

## **ZONES 2015 REPORT**

### **HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2014**

Prepared by Lisa Keyes, Zones Coordinator

Total Athletes Attending 54: Age Group (AG) 25 athletes, Senior (SR) Zones 29 athletes

(29 athletes in 2014 - 17 AG, 12 SR, 35 in 2013, 44 in 2012)

Location: AG Zones, Kihei, Maui, HI, August 5-8, SR Zones Clovis, CA, July 29-  
August 2 Coaches: AG Zones– Kyle Potter & Major Robinson - SR Zones –Patrick King  
& Mike Turner

Zones Coordinator

Transportation/Hotels/Uniforms/Meals/Communication for both meets: Lisa Keyes

SR Zone Chaperones/Van Drivers: Tami & Ben Peters

AG Zone Onsite Meals, Shopping, Athlete Village./Deck Chaperone, Communications:  
Lisa Keyes

Help with meals/shopping, AG Athlete Village/Deck Support Chaperone: Nicole Smart

AG Athlete Village/Deck Support Chaperone: Toni Shields

In 2015, Team Montana sent teams to compete at two separate Zones meets, Age Group Zones in Kihei on Maui in Hawaii and Senior Zones in Clovis, CA. I coordinated in advance all arrangements for coach/chaperone travel, SR Zone onsite team travel via 2 vans and an SUV, and accommodations. I arranged condo blocks (coaches, athletes and parents) with Maui Sunset Condominiums in Kihei and Holiday Inn Express in Clovis, , managed central communication to inform zones families and Team Montana coaches about both meets, and ordered, delivered and designed (with input from others) uniforms. This year, with the record high number of swimmers attending Senior Zones, most lunches and dinners were catered for athletes, coaches, and chaperones.

Both Zones Meets were incredibly successful for Team Montana. This year we had record numbers of attendees on both teams – 25 AG (with invites) and 29 Sr. Zones! The swimmers all reported having had very positive experiences and lots of fun at both meets. AG Zones saw 4 Montana finalists and Sr. Zones, 6 finalists. With 25 swimmers at AG Zones, it was necessary to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> chaperone, especially with the placement of the athlete village. There is the misconception that less chaperones are needed for AG Zones because parents travel with their children, but the majority of each day is spent at the pool without parent presence or involvement in their child's experience. Keeping 25 swimmers between the ages of 9 and 14 hydrated, out of sun, eating, to their races on time, supportive teammates, etc.... while constantly being texted by parents with requests, questions, and clarifications, for 8-10 hours a day, for 4 days, takes a few very good chaperones. Nicole, Toni, and I worked extremely well together and all went smoothly. Tami and Ben did an INCREDIBLE job chaperoning 28 high schoolers (plus one 8<sup>th</sup> grader) and kudos goes out to the two coaches at Sr. Zones as well, who picked up

some of the extra chaperoning duties and spent so much time with the kids along with Ben and Tami.

I would like to thank all the chaperones for all of their hard work, creative ideas, and team Montana spirit throughout both meets, as well as all four coaches for not only their coaching, but their enthusiasm and support of the swimmers. Great memories were created for all at both meets! Your help and support added greatly to the success of our Montana swimmers as well as to the fun and positive zones experiences each and every one of the swimmers experienced.

Budget: Total Zones cost was roughly \$25,900 vs. \$25,000 2015 budget. I attribute this increase to the large number of attendees this year, 25 more swimmers participating in the two zones meets than last year, the added expenses incurred with AG meet in Hawaii, as well as \$1300 paid for two coach tickets who did not attend.

Recommendations:

- Fine tune AG Zone selection criteria.
  - Change deadline for selection date to Firecracker meet.
  - Decrease number of events swum depending on swimmer if extra events are slower than a BB time, or whichever criteria is set for that year.
- 13-14 AG Zones swimmers attend without parents as was the case when Zones was not split between AG and SR. Most teams at zones do not have parents attending the meet for this age group.
- Have coaches/chaperones sign a document committing them to position with responsibility of paying costs already spent on non-refundable plane tickets, etc.