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## Y SWIMMING NEWS – MARCH 2023

Celebrating 100 years of YMCA National Swimming and Diving Championships.

### Contact:

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### YMCA National Short Course Championship News

Stay current on updates regarding the 2023 YMCA National Short Course Championship by visiting the [meet page](#) regularly.

- Office Hours with SwimCloud are being offered in advance of the entry deadline. This is an opportunity for coaches to ask questions and get assistance with their entries.
  - Tuesday, **March 14** at Noon ET – [Zoom link](#)
  - Tuesday, **March 21** at Noon ET – [Zoom link](#)
- [Senior Recognition](#) submissions deadline is **March 15**. These will be featured on the video board at the meet. Include athlete's name, YMCA, plans after graduation and photo.
- [Coach of the Year](#) nominations deadline is **March 20**. Direct link [here](#). The award is presented at the YMCA National Short Course Championship Meet but the recipient is not required to attend the meet.
- [Travel Assistance Application](#) deadline is **March 24**, but coaches of athletes seeking assistance are encouraged to apply early.
- [Athlete Volunteers](#) are needed to offer devotions and/or perform the National Anthem.
- Timers are needed. Sign-up link [here](#). More information is found on the [meet web page](#). Timers who work at least 4 meet sessions will receive free spectator admission to the other meet sessions.
- A *Moment of Remembrance* will be observed at the meet to recognize those from our YMCA Swimming family who have passed away since March 2022. Submit names and connection to YMCA Swimming to [Bob McDowell](#).
- [On-site Dinners](#) are available for teams and swimmers at the Greensboro Aquatic Center-Special Events Center after Finals each evening. This is a quick and convenient way to eat a healthy hearty meal after Finals. Information is posted on the meet page.

### Opening Ceremonies

*Tuesday, April 4*

Opening Ceremonies will feature several special guests including **Suzanne McCormick**, CEO of the YMCA of the USA, Olympic Gold Medalist and the Voice of Swimming, **Rowdy Gaines** and a performance from the nationally acclaimed **North Carolina A&T Cold Steel Drumline**. It will be loud and full of energy!

With the theme of *Centennial Celebration*, teams are encouraged to dress in attire from a decade or era in the past 100 years. Perhaps select the year/decade when your YMCA team began.

### Centennial Celebration

#### Athlete Dinner & Talk Show

Monday, April 3, 5:45-7:00 pm  
\$25 per person

#### YMCA OF THE USA

101 N Wacker Drive, Chicago IL 60606  
P 800 872 9622 F 312 977 9063 [ymca.net](http://ymca.net)

[Registration](#) Required – Coaches register their athletes as a team registration.

While athletes enjoy a pasta dinner buffet, Rowdy Gaines will interview YMCA Olympians and distinguished alumni (see list of guests on [Centennial page](#))

### **Alumni Reception**

Monday, April 3, 7:00-9:00 pm

\$25 per person

[Registration](#) Required – Individuals register themselves

All alumni of the YMCA National Swimming and Diving Championships are welcome to attend this social event, including athletes, coaches and volunteers who have participated in the meet over the past 100 years. Included: Heavy hors d'oeuvres, entertainment, cash bar, commemorative item.

**Please share** with your alumni (athletes, coaches and volunteers) of the national meet.

### **YMCA National Championships – Did You Know?**

In 1967, the first-ever Women's YMCA National Swimming and Diving Championship was held on April 25-27 at the Jordan Branch YMCA in Indianapolis, IN. With guidance from the YMCA National Swimming Committee, along with Margaret "Peggy" Kelso, the meet featured 50 YMCA women's swim teams that competed in 17 individual and relay events. The first women's national champion was Chris Bernsen of the Ferguson-Ritenour Branch YMCA (St. Louis, MO), who won the 500 yard Freestyle with a time of 5:50.60. The Ferguson-Ritenour team was coached by Head Coach [Penny Taylor](#), a 1948 Olympian and multi-time U.S. National Champion who later coached Olympian Tom Jager. Taylor's FRY team won the meet with a score of 65 points.



### **YMCA National Diving Championship**

March 30-April 2 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Entry deadline is **March 24**

Find meet information [HERE](#)

Discounted hotel options are being added and posted on the meet page.

Athletes and coaches are needed to offer devotions and/or perform the National Anthem. Contact Meet Director [Todd Hill](#) if interested.

### **YMCA National Masters Meet**

April 20-23 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Entry deadline is **April 7**

Find meet information [HERE](#)

Discounted hotel options are being added and posted on the meet page.

Athletes are needed to offer devotions and/or perform the National Anthem. Contact Meet Director [Terri Shannon](#) if interested.

### **YMCA Swim Coaches Forum**

Tuesday, March 21, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm EST

Find link and past Forum recordings [here](#). If you are not able to participate, you may submit questions ahead of time.

## **Y-USA Youth Advisory Council**

Y-USA is launching a national Youth Advisory Council that will inform national leaders and the Board of Directors on issues and interests important to youth and teens. The council will have twenty members, ages 15-24, who will serve through 2023 with an option to continue through 2024. The council will have representation from all segments of Y youth and teen programming, including competitive sports. Current and former Y swimmers who are interested in being part of a national council, networking and governance are encouraged to apply. Most meetings will be virtual but an inaugural in-person meeting will occur at the YMCA General Assembly, July 20-23 in Atlanta. [Applications](#) are being accepted through March 31.

## **Submit Meet Results for Top 16**

Remember to submit your meet results to SwimCloud. YMCA Top 16 is tabulated from results submitted through SwimCloud. Please remember that Top 16, like National Records, use the age of swimmers on the first day of the meet.

## **Competitive Sports Branding Webinar**

Tentatively scheduled for May 18. Date and time will be confirmed in the April newsletter.

This will be an opportunity for coaches, directors, marketing staff and other leaders to better understand YMCA branding standards and ask questions as they apply to YMCA Swimming and other competitive sports programs.

## **Photos to Share?**

The YMCA Swimming and Diving website features photos primarily from the YMCA National Championship Meets, but can include photos submitted by local Y coaches to show a wider variety of ages, ability levels, meets and participants. Photos should be in JPEG, PNG or GIF format. A photo release form will need to be signed by the parent of each athlete included. Contact [Meredith Griffin](#) to share photos and obtain the photo release form.

## **Rule Books Now Available**

2023 USA Swimming Rule Books are now available for purchase at [Swim Outlet](#).