July 2, 2018

Dear HOST Families,

We are off to a great start to our 2018 swim season! Thanks to our wonderful families who continue to support HOST in so many ways, our generous corporate sponsors, and of course an amazing group of swimmers and their families which truly are the backbone of HOST. THANK YOU for all that you do for HOST and our swim community.

We strive to meet our challenge of keeping reasonable program costs while covering the continually increased pool expenses and our scholarships. One of the ways we do this is through our Lap-A-Thon. We want to thank our swimmers for being a part of the HOST family with a fun-filled morning. Besides challenging ourselves to swim as many laps as we can, we will be:

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* enjoying great refreshments (snack-able food items will be provided for your swimmers)
* taking photos of smiling faces
* cheering on our teammates as they push towards swimming as many laps as they can!
* RACING PARENTS and COACHES vs. KIDS in a Relay!!!!

**To make this happen, we need two things from you: Your swimmer's participation in the lap-a-thon fundraising, and parent volunteers to help cheer on our swimmers.**

**WHAT IS THE LAP-A-THON?**

On Friday, July 20th, swimmers will swim as many laps as they can in any stroke(s) they choose from 8:30am - 10:30am. Prior to that event, each swimmer will have the opportunity to raise pledges from family and friends for HOST. With monies raised, we can continue to offer outstanding coaching, fund our scholarships, and purchase new equipment (like lane lines, kick boards, etc.)

**FOR SWIMMERS: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?**

* Ask relatives, friends, & neighbors to pledge either a flat amount or per lap pledge. (Please no door-to-door)
* Note that information on the Sponsor Summary Sheet and provide the sponsor with a receipt (HOST will provide receipts for those requesting ones).
* Collect money before (for flat pledges) or after the Lap-A-Thon (checks payable to HOST).
* Turn in Sponsor Summary Sheet with all money by Wednesday, July 25th

**FOR PARENTS: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?**

* Assist your child (if needed, parents are welcome to help children swim their laps)
* VOLUNTEER! Your assistance is welcome to help donate food, count swimmers laps, and hand out refreshments.
* CHEER! Praising your swimmer and other swimmers is the best way to encourage our swimmers to swim more laps and it builds comradery amongst our HOST family
* SWIM! Parents, this is your chance to get in the water and show those kids that we are FAST! Join the coaches and race in a relay against the kids!

**HOW DO I GET SPONSORS?**

Getting sponsors is your most important job because it is the sponsors who will be donating money to our swim team. This is probably easier than you think – most people are happy to help! The key is to ask.

Step 1. Ask someone to be your sponsor: tell them who you are, what you are raising money for, and how they can help. Use your own words or say something like:

“Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I swim on the HOST swim team. I am raising money for my swim team by swimming in a Lap-A-Thon. During the Lap-A-Thon, I will work to reach my goal of XX laps (you can set your own goal!) . My swim team is a 501(c) 3 so your sponsorship donation is tax-deductible. Would you like to sponsor me? Thank you.”

Step 2. Explain that there are two ways to sponsor you—by lap or by a flat donation (a specific amount that does not depend on the number of laps).

* If the sponsor would like to make a flat donation, you can collect the money right then. Checks should be made out to HOST. When someone pays, write the amount in the “Amount Received” column on the Sponsor Summary Sheet.
* If a person chooses to sponsor you per lap, explain that you will contact them after the Lap-A-Thon to collect the donation. *Max of 200 laps*.

Step 3. Fill in the sponsor’s name on the Sponsor Summary Sheet. Ask the sponsor if they would like a receipt. If yes, check the box on the Sponsor Summary Sheet

Step 4. Fill in the “Flat Pledge” or “Pledge per Lap” amount on the Sponsor Summary Sheet.

* If you have relatives living far away, it is better to ask them for a fixed pledge so they can send the money at any time.
* If you write or email someone asking for a donation, have them make their check out to "HOST" and return it to you and not to HOST. You will turn in all your donations together after the Lap-A-Thon.

Step 5. After the Lap-A-Thon, the number of laps you swam will be given to parents before you leave the pool. Collect all monies due and turn in to one of your HOST Coaches, Board Members, or the folder in our "Blue Box" marked Lap-a-thon with your Sponsor Summary Sheet by Wednesday, July 19th. Receipts will be put in your family folder in our “Blue Box” at the pool for those requesting ones.

**PRIZES**

* Prizes for top 3 money-raisers: 1st place - $100 Amazon Gift Card, 2nd place - $50 Dick’s Gift Card, 3rd place - $25 iTunes Gift Card (may be exchanged if child does not have Apple Product).
* Raffle coupon awarded for every 25 laps swum – prizes include Chipotle Gift Card, Sweet Frog Free Yogurt, Swim Backpack, 2 Movie Tickets, HOST Spirit Wear Item of Your Choice, $10 Target Gift Card, $10 Five Below Gift Card and more!
* Coupon for a free ice cream from Chick-Fil-A for all participants

We look forward to your participation in our fun-filled Lap-a-thon!

**HOST BOARD**