

From Walnut Creek Parents

We have been volunteering with the Walnut Creek Y swim team for many years. I (Kim) help with the computer/timing system and Scott will either time or officiate. We enjoy it for many reasons. We have become more knowledgeable about the sport since we are working with the times as a timer or working with the computer or watching for legal strokes and techniques as an official. It is a great way to get to know other parents on the team. We have gone out to dinner with other families on the team after a swim meet where we're all tired from the helping and the swimming. We also find that if you're helping at a meet, the meet goes a lot faster than just watching the meet. I find the away meets much longer since I'm not right there involved with the process. With the volunteering that we do, we still get to see the kids swim and are sometimes closer to them to be able to cheer rather than in the stands.

Herren Family

When I think of all the activities that my children have been involved in, I would have to say that being a part of the Walnut Creek Swim Team has been the most rewarding not only for them but for our family. We have all had the chance to experience the YMCA core values first hand. Volunteering to help at swim meets, as officials, or on parent focus groups has allowed us to grow together as a family and meet other families that have become great friends. If a family does not volunteer they are missing a great opportunity to truly invest in their children and the community.

Gerdis Family

Walnut Creek YMCA

Swim Team Volunteer Info

You make the Difference!

The success of our Walnut Creek YMCA swim team depends on the volunteers willing to share their time and talents. Volunteering allows you to actively participate in your child's Experience and enjoyment

**Walnut Creek YMCA
515-224-9901 x222
Swim Team Aquatics Director: Sara Roberts**

Family Volunteer Opportunities

Family involvement is critical to the success of the team. It is expected that all families will be involved in assisting in the home swim . Most of these jobs require NO previous experience. If the location of the job does not allow a direct view of the pool, we encourage our volunteers to leave to see their swimmers swim their events.

OPPORTUNITIES for INVOLVEMENT

Levels of Volunteering



Requires very little swimming background



Requires some knowledge and training



Most experience and some certifications required

How does Volunteering work?

Each Team has a lead and co-leader. In some situations we need more than just two to lead a team.

At the beginning of the season parents will receive a spreadsheet showing which area your family has been assigned to. Before our swim meets start we can adjust your assignment if you wish to try a new area.

Team Lead & Co-Lead:

The Team Lead works with the volunteers on their team and schedules them for each meet. They will schedule any meetings or trainings, as needed. (This position is a 2 year position)

The goal of the leads is to train parents to take over and keep the consistency and quality going.

Officials ★★ ★

We need stroke/turn judges and a starter for all of our meets. This position requires certification. We offer many opportunities through the Fall for you to get certified. At least Two shifts of officials are scheduled for the meet.

The **YMCA Swim officials course** is designed to certify (beginners, currently certified USA, HS, or collegiate swim officials) Or re-certify (currently YMCA certified) individuals as officials in the YMCA of the USA's Competitive Swimming Program. This course focuses on events, procedures and the duties and responsibilities of the officials prior to, during and after the meet. Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be certified to officiate in a YMCA of the USA's Competitive Swimming and Diving Program. 4 hour course – Good for 3 years

We are required to have certified judges. The swim team will pay for parents to attend a YMCA Swim Officials course.

Concessions ★

The concession stand at Home Meets generates funds to help pay for awards, special events, and costs associated with hosting a home meet. Volunteers are needed to work in this area as well as volunteers to bring donations of food. Two shifts of workers are scheduled for the concessions.

Ribbons ★

The Ribbon Team is the behind the scenes team. At the swim meet, this group will take the results from the computer team to label the ribbons and sort by team. This team also takes our away meet results/ ribbons, checks them, and gets them into the family folders.

This team also inventories and helps place the ribbon order for the season.

Clerk of Course ★ ★

The Clerk of Course area is where all swimmers check in for each of their events. Volunteers in this area assist in placing swimmers in heats and lining up swimmers so they arrive at their assigned starting blocks at the proper time. ALSO a part of the Clerk of Course is the "Runner". This volunteer picks up cards from the timers at the end of each event and delivers them to the computer table. Two shifts are scheduled for volunteers in this area.

Computer ★ ★ ★

The computer team is responsible for setting up the computer timing system, entering the event times, printing results and ribbon labels and closing out the swim meets. This team helps finalize the meet and meet set-up prior to printing the programs.

Timers ★ ★

At least two volunteer timers are needed for each lane at home swim meets. The timers confirm the swimmer is in the correct lane, time events with a stopwatch, and record the watch time on the entry card. There are generally two shifts of volunteer timers, each timing half the meet. This opportunity provides the best view of swimmers swimming.

We are required to have certified timers, as well. The swim team will pay for parents to attend a YMCA Swim Officials course so that all our timers are certified. (See description under Officials)

Set-Up and Tear Down

This is not an area in which we assign parents but it is an area that we ask parents to pitch in.

We ask for a 1st shift of all parents to help unload the van and set-up for the meet. The 2nd shift volunteers stay around after the meet to help clean-up and make sure everything gets loaded. Also, those parents are asked to come back to the YMCA and help us unload the van.

This is the least popular job but a very crucial job.