

## Heartland Swim Association's Annual Aquafest



### What is it?

Each year, we ask our swimmers to go out and solicit sponsors for our swim-a-thon, called Aquafest. Swimmers swim laps (any stroke) for one hour while a fellow swimmer or parent keeps count.

Donations are collected either by pledge of a certain amount per lap or in a flat donation. Unless a swimmer is collecting per-lap pledges, we ask that all donations be collected before the swim and turned in on Aquafest night. Thank you letters for donations, also useable for tax-deduction purposes, will be available on the deck or the team web site.

### When and where is it?

This year, we will be swimming on Wednesday, Oct. 14 from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Grossmont High School pool. Each group (Junior Gold, Gold, Senior Development, Senior) will be given a one-hour time slot to complete their swim. Ramona swimmers will swim with their respective age groups. Senior and Senior Development Teams will swim from 3:30-4:30; Gold Teams will swim from 4:45-5:45; and Junior Gold and Fall Special Teams will swim from 6:00-7:00. Groups will most likely warm up 15-30 minutes before their swim time.

### Why do we do this?

The annual HSA Aquafest is the biggest fundraiser we do all year and is designed to support ongoing activities for Heartland Swim Association. The money raised helps to keep our dues low, to pay for pool time at various high school facilities, to reimburse coaches' expenses for out-of-town meets and to pay our staff so we keep the best coaches in San Diego. Aquafest is intended for our year-round swimmers, but we encourage those swimmers who are in one of our fall "specials" to consider participating.

### How much money do we raise? Can we "buy-out"?

Each child is expected to raise \$100 in donations. However, if you would prefer a "buy-out" option, the cost is \$100 per family. We ask that you bring your "buy-out" before the Aquafest, but for those unable to do so, the "buy-out" will appear on your November bill. Those swimmers who are in a "special" will not be billed for the "buy-out." For those swimmers who are unable to participate on Aquafest night, your child can still collect flat donations for the team. Some coaches offer a make-up night for swimmers unable to attend.

### What's in it for the kids?

In addition to helping keep our outstanding program going through generous donations, swimmers also have the opportunity to earn prizes. This year, swimmers who raise at least \$100 in donations and turn in their money or show pledges equaling \$100 at Aquafest will get their choice of a \$5 gift card from Jamba Juice or Starbucks. They will get their gift cards that night! The swimmer who collects the most donations will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Paradowski's. Coaches also may be offering additional incentives to their teams.

### How can I help?

You can help by supporting your child in getting donations in advance. On the night of the Aquafest, you can count laps and/or provide drinks, food and snacks to feed the swimmers when they have completed their laps.

**For more information contact Keith Rizzo at 619-307-1826**