

Western Zone Diversity Committee Report
October 2014

The Western Zone Diversity Committee has met for the past two years to develop and host a Western Zone Diversity Camp and to provide information to coaches, athletes, parents, clubs, and LSC's about diversity issues in swimming. The committee also provides information about outreach memberships in USA Swimming.

The zone diversity camps were created by USA Swimming and each zone is required to host a camp every two years. The Western Zone will host a camp in even years. The WZ camp also included a diversity summit for LSC diversity chairs, coaches, and other interested adults to attend and discuss issues.

The 2014 Western Zone Diversity Camp and Summit was held at California State University East Bay in Hayward, California, June 26-29. There were 23 athletes and 12 summit participants at the camp. Eleven of the 17 LSCs sent athletes and 9 of the 17 LSCs sent their diversity chair or other summit participant to the camp. The camp included in-water and classroom sessions plus social activities for the athletes. Camp coaches included head coach Jason Calanog, The Bolles School, and assistant coach Miriam Lynch, senior coach of Nations Capital Swim Club. Coach Calanog during his time at Bolles has had swimmers qualify for the Olympic Games, Olympic Trials, World Championships, US Nationals, Junior Nationals, and Zone Teams. Sabir Muhammad also attended the camp speaking and teaching the swimmers. He also agreed to race many of the campers. Sabir was the first African American to win a medal at a major international swimming competition when he won silver and bronze medals at the 2000 Short Course World Championships. He has broken a total of 10 American records in his career. He made a big impact with all the swimmers. Bill Krumm of USA Swimming presented a video of the swimming competition from the 1930 Olympics in Berlin and it included pictures of Hitler attending the games. He led a discussion with the athletes on how much swimming has evolved since that time.

The athletes divided into teams and each selected a country to represent. They made flags for their countries and learned more about each country. The athletes also voted for the outstanding athlete leader, male and female, at the camp as well as the most improved male and female swimmer at the camp. The athletes went to the Cal Berkeley campus and visited with several of the athletes on the swim team. They also toured San Francisco including Alcatraz, the Golden Gate Bridge, and various sites in the city.

The diversity summit included talks by various speakers involved in diversity issues in swimming including how to attract more ethnic minorities to join local swim clubs and outreach issues.

Plans are underway for the 2016 camp. The committee will be releasing information for clubs and LSCs to bid to host the camp. The committee hopes to have a site selected by summer 2015.

Montana Swimming did not send any athletes or adults to the camp, but hopefully we will have representatives there in 2016.

Kent Yoshiwara of Pacific Swimming chairs the committee. Kent and Veronica Hernandez, also of Pacific Swimming, organized the camp for Cal State University East Bay. I serve on the committee and assist with fundraising and camp paperwork as well as take notes for the conference calls.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Huckleby
WZ Diversity Committee member

Camp Information: The camp is for athletes ages 13-16 at the time of the camp (generally grades 9-10). Each LSC will fund two athletes, a coach, their Diversity Chair, and any Diversity Summit participants to the camp. Funding will need to include their transportation to and from the camp and an additional fee of \$240.00 which will cover on campus rooming, all meal costs per person, and local event ground transportation including transportation to and from the airport in San Jose or Oakland to the camp site. Rooming costs are based on two person occupancy rooms. Athletes must have

qualified in at least one individual event in their local LSC championship meet in either SCY or LC seasons. In the event that there are no qualifying swimmers, the LSC can elect to send two athletes of its choice.

The three day camp program will include a combination of pool training, motivational and education sessions, networking and strategic planning sessions for members of each LSC, and team building activities. The campers will also participate in a local outreach event. An athlete social activity is also planned.