



8/Under Parent Information YMCA State Championship Hosted by Somerset Hills YMCA Sunday, February 5, 2012

January 27, 2012

Dear 8/Under Parents;

The 8/Under YMCA State Championship is quickly approaching and we wanted to take this opportunity to inform you of the following information so you'll be ready when arriving at the Raritan Bay YMCA. There will be two sessions: Girls are in the morning and the Boys are in the afternoon.

Session	Facility Opens	Warm Up	Meet Starts
Sunday AM – Session #1 Girls 8 & Under	6:30 AM	7:00 AM	8:15 AM
Sunday PM – Session #2 Boys 8 & Under	Noon	12:30 PM	1:45 PM

For those that are new to a Championship event, this is a great experience for your swimmer. The State Championship is a huge honor for your swimmer to showcase their hard work from the whole season. So remember to bring your camera... you'll want to capture these special memories. A swimming Championship runs similar to a regular meet, but on a much grander scale. There will be over 30 YMCA teams participating in this year's State Championship.

For those parents that are 'experienced' with championships, you know the drill. We wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some key points specific for this event at this location.

The meet will be held at Raritan Bay YMCA in Perth Amboy, NJ.

Directions

Please visit the Raritan Bay YMCA website: <http://rbaymca.org/directions.html>

Parking

Parking is very limited. Please coordinate with friends and car pool. CAR-POOLING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. Car-pooling with another adult will be helpful when arriving at the Raritan Bay YMCA. One parent can take the swimmers into the YMCA to check-in with their coaches while the other parent parks the car. There are several parking lots around the YMCA. This YMCA shares its facility with the Perth Amboy Municipal building. Please make note not to park along the fence back by the police station. The police are requesting this area remains clear and will tow cars should they park in this space. Parking on the streets around the YMCA is also permitted.

Gym

Once you enter into the YMCA, all swimmers and parents will be instructed to go straight to the gym. Have your swimmer come with their suit on under warm clothes. This way, it eliminates a trip to the locker room. If your swimmer does need to change, please use the locker rooms and not the restrooms. Once in the gym, look for your team name on the wall or garbage receptacle. This is the section where you can sit with your swimmer. Please remember to bring portable chairs, blankets and entertainment for your swimmer and yourself. Please keep in mind... **gym space is also limited.** Due to the number of teams attending, please be cognizant of your team's space. Lastly, when the meet is over, please clean up your space. Thank you!

Marshaling

All swimmers will be marshaled in the gym for their individual events. The relays will be marshaled into the pool by the coaches. Listen for the announcements as well as double check the announcement board to see what event number is being marshaled. All teams will be responsible for providing a minimum of **2 adult** marshals. Larger teams might want to consider having as many as 6 adult marshals per session to help organize their swimmers and ready them for their events. A recommended amount of marshals is to have 1 team marshal per every 8 to 10 swimmers. Gold-colored pinnies will be provided for these marshals to wear so the swimmers and their families will easily recognize them. These marshals may work the entire session or alternate in shifts. This is a fun job to share with other 8 & Under parents... you can work in shifts to make sure you see your child swim and you get to know the other children and parents better. The team marshals will mark each swimmer's left shoulder with his/her last name, their team abbreviation, and their event numbers. This way the marshals will be able to quickly identify the swimmers and place him/her into their respective heat/lanes. Please instruct your swimmer to stay in this order. This makes for quick transition between the gym and pool. Once the marshal has possession of your child, please proceed to the spectator seating so you can get a seat to view your child's race. This will most likely move quickly, so be ready! At the end of each race, the swimmers will be led back to the gym area from the pool deck.

Spectator Seating

There is an observation deck with stadium seating located upstairs above the pool. Please use this space only when your swimmer is swimming and then leave to make space for other spectators. For the courtesy of all spectators, please use the seating area to view a race... **DO NOT STAND AT THE BALCONY** to watch a race because you will be blocking the view other parents. After your swimmer is finished, please proceed back to the gym to meet your swimmer there. This way, it will allow all parents to have a seat when it's time for their swimmer to swim. If everyone follows this procedure, there should be no need to save seats. Strollers, coolers, and large bags are not permitted in the spectator seating area. Please keep the stairways and walkways clear. Parents are not permitted on the pool deck unless they are volunteering as timers. ***We appreciate your understanding in advance.*** The RBYMCA has a wonderful 10-lane scoreboard across from the seating area so you will see your child's name, event, and lane.

Results and Awards

Results will be posted in two locations at Y: first will be in the gym and the second is upstairs at the left side of the spectator balcony (when facing the pool). Awards consist of medals for finishes from first through eighth place and ribbons for finishes from ninth through sixteenth place. Coaches of each team will receive the awards at a later date and they will distribute them to their swimmers.

Concessions

There will be refreshments for sale in the front lobby. Special commemorative 8/Under State Championship t-shirts and sweatshirts will be available for purchase in the front corner of Y down the hallway from the entrance on the way to the gym. These items can be personalized with your child's name and favorite swim strokes. Metro Swim Shop will be near the front lobby selling general swim merchandise such as goggles, swim caps, and bathing suits as well.

Admission and Program fees

The admission will be \$5.00 per person. Children under the age of 8 years are FREE. Programs will be available for \$5.00. Please note that the program will be arranged as a "Psych" sheet. A "Psych" sheet is a list of swimmers by event and entry time. This is not the "Heat" sheet, which lists final heat and lane assignments. The "Heat" sheet will be posted throughout the building right before the meet begins.

A little bit about 'Swimming 101'

To make the meet the best experience for your swimmers, they should stay warm, relaxed, and ready to swim. Please be listening for the events being marshaled and bring the swimmers to the marshals when events are called. Swimmers may bring a towel and shoes or flip flops when they are marshaled, but not much else. The marshals will get these back to the swimmers after they finish their race. In regards to times listed on the scoreboard, please understand these times are not always the final times that you'll find posted in the results. While the main timing system is very accurate, there can be errors and occasional malfunctions. That is why each lane also has timers with manual stopwatches. If there is an error, then the final times are calculated using manual times. The main display only shows the main timing system results, and thus will not always show the final result in the case of a timing error. Each team will be required to provide volunteer timers for this event. When asked to be a timer, please do your best. There are timers meetings prior to the start of each session.

Any Meet Updates or Inclement Weather

One more thing, please look to your team's individual website for last minute updates regarding this meet. Should there be inclement weather, please visit our website for the latest meet information. <http://www.shyswimteam.org>

We're looking forward to the 8/Under State Championship and hope for a great experience for your swimmers!

Sincerely,

Somerset Hills YMCA Parent Organization