

CHAPERONE APPLICATION

Name: _____ Male _____ Female _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

Team your swimmer is presently with _____ How Long: _____

How many years have you been involved with USAS swimming _____

Other prior USAS Teams associated with _____

Have you ever chaperoned 16 or more children before: _____

If so when, how long, and what age groups: _____

What type of event was involved: _____

How many travel meets have you attended while working as a chaperone and when: _____

How many travel meets where you in charge of and for what age groups and when: _____

Do you have a valid California Driver's license _____ License Number: _____

Do you have any traffic violations? _____ If so what type of violation _____

When did violation occur _____

You will be required to submit a copy of a recent DMV report as ell as current insurance information prior to be selected for the Zone Team.

Please submit the following application either by e-mail to: Dennis Hooten at dshooten@sbcglobal.net or mail to: Dennis Hooten 5611 Guthrie Place Davis, California 95616.

Applications must be received no later than Saturday, JULY 26, 2008. Postmarks will not count.

Sizing Information

Chaperon's Name _____

Please Indicate: T-Shirt Size: Adult _____ Small Medium Large X-Large

Sweat Suit Child _____ Small Medium Large X-Large

Adult _____ Small Medium Large X-Large

Short Size: Women's Small Medium Large X-Large
Men's Small Medium Large X-Large

Profile of a Chaperone

These are just a few of the crucial characteristics that are required to be an effective chaperone.

ENERGETIC. The Chaperone must be able to keep up with the kids on the trip. This means functioning with little sleep. The hours you will keep on a trip are usually from 5:30/6:00am to 11:30pm/12:30am.

FLEXIBLE. You must be able to go with the "FLOW". Which means that things can change at the drop of a hat. We try to make a schedule so that everyone know when and where we need to be but unfortunately that doesn't always work out. Changes are communicated quickly and it will be your job to notify the age group you are responsible for.

EVEN- TEMPERED. You need to keep your cool. At the end of the week you will be tired but must be able to maintain a good attitude, after all you will be around 80 kids all between the ages of 9 to 18. How hard can that be?

ENCOURAGING. It is important that you be able to encourage the kids. Many of them will not have their parents attending the meet and will appreciate it if you cheer them on when they swim. You will need to encourage your group to interact with each other. Many times this happens on it's own, but when it doesn't (like with the 9-10 or 11-12 boys & girls) you will have to help them along. Also, keeping watch to make sure no one is left out. It is important that everyone has a great experience on the trip and an integral part of that is for him or her to feel like they are part of the TEAM. Also, let them know how important it is that everyone participate in the cheers and activities at the meet. Be ENTHUSIASTIC, it is contagious!

TEAMWORK. Chaperones are looked at as part of the TEAM and expect that you will take part in the TEAM cheers, wear the team uniform you will receive and support the swimmers. On past trips we have found that everyone enjoys the trip more when you get involved and caught up in the excitement with the kids.

DIRECTION and INITIATIVE. You must be able to take both. Direction: The Head Chaperone will meet with the Chaperones and go over the plan for the day. This will include requests for help making sure items arrive at the pool, like tarps, snacks and swimmers. You will receive directions and be expected to follow them. Initiative: If you see something that needs to be done do it, don't wait to be asked. You will notice that as jugs or trays are emptied the kids won't refill them so you will need to put the food out, refill the water jugs, refill empty snack containers all without being asked to do so.

SUPPORTIVE. The Coaches will be relying on us and we will be relying on them. We all need to work together and support each other. I am sure that there will be times when a decision is made that not everyone will agree that it is the best thing to do, BUT it is imperative that as a Chaperone you do not criticize any Coach or Chaperone in front of the kids or parents that may be there. If a problem should arise please address it privately with the HEAD CHAPERONE TEAM MANAGER or HEAD COACH.

SENTRY. This is probably a job you did not expect, but kids are kids and remember they are away from home. You may have some, usually the 13-14 & 15-16 age group, who will try to escape to each other's rooms. We (Chaperones & Coaches) will need to do a bed check right before lights out. We usually "patrol" the halls for about 45-60 minutes after lights out to make sure everyone gets a good night's sleep. You must be visible. You do not go to bed or into your room until all children are in theirs.

ATTIRE. The Head Coach will let everyone know the night before what to wear the next morning. He will let us know between trials & finals what the team will be wearing to Finals. It is important that you take a look at all of your kids to make sure they are in the proper Team uniform for the day prior to leaving the hotel.

REPRESENTATIVE. You will be there representing SIERRA NEVADA SWIMMING. Be sure that you and your swimmers are always aware of that. If the group is rude, swearing or just generally misbehaving it is not going to be good for the TEAM. We must always keep this in mind and be aware that people will know where you are from and your actions will reflect on the entire league.

CHAPERONES DON'T PARENT. This may be the most difficult as the chaperones will probably all have children swimming, but it is important that you know before you go your first job is being a chaperone. We do not assign parents to their child's age group (although we have made exceptions under some circumstances). We have found that it makes for a better experience for both the swimmer and the parent. You must not interfere with the Chaperone that is responsible for your child, it is very important for them to "bond". This doesn't mean that you can't talk to your child, watch them swim or that they can't ask you for money. But it does mean that you don't take off with them, contradict their chaperone or focus solely on them. You will have up to 16 kids to take care of. You may be asked to remain at the hotel with a swimmer who is ill, to go assist the Head Chaperone or take your age group back to the hotel. This will mean that although we are chaperones because we want to be there for our kids we may not always get to see them swim or spend as much time with them as we may want.

CRITICISM. We all have to be able to take constructive criticism. You may be asked to stay on the floor with your age group, to let the Head Chaperone know where you are going to be, to check to see if you can take kids to the store or reminded to be on time. Please don't take these things personal, the Head Chaperone or Team manager will be the one who will give you this feedback and generally this only comes to make sure the week will run smoothly.

We have tried to outline some of the qualities that we will be looking for in our Chaperones. If you have any questions about anything feel free to contact me. I am open to any suggestions. You will work hard and you will be tired BUT you will have a great time.