

PEEPS

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Peeps?

Peeps is our swim team's entry-level practice group. The best way to describe Peeps is that it is similar to a group swim lesson, but in a swim team environment. Our intention for Peeps is to allow a larger number of children to experience how much fun it is to be a part of our team, even if they are not yet a strong swimmer.

Does my child need to know how to swim?

No. Our Peeps practice is designed to accommodate all children – from those who are just learning to blow bubbles all the way up to those who can swim a full length of the pool.

If there is such a large range of abilities in Peeps, how will my child get the attention they need to improve?

During the first week of practices, we will divide the Peeps swimmers into small groups based on ability.

In the shallow end, we will have children who are just starting to learn to swim and who are beginning to get comfortable with going under the water, floating on their backs, etc. Their instructors will be in the water with them, just like they would be for a swim lesson.

In each of the middle lanes, we will have small groups of swimmers who demonstrate basic, independent swimming skills but need hands-on, in the water help to improve their freestyle, backstroke, rotary breathing, kick and body position. The instructors will be swimming beside your children and will support them as they start to progress towards swimming an entire length of the pool.

In the far lane, we will have children who are comfortable swimming freestyle and backstroke for a length of the pool without any assistance. They will have a coach who is teaching them from out of the water, as this group is starting to transition towards a typical swimmer-coach interaction.

Once my child is placed in a group within Peeps, will they be in that group for the entire season?

Not necessarily. Since everyone develops at a different pace, we are constantly evaluating the swimmers. The coaches might move your child to a different group if at any point we feel that they would benefit from a different level of instruction.

How old does my child need to be for Peeps?

The minimum age for Peeps is 5 years old (as of June 1st). This group is primarily for 5 to 8 year olds, but in certain situations, this group may also be the best fit for children who are 9 and 10 who are just learning how to swim.

If my child is signing up for the Peeps practice group, do they need to go to the Afternoon practices?

No. Peeps practices do not start until the first day of morning practices. Morning practices start in June, after the Downingtown School District's last day of school.

If my child is signing up for Peeps, do they need to sign up for Time Trials?

No. Peeps swimmers are not required to participate in Time Trials. However, if your child can swim a length of the pool and wants to do Time Trials, we would love to have them there.

Should Peeps sign up for the Rooster Meet?

Yes! The Rooster Meet is one of the most fun traditions we have at Pennypacker, and we want all Peeps swimmers to sign up! The Rooster Meet is all about fun and not at all serious – with music, kids dancing on the pool deck, team cheers and events like the Doggy Paddle. We have specially planned events for Peeps where they will be in the water with one of our older swimmers who will help them safely participate.

Should my child sign up for JV meets?

As soon as your child can swim one length of the pool, we want them to participate in the JV meets. If you aren't sure if your child is ready, feel free to ask one of the Peeps coaches.

What is the Peeps Mid-Season Mini Meet?

The mid-season Mini Meet will take place during the regular Peeps practice time. It is a way for us to introduce the Peeps group to the concept of a swim meet in an environment they are already comfortable with. It's an exciting opportunity for you to see their progress, for your child to gain confidence, and for us to see if they are ready to sign up for JV meets, if they haven't already. And since we will have worked with your child for a few weeks at this point, we will make sure we have instructors in the water swimming next to any child who we feel may need extra support to get down the pool. That allows every single swimmer to participate in the excitement of the Mini Meet, but in a safe and developmentally appropriate way.

If my child is 5 - 8 years old, is Peeps the only practice group option for them?

No. If your child can swim 4 laps of freestyle, they will most likely be placed in our Younglings practice group. Your child should come to practices starting on the Tuesday after Memorial Day.

I am not sure if my child should be in the Peeps group, or if they are ready for the Younglings group. What should I do?

If you think your child *might* be able to swim 4 laps of freestyle, you should bring them to the first afternoon practice on the Tuesday after Memorial Day. We typically have all of our younger, new swimmers start in lane 1 and 2 so that we can watch them closely and make sure they are doing okay. If at any point the coaches feel that the Peeps practice group would be a better fit for your child, we will come and talk to you one-on-one.

If my child starts in the Peeps practice group, can they move up to the Younglings group at some point during the season?

Yes. We are continually evaluating all of our Peeps swimmers. If at some point during the season the coaches feel your child is ready for a slightly longer, more advanced practice, we will talk to you about having him or her move up to the Younglings practice group.

All Peeps swimmers will receive a team swim cap and will have the option of purchasing a swim team suit. They are invited to participate in all of our swim team events throughout the summer such as the Rooster Meet, Team Pictures, our Charity event, the Spirit Breakfast, and the end of season Party!

To participate in Peeps, please follow the Swim & Dive team registration instructions on the website.