

Team Goal \$9,000

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BAC 2010 Swim-A-Thon is June 17, 2011



Greetings to all BAC Families!

Spring has arrived and with this comes our annual Swim-a-thon! The Swim-A-Thon is scheduled for Friday morning, June 17th 2011, from 8:00am to 10:30am. The Senior/Junior Team swimmers will swim the first session, from 8:00am to 10:00am, and the Age Group and Developmental Team swimmers will swim the second session, from 8:30am to 10:30am. We are excited to host this year's Swim-A-Thon, once again, at the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center, a 50 meter outdoor pool. Afterwards, we will have a grill out that will be hosted by our coaching staff to celebrate the swimmers' accomplishments of swimming the designated lengths and raising money for the team.

The Swim-A-Thon is a United States Swimming sponsored fundraiser in which participants earn money for their team by swimming lengths of the pool. Each swimmer in the Barracuda Aquatics Club will receive a sponsor sheet, an envelope and sponsor "Thank You" cards (tax deductible receipts) at registration or at any practice during the first few weeks. If you have not received a packet, please see Coach Jeff and ask for one at practice. Thank you.

How does the Swim-A-Thon work? Swimmers have a two hour period to swim a maximum of 200 lengths (BFAC's pool = 100 lengths). Note: Developmental swimmers will have the option of swimming the length of the diving well so that they are not overwhelmed by the 50 meter length of BFAC's pool. Participants get pledges from businesses, family, neighbors, etc. prior to swimming. You may choose to get pledges and money prior to swimming or get pledges per length and collect the money following the Swim-A-Thon. If your swimmer is not sure how many lengths he/she can do, I suggest you ask sponsors for a flat rate of \$5 or \$10. Once the money is raised and collected, 95% of the funds go directly to BAC, the other 5% is sent to USA Swimming to support swimming throughout the United States. USA Swimming is the parent organization whose logo and materials we are using for the Swim-A-Thon. **The due date for turning in pledged money is July 8th 2010 – the Friday following 4th of July weekend.** If money is not turned in by the due date, your swimmer will not be eligible for prizes and you will be billed our \$50 fundraising fee for the Long Course Season (see below).

Why do we do this? The dues that each family pays to BAC are not enough to cover the expenses of running this program. As a result, we have to raise funds through hosting meets and fundraising activities. The more money we raise, the smaller the raise in dues. In addition, this event is a lot of fun for the swimmers; it builds team spirit and camaraderie. Further, it helps our swimmers learn that they can help to make a difference and contribute to the success of their club.

Do we have to participate? Each swimmer that registers with BAC for any portion of the Long Course season will be responsible for a fund raising fee. If they participate in the Swim-A-Thon and raise a minimum of \$50 there will be no fee. If the swimmer does not raise the \$50 in the Swim-A-Thon then they will be billed \$50. The \$50 fund raising fee is subject to the same terms of collection as all fees and dues. Raising \$50 or paying the fee is the minimum requirement. **We are challenging each swimmer to raise at least \$115 to help support BAC.**

What if I can't be there on June 17? We will have make up days for those unable to participate on the official date; however, you will miss the activities of the day, i.e. the fun in the water with the coaches as well as the picnic afterwards. Yet, if you turn in your pledged money by the due date, July 8th 2011, you will still qualify for prizes.

Who will sponsor me? Swimmers get pledges from businesses, family, neighbors, friends, co-workers, VFW's, Legions, etc. prior to swimming. Sponsors may pledge a monetary amount per length or donate a flat amount. Remember to give your sponsor the "Thank You" card (tax deductible receipt) since their donation is tax deductible.

In the past, our swimmers have done the following:

Developmental Team: 100 to 200 lengths (50 to 100 lengths in BFAC's pool).

Age Group/Junior Teams: 150 to 200 lengths (75 to 100 lengths in BFAC's pool).

Senior Team: 150 to 200 lengths (75 to 100 lengths in BFAC's pool).

What are the prizes? Swimmers will be rewarded for their efforts in a couple of ways: (1) incentives will be awarded to swimmers during the weeks leading up to the Swim-A-Thon, and (2) once swimmers turn in their pledges, they will qualify for a prize at the level obtained, these prizes start at the \$75 level. USA Swimming recognizes swimmers based on the number of lengths they swim with a certificate. Those swimmers who collect \$1000 or more in pledges will receive special recognition from USA Swimming.

How much can we really raise? In the past, we have raised as much as \$12,000. Last year we raised over our goal of \$8,000. This year our goal is \$9,000. We can delay or avoid increases in dues if we surpass this goal. For example, if we have 80 swimmers participating, and each swimmer raises \$115, we have reached the goal of \$9,000 – it is that easy when everyone does his/her part! Think of what we could raise if each swimmer aims for \$200, \$300, or \$400!

Counters are needed for the Swim-A-Thon: We will need 12 to 16 counters on the day of the Swim-A-Thon, June 17th 2011. Parents, please note that the Swim-A-Thon is on a Friday morning. If you agree to serve as a counter, please arrange to take the morning of June 17th off from work. Please email me so that I can formulate a list of volunteer counters. All counters are welcome to share in the picnic afterwards.

Swim-A-Thon “Kick-off” Night at each pool on May 2nd 2011: Additional information will be provided to your swimmers on Monday night, May 2nd 2011. This is the night that we rally together to explain to swimmers what the Swim-A-thon is all about, and how important it is to support the team. We will motivate and encourage swimmers to go out and seek pledges in an effort to raise money for the team. Parents, please make it a point to get your swimmer to practice on that night. Remember, if everyone does his/her part, we can pull off a very successful Swim-A-Thon, and thereby avoid increases in dues.

Thank you for your time, energy, and cooperation in this matter. Go Barracudas!

If you can volunteer to be a counter on June 17th, or if you are willing to assist with the incentive nights that lead-up to the Swim-A-Thon, please email me so that I can put together a schedule of helpers. It is ideal to have volunteers from each pool (Shakopee’s and Bloomington’s) that will assist with the incentive nights, which will begin on Monday, May 2nd, and continue through Thursday, June 16th, 2011. This is a seven-week period, a time frame in which it is crucial to motivate and encourage our swimmers to raise support for the team. Your help is needed and requested. Please call if you can be of assistance in a big or small way at MNFECDUDAS@aol.com.

Thanks,
Jeff Lee,
BAC President/Head Coach

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