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YMCA SWIMMING AND DIVING NEWS SPLASH AUTUMN 2017

YMCA National Championship Events

- Long Course – TBA
- Short Course – April 3-7, 2018 in Greensboro, NC
- Masters – April 19-22, 2018 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, in conjunction with YMCA National Diving Championships
- Diving – April 19-22 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, in conjunction with YMCA Masters Meet

YMCA Team and Coach Registration

- Began September 1. Deadline for short course season is December 1, 2017.
- New this year – all coach deck passes are electronic, available through the free TeamUnify OnDeck app.
- March 1 deadline to prevent \$60 coach registration fee at Short Course Nationals.
- The 2016-17 season ended with 639 YMCA teams and 2,275 YMCA coaches being registered in the annual Y Swimming registration system.

Y-USA Update

- Swimming Addendum to the Rules That Govern and the Sanction Rules documents are now updated for 2017-18 and posted on the national website.
- New resources are now available for our CEO/COO Partners to promote Y Swimming & Diving to fellow Y leaders.
- New resource for new Y teams and coaches is now available through Y Exchange.

Virtual Meet

- 2017 dates: October 21-29 (alternate dates for states with high school conflicts: November 18-December 3)
- Counts as a closed inter-association Y meet

USA Swimming Update

- At the U.S. Aquatic Sports Convention, USA Swimming delegates passed legislation to reduce the size of the board of directors and to put its focus on governance rather than operations. As a result the allied members of USA Swimming (YMCA and NCAA) will share a member of the board, starting in September 2018.
- USA Swimming also adopted a "Flex" membership category in which a swimmer may pay a smaller membership fee (maximum \$20/year) and compete in up to two (2) sanctioned USA Swimming meets per year.
- YMCA Swimming and USA Swimming leadership met and began the outline of a formal partnership agreement to define current and potential collaboration between the two organizations.
- Jeff Allen began as the Sport Development Consultant for the Eastern Zone this past summer. Jeff is a former YMCA coach (Wilton, Naperville), YMCA National Advisory Committee member and YMCA Coaches Association Chair. In addition to his Eastern Zone duties, Jeff will lead collaborative efforts with the YMCA.
- Scott Shea is the new Sport Development Consultant for the Western Zone. He is the former head coach and CEO of the Sierra Marlins and the Palo Alto Stanford Aquatics.

USA Diving Update

- At the U.S. Aquatic Sports Convention, USA Diving welcomed a new CEO and board members, creation of a new quad strategic plan was started.
- USA Diving by-laws were updated for the first time since 1987.
- The Y National Diving Championship was upheld as a qualifying meet for Jr. Nationals.

Coaches

A new Facebook page has been set up for YMCA swim coaches. It is a place to ask questions, exchange ideas and share resources. Search for YMCA Competitive Directors/Coaches in Facebook.

Officials

- Congratulations and thank you to Joel Black for serving two terms as the chair of the YMCA National Swim Officials Committee. His term ends in December 2017.
- Eddie Hughes, a long time YMCA Nationals Deck Referee, will be the new chair of the Officials Committee.
- Brad Bason is the new leader of the YMCA regional officials coordinators.
- Ed Miller and Paula Criel sent their annual Update to YMCA Swim Officials Trainers in September, highlighting rules changes, adjustments to the Course Materials and other important information for the Swim Officials Trainers.
- The Level I, Level II and AO tests have been updated for 2017-18.

Athletes

Applications for the 2017-18 Athlete Representatives to the National Championship Committees are being accepted through Oct. 20. Athletes will be named in early November.

Adolph Kiefer Memorial Fund

Adolph Kiefer, the beloved swimming champion and pioneer, passed away on May 5, 2017. He was a longtime member of the YMCA in Chicago and in his honor, a fund has been established to provide financial assistance for learn-to-swim programs in the YMCA. Adolph was a fervent instructor and advocate for teaching swimming and water safety. Follow this link to contribute. It is also located under a tab on the front page of the YMCA Swimming and Diving website.

https://yusa.formstack.com/forms/adolph_kiefer_memorial_fund

Notables

Congratulations to the following swimmers and coaches, each of whom currently represent their local Y or who graduated from their local Y team and now swim in college or post-grad programs. They represented the United States this summer in international competition.

Caroline Baldwin (Westfield, NJ Y) – World University Games Team

Jamie Bloom (Y of the Triangle Area) – U.S. Team Manager for the FINA Junior World Championships

Leah Braswell (York Y) – Member of 2017 U.S. FINA Junior World Championship Team

Kayla Brumbaugh (Rappahannock Area Y) – Member of 2017-18 U.S. National Team, World University Games Team

Austin Katz (Sarasota Y) – Member of 2017-18 U.S. National Team, World University Games

Katrina Konopka (Y of Greater Spartanburg) – World University Games Team

Ryan Held (Springfield, IL Y) – World University Games Team

Tim Phillips (Parkersburg Y) – Member of 2017-18 U.S. National Team

Spotlight

Raven Barto, a member of the Wheeler YMCA Swim Team in Plainville, Connecticut, didn't just spend her summer practicing and competing with her team. She used her free time to help the Bridge Family Center in West Hartford and earned the Girl Scout Silver Award as a result. When Raven, along with her friend, Lyndsey Koster, learned about the work of The Bridge and its impact across the region, they became passionate and committed to helping supply its shelters. The Bridge is a nonprofit agency that provides crisis and prevention services to families and children in the Greater Hartford area. Last year, they served approximately 10,500 children and families.

Raven and Lyndsey organized a donation drive at the Plainville YMCA and worked with Walmart to promote donations by shoppers. As a result, they were able to prepare 48 welcome bags for girls who arrive at one of The Bridge's three shelters for girls. The bags help the girls to feel welcome and cared for amidst the turmoil and stress that brought them there. Raven and Lyndsey also collected food, bottles water and cleaning supplies. The Bridge relies on donations and knew that the girls were organizing collections, but they did not expect the volume that was delivered by Raven and Lyndsey.

Amanda Aronson, Director of Marketing and Communications for The Bridge, shared that, "Not only did they support our programming through their donations, they helped educate the community about the vital residential work we do, as well as the mental health services we offer throughout our region."

Raven and her friend, Lyndsey, demonstrated that just a couple of people can make a difference in the lives of many and that those opportunities are alive all around us in our communities.

Content from The Bridge Family Center website -

<http://www.bridgefamilycenter.org/index.php/blog/farmington-students-earn-silver-award-and-support-bridge>