



2015 PPR Aquatics Recap

By Lisa Whittle, Aquatics and Ice Rinks Coordinator

Little Quaker Swim Meet



Philadelphia Parks & Recreation's Little Quaker Swim Meet was held on August 5 at the Awbury Pool, located in District 4. It was a beautiful sunny day where approximately 90 swimmers, ages 5 through 8, competed against one another. The swimmers participated in races consisting of freestyle, backstroke and the flutter kick with a kickboard. The competitors and spectators both had a great time. The spectators cheered for all of the children, making it an enjoyable day. Maureen Maier and Terri Kerwawich, both Program Directors, stopped by to support the event. Special thanks to all of the staff for their help and dedication to the event and making it a success.

Youth Swim Meet

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation held the culminating championship for youth ages 9-16 at the Lee Pool, located in District 8 on August 12. The winners from the seven district swim meets moved on to attend and compete in this championship meet. Each district was able to send three youth for both male and female in freestyle, backstroke, butterfly and breaststroke in four age categories. All was calm and relaxing until we had those freestyle relays that create so much energy for both competitors and coaches. The deck was very crowded on the hot, summer day with spectators of all ages. Special thanks to retirees Eileen Sheridan and Paulette Copeland Bolton for helping us out at the event. Thank you to the staff of the Lee Pool who assisted with the preparation of the meet and again to all of the program staff who worked as an announcer, awards placements, clerk, recorder, starter and runner for the smooth sailing of the event.





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Lifeguard Competition



The annual Lifeguard Competition was held at the Vogt Pool, located in District 2. This event was open to all of our seasonal pool staff where the staff came to participate in swimming events, dancing and music courtesy of PPR's Patty-Pat Kozlowski. Door prizes and food was available for all of the participants. All staff who attended received a raffle ticket to win prizes

such as Phillies tickets, iPad mini, Fit Bit, a wireless speaker and other gift cards. A commemorative t-shirt was given to everyone for the end-of-summer celebration. There were approximately 250 summer staff along with permanent staff at the pool to help ensure a fun night for everyone. Many thanks to all of the staff who helped time the event, register people at the door, help with the food, and do whatever was necessary to make the night a huge success. Thank you, staff, without your help, the event would not be so successful. Special thanks to John Brady and his pool staff for going above and beyond to prepare and clean up for the event. I would like to thank Anne Marie Dunne who always supports the aquatics events with big participation of swimmers and always sends enough staff to assist at the meets. I appreciate the support!

Pop-Up Pool Project

The first [Pop-Up Pool Project](#), held at the Francisville Pool, was a great success. The pool was very active over the course of the summer with both yoga and aqua-zumba held every week. The participation was great and enjoyed by the many people who attended on a weekly basis. This was the first of a kind for us at PPR, and it was a very welcoming experience at Francisville. Thank you to the staff of Francisville for giving it a go and experiencing both the positive and the learning experiences of the Pop-Up Pool.

A special thank you goes out to the hardworking crew of District 6 under the direction of Warren Gillis, for both the start up and the shut-down of the furniture, planters, greenery and the palm trees. Pictured here is the removal





and saying goodbye to the palm trees of the Francisville Pool.

Lifeguard Class at Kendrick



An end-of-summer lifeguarding course was held at the Kendrick Recreation Center Pool with 11 students taking advantage of the low-cost course held over the span of four days. The instructors were Peg Fredlund, Thelma Nesbitt and Herb Brown; lifeguard Gabriel Presley assisted with the class too. An inspiring story which made everyone smile was a new candidate, Geraldo (pictured at left), who wanted to take advantage of the course because it was only four days as he works 4-10 p.m. during the fall at KFC. This swimmer came from the Athletic Recreation Center with his friend Donald, currently a lifeguard working for PPR at Athletic. He couldn't pass the screening elements on the first day and told me he was quitting after only 45 minutes. He decided to stay with his friend for the day, and he returned on Tuesday and passed all of the skills. He told me, "I was having a bad day yesterday with a bad attitude." I told him how thrilled we were to see him return and pass the course. He didn't accept his failure on Monday and recognized that

he could try harder the next day. He smiled from ear to ear when he passed the screening elements, and by Thursday he passed the course. I will remember his smile of success and thank the instructors for their encouraging words.

[View more pictures of the events above on the PPR Tumblr page.](#)