



I would like to take a moment to explain how some things work in our program. Our mission is to afford all our swimmers the opportunity to reach the highest level of excellence possible in the sport of swimming. Approximately 300,000 swimmers participate in United States Swimming. About 18,000 swimmers are registered in Florida Swimming (our LSC) and Gold Coast Swimming combined. USA Swimming (our national governing body) sent a national coach to visit our pool a few years ago. He was very impressed with our program; especially how efficiently we use our pool time. The one negative he found was with regard to our dues. "You're not charging nearly enough", he said. "How are you able to survive?" Looking at nearby teams, we are under the cost of other programs. The reason for this is primarily due to our coaching staff. With the exception of the head coach (yours truly), all our coaches are volunteers. The only compensation our coaches receive is they are not charged monthly dues for their children. They pay for everything else: USS registration, meet entry fees, swim-a-thon, and all incidentals for their children such as swim suits, caps, goggles, etc. Many parents are under the false impression they receive a salary, and I assure you they don't. Many salaried coaches are not nearly as reliable and professional as ours. The team picks up motel, and travel costs for coaches assigned to cover a meet. When this is the case, the coaches are expected to be on deck covering all swimmers assigned to them. It can cost the team over \$500 per coach to cover this, but the benefit to our swimmers is immeasurable. Coaches are required by USA Swimming to maintain Water Safety/First Aid for Coaches, a background check, athlete protection course and CPR. Additionally, coaches must pass USA Swimming coaches tests, and American Swimming Coaches Association (ASCA) maintains a record of additional courses taken by our coaches. Unlike other pools, all our certified coaches are members of ASCA. Our club covers the cost of all coach certification requirements, annual registration, courses and publications. While on this point, Coach Anne has not had a child in the program for years, and yet she's here, putting in over 6 hours of her time every week, and attending meets, arranging her family time to help cover swimmers.

Our hard working board receives no financial benefits for the countless hours they put in. Keeping track of registrations, meet schedules, attendance, bookkeeping, organization of swim meets, swim-a-thon, communications and social activities for the team keeps them busy year-round. They all pay monthly dues, annual registration, swim-a-thon, and all other costs just like you.

Please keep in mind what so many do so that your child can participate in an outstanding program, one that out shines many others in the area where coaches are salaried, and costs are much higher. Results of each year's League Championships shows just how successful our program is.

Swimmingly,

Coach Ed