**Water SHARKS Shiver**

Family involvement is critical to the success of the swim team. The Water SHARKS Shiver (the swim team advisory group) helps to coordinate family involvement in swim team.

The organization’s name stands for “**S**wimming **H**ard **A**nd **R**aising **K**ids **S**trong.” Furthermore, a “shiver” is the name for a group of sharks. So, Water SHARKS Shiver’s mission is to provide support to the Washington Water Sharks Swim Team and to coordinate the volunteer activities of swimmers’ families. Shiver will encourage sportsmanship, social participation and etiquette among participants, members and families in addition to supporting the Washington YMCA mission.

If you have a swimmer, you are a member of Shiver!

Many opportunities exist to help a little or to help a lot. It’s a great way to meet other swim families and get involved in your child’s swim team experience.

**Official’s Training and Volunteer Help** (with help of coaches):

Officials are also provided by each swim team for the sectional, state and regional meets. Parents/guardians are encouraged to volunteer to become administrative, level 1 or level 2 officials. Once certified, official’s certifications need to be renewed periodically. Shiver pays for the cost of the official’s trainings, so all you need is a little time. This is a great opportunity to see the meet up close. Many times officials are only needed for half of the meet. **Information will be posted and emailed for upcoming trainings.** Available officials trainings are listed at the Iowa YMCA Competitive Swimming website ([www.teamunify.com/iysec](http://www.teamunify.com/iysec), under the events tab). **We are usually asked to provide timers for meets as well** (no training needed!)

**Maintaining the Swim Team Website, Facebook and Bulletin Board**

With the Team Unify web-based swim team software, Shiver will be assisting the swim team in maintaining the website. Please make sure that you provide accurate contact information when you register so that you can obtain timely information from the swim team website. If you don’t already have one, you will be asked to set up a new account in Team Unify and will use that account to sign in to the website or into the mobile app where you can access all things swim team. Contact a coach or Shiver member if you have any questions about Team Unify.

Shiver will also help to coordinate the Washington Water Sharks Facebook page and will update the bulletin board outside the pool corridor.

**Swimsuit/Apparel Orders**:

Shiver helps to coordinate swimsuit and apparel/spiritwear orders and other apparel related activities.

* **SWIMSUITS:** Swimsuit orders will be coordinated through Elsmore Swim Shop. A try-on kit will be available to swimmers on October 17th. Orders will be placed online through our team store at Elsmore.com and will ship directly to the purchaser’s home. All suits are provided at bulk-order discount prices, are priced much lower than retail cost and are offered as a convenience to swimmers and their families. The team suit is NOT REQUIRED for participation in swim team.
* **CLOTHING/APPAREL ORDERS:** Look for order forms for apparel and spirit wear on the bulletin board and on the website in mid-October. Orders should arrive prior to the first meet of the season.
* **TEAM STORES:** “Team Stores” have been set up both at elsmore.com and swimoutlet.com for Water Sharks purchases. Use the Water Sharks team account link when shopping for your swimming supplies (swimsuits, caps, goggles, bags, towels) on these websites (send grandma the link too!). Shiver will receive a portion of the sales price of Water Sharks team store purchases. Links will also be included on the Washington YMCA website under the programs/aquatics tab.
* **“SHIVER SWAP”:** This will be an opportunity to sell gently-used Water Sharks apparel and swimsuits that no longer fit your swimmer or are no longer needed. These items will be available for purchase during the season. Please talk with any Shiver member or coach to set a time up to look at these items. If you are interested in donating, those donations can be brought to the YMCA or left with the coaches.

**Sectional, State and Regional Meet Activities**

Ask the kids and they’ll tell you how fun it is to get a “goodie bag” before a meet! Shiver helps to coordinate the following meet items and activities:

* “Goodie bags” for sectional, state and regional meets.
* Parade theme accessories and t-shirts for the state meet.
* Pasta dinners for state and regional swimmers.
* Posters for swimmers.
* Volunteers for the sectional, state and regional meetings (including officials and timers).

It is so much fun to see the “extras” provided by Shiver put a smile on our swimmer’s faces! There are many ways for families to get involved: helping to stuff goodie bags, providing items for dinners and volunteering at a meet. Watch for signup lists on the website and bulletin board.

**Swim-a-Thon**

Shiver will conduct its 3nd annual **Swim-a-Thon** this year! This year we will have the event on/around December 16th! This will be Shiver’s ***largest fundraiser***! Last year we raised over $2500 for swim team. We look forward to another successful year. Look for more information as this date nears.

\****We strongly encourage all swimmers to participate in this fun swim event and urge you to invite friends and family to participate as well.***

**Year-end Banquet and Awards**

It is always fun to get together at the end of the year and celebrate the success of our swimmers! Helping with the year-end banquet involves selecting year-end awards and gifts, working with coaches to prepare swimmer “packets” with all the swimmer’s awards, certificates and best times, and coordinating the pot luck dinner.

**Y’s Men’s Concessions Volunteers at the Washington County Fair**

Swim team families help to staff the Y’s Men’s Food booth at the Washington County Fair, along with other Y organizations and families. Please consider a two hour time slot to help support swim team. It is fun and a great opportunity to meet swim team families, new and old, who volunteer to help support the Y and swim team. In exchange for our help, The Y Men’s and Women’s Group contributes a portion of the profits from the fair food booth to the swim team. They help us out each year, so this is a great time for us to give back!

**Please Join Us!**

Shiver is always looking for new board members and at large members. It’s a great way to meet new swim team families. Contact us if you would like to assist with any of the above activities, or if you would like to be on our board. We don’t hold monthly meetings, but do conduct before, mid and post season meetings (3 meetings per year). We know everyone has work and personal commitments, and we can work around your schedule.

**Shiver Board Members**

Nicole Kitchen, Co-President, 319-471-0458, nicolekitchen717@gmail.com

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