

# Natalie Bolin Swim Camp

February 20<sup>th</sup> the Wisconsin swimming family lost one of its most uplifting spirits, Natalie Bolin, an OSHY swimmer, in a car accident returning from a swim meet.

While the time since her death has been difficult it has not all been negative. One of the tremendously positive things that has come out of Natalie's passing has been the coming together of swimmers from all teams. We have truly been drawn together appreciating our bonds, connections and similarities. Natalie's radiant personality touched so many, many people and all of us who had been brightened by her glow are closer today than before her passing.

For ten years Open Water Swim Camp or more succinctly "Camp" has been the best part of the OSHY swim team year. Each year OSHY swimmers from ages 10-18 spend a week in Ely, MN doing open water swimming workouts, hiking, running, canoeing, and kayaking. More than any other thing that we do through out the year Camp creates and strengthens the bonds of our team members. It is at camp that we transition from teammates to family. Natalie loved almost everything about swimming, but for her camp stood out. It was the most special of all the special things.

We are committed to honoring Natalie's spirit by continuing something she did in both life and death; bring people together. This summer we are going to hold the first **Natalie Bolin Swim Camp** in Ely, MN. The objective of this camp is to bring swimmers together from different teams to forge bonds that will connect them together and by association connect our teams together. Camp will be staffed by coaches from the Oshkosh YMCA, other Wisconsin teams, and Natalie's 2 older sisters, Ashley, a sophomore at Texas Christian University, and Stephanie, a freshman and the University of Rochester. There are strong physical elements to camp, but it is more about experiential learning, leadership, and team work than just workouts.

For many OSHY participants, we usually have about 50 a year, camp is a defining moment of their young lives. It is our most sincere hope that we can honor Natalie's spirit by providing this opportunity to our larger swimming family.

There is no cost for **Natalie Bolin Swim Camp**. It will be fully funded by the **Natalie Bolin Memorial Fund**. Camp will run from July 11 to July 16. Camp participants will depart from and return to the Oshkosh YMCA. For more information about camp please contact Jay Coleman at the Oshkosh YMCA.

## **Application / Selection Criteria**

1. Camp participants must be active members of their swim team, participating in regular training during the summer, capable of long swims (2 + miles in open water) and long hikes (3-6 hours).
2. Campers need to be between entering 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2010. *Swimmers outside of this range can apply if they have a compelling reason to participate and room at camp permits.*
3. To apply campers need to email Jay Coleman, OSHY head coach at [jaycoleman@oshkoshymca.org](mailto:jaycoleman@oshkoshymca.org) with the following information. Look for a return email as conformation that yours was received.
  - A. Name, age, and grade entering in fall of 2010
  - B. Swim team and coach's contact info for reference
  - C. A paragraph or so about why you want to participate in the Natalie Bolin Camp
4. The deadline for application is Sunday, April 18. Selection and notification will take place by Sunday, April 25.
5. There are spots available for 16 swimmers. Our hope is to include swimmers from 8-16 different teams.

*Note – OSHY has had kids go to camp and 1 week later win WI State titles and 2 weeks later make individual and relay championship finals at YMCA Nationals. If may not be the most traditional July training, but our swimmers have been successful with it*

## **Special thanks from the families of the swimmers in the accident**

We would like to express our gratitude for the support provided to our families by the Wisconsin swimming community after the tragic accident on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Thank You,

The Bolin, Revolinski and Rothe families - Oshkosh YMCA.