

Swim parents are beautiful when...

- You work a full day at a swim meet, then want to know where the team party is!
- You cheer for athletes who are not your own children.
- You drive car pools that would make a NYC cab driver dizzy in order to get people to practice or meets on time!
- You let the coach coach.
- You say "what did you learn?" to your ten year old who just got disqualified for an illegal turn.
- You understand that your child might not be picked for a relay team.
- You understand that only the four fastest swimmers can be on the "A" relay team.
- You help new parents "learn the ropes" in a positive way.
- You promote team unity.
- You applaud everyone's efforts and comfort those who need it.
- You realize that coaches are human, just like you, and feel terrible when they make a mistake - just like you.
- You overhear a disgruntled parent and you suggest that they speak to their child's coach not to other parents.
- You realize that one single swim is not all that is important. IT'S THE PROCESS THAT COUNTS.
- You congratulate your child's friend for doing a best time because recognition by another adult, besides a parent, is very important.
- You realize that every swimmer is a winner as long as they do their best.
- You support your child's swimming by helping support the organization that brings your child the opportunity.
- You operate a phone tree that helps tell the team that tomorrow's meet has been moved.
- You emphasize the importance of the "team" and cheering for teammates.
- You help handle paperwork so that the coach can do the coaching.
- You officiate a swim meet, even though you may have to DQ your own child. You appreciate your coach by bringing a bagels, banana bread, or juice to the early workouts or meets.

Become Involved ... But Not Too Involved

Be Involved	But Not <i>Too</i> Involved
Every swim team needs enthusiastic involvement from parents to be successful. Volunteering your time not only helps your child's team; it's also an enjoyable way to make new friends.	No swimming coach wants to be - or should be - second guessed by parents on coaching decisions.

Here are a few ways to become involved:

- Be an official
- Be a timer
- Be a team representative to the LSC
- Maintain equipment or facilities
- Be an announcer
- Raise Money
- Be a meet manager
- Drive car pools
- Work concessions
- Sell programs
- Be a Group Parent
- Join a committee
- Become a Board Member

Signs of parents being too closely involved include these:

- You are overly concerned with the outcome of an event.
- You spend a lot of time talking to the coach about race strategy, swimmers skill levels, the way he or she conducted practices, and how he or she coaches at meets
- Your child has stopped enjoying swimming or has asked you to stop coming to meets or practices
- You *require* your child to take extra practice