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Local athletes to compete for a national title at the U.S. Age Group Synchronized Swimming Championships on June 27

Beaverton OREGON(June 25, 2014)—10 members of the Tualatin Hills Synchro, synchronized swimming team are set to compete for a national title at the 2014 U.S. eSynchro Age Group Synchronized Swimming Championships from June 27-July 5 in Federal Way, Washington. The meet is the largest synchronized swimming meet in the world, and features competition in four age groups: 12 and under, 13-15, 16-17 and 18-19.

LOCAL QUALIFIERS INCLUDE:

Hailey Sun, age 8, Hope Chinese Charter School
Rochelle Huiqiong, age 9, Oak Hills Elementary
Elina SunWoo Yang, age 9, Cedar Mill Elementary
LeeLee Smith, age 11, Raleigh Park Elementary
Ainsley Knutson, age 11, Springville School
Juliet Malecha, age 11, Ainsworth Elementary
Valeria Peralta, age 13, West Sylvan Middle
Catalina Gillis, age 14, West Hills Christian
Sophie Harrison, age 14, Meadow Park Middle
Kathleen Sundin, age 18

These athletes will compete in 12 and under, 13-15 and 18-19 age group in team, trio duet and solo. They qualified for the national championships by placing among the top three finishers at the regional championships in Tacoma Washington, which featured top athletes from Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Montana.

Synchronized swimming requires a unique combination of strength, agility, endurance, flexibility and speed. The Tualatin Hills Synchro practice 4-6 hours per day, 4-6 days per week at the THPRD Aquatic Center. Elite-level synchronized swimmers typically practice eight hours per day, six days per week.

****Media opportunity:** Media are invited to observe a practice, or participate in a practice by donning a cap, goggles and a noseclip and learning a basic synchro routine.

The Tualatin Hills Synchro club has a history of success, having done well in the regional and past national competitions, as well as, sent athletes to US team trials. Led by head coach, John Ortiz, the club has been active in the community for more than 36 years.

On Thursday, June 26, the team is hosting a pre-nationals exhibition event. During the event, athletes will warm-up for the 2014 eSynchro Age Group Synchronized Swimming Championships by showcasing their competition routines. The community is welcome to

attend at 15707 SW Walker Rd Beaverton at 6:30 pm. The admission is a suggested donation of \$5 per person to help support nationals travel cost.

Parents interested in enrolling their children in a beginner's clinic or class can email thsclubrep@gmail.com for more information.

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