1500 Free—16:32.88; 200 Back—2:16.31

Bella Sims: Women 13-14 800 Free—8:35.96; 100 Back—1:04.71

Audrey Yu: Women 13-14 50 Free—26.38

2019 King Marlin Pro-Am Classic–[SCY]

Bella Sims: Women 13-14 100 Free—50.01; 500 Free—4:44.71; 1000 Free—9:32.59 ***SCS Record***; 100 Fly—53.48; 200 Fly—1:56.22; 200 IM—1:58.60; Women Senior 100 Free—50.01; 200 IM—1:58.60

Katie Grimes: Women 13-14 1650 free—16:19.44; 200 Back—1:58.09; 400 IM—4:14.67

Erica Sullivan: Women Senior 1650—15:23.81 ***SCS Record***

Sawyer Grimes: Men 17-18 200 Free—1:39.30; 500 Free—4:23.04; 1000 Free—8:56.08; 1650 Free—15:05.23; 100 Back—50.04; 200 Back—1:45.88; Men Senior 200 Free—1:39.30; 500 Free—4:23.04; 1000 Free—8:56.08; 1650 Free—15:05.23; 100 Back—50.04; 200 Back—1:45.88

Women Senior 400 Free Relay: K. Grimes, V. Gutierrez, P. Kuwata, B Sims — 3:26.85

Men Senior 400 Medley Relay: S. Grimes, C. Miller, B. Barrieault, N. Nazarov — 3:21.85

