

BGSC Parents:

Information regarding the BGSC Volunteer Commitment.

Since its inception over 40 years ago, the BGSC has been a parentally-run organization receiving no funding from the school systems, the city, USA Swimming, or any other outside source. The question of requiring parental work has arisen in each of the three decades I've been associated with the BGSC, usually more than once in each decade. Now it appears in a fourth. Boards have spent hours debating and deliberating the issue, perhaps adjusting a little here and a little there, but in every case sticking to the requirement.

The decision was made in the 1980s, soon after the BGSC introduced a USA Swimming program, that the parents would be responsible for the fund-raising, not the kids. No magazine subscriptions door-to-door, no candied fruits, no seeking contributions for a certain time swum in a certain event or a certain number of laps completed; in the case of the BGSC, if I remember correctly, it was large trash or lawn bags from door to door. The kids' job was to train, learn and swim, train, learn and dive, not fund the program.

The decision was also made, once a USA Swimming program existed, that the best and most productive way to raise funds was to run USA Swimming meets, first a Winter meet, then we added a Summer meet. And it seemed a bonanza that the BGSU SRC approached us to provide timers at the High School District meet for pay; Ron Zwierlein would walk quietly behind me and press cash into my hand, held behind my back, as we finished the last session of the meet: a whole \$160. And then, eventually, the Club gained enough confidence (and became tired enough of having to drive to Keating Natatorium at St. Xavier, Cincinnati and having to put up with the terrible deck and air quality conditions) to bid for, first, the Ohio Senior Championships and then for JOs.

To do this required parental voluntarism (or directed involuntarism). And it has worked. Indeed, all of age-group swimming in the United States depends on parental involvement. These meets help supplement our annual budget.

Accommodations may be appropriate in particular situations. But not broad accommodations that undercut the principle of family involvement.

Trk (Tom Knox, Alumni Representative to the BGSC Board of Directors)