

From: U.S.Masters Swimming
To: Local and National Volunteers
Subject: STREAMLINES for Volunteers
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022



STREAMLINES for Volunteers

May 2022

Dear Volunteer,

CEO Dawson Hughes and I look forward to sharing the Board of Directors' [vision for the future of U.S. Masters Swimming during a webinar](#) on May 31 at 8 p.m. Eastern time.

This webinar will go over the board's new strategic priority of placing greater emphasis on the local experience of our members as well as the structural changes we hope the House of Delegates will consider this year and next. (If you're unable to attend, a recording will be made available.)

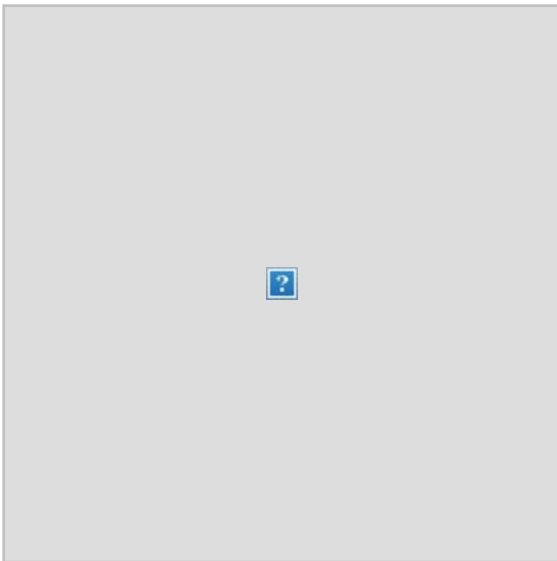
In preparation for the [annual meeting on Sept. 16-18](#), I encourage LMSC leadership to consider whether attending in person is the best use of your LMSC's resources. We will offer an opportunity to attend virtually, which will save LMSCs money that could be used providing their members benefits and allow more people the chance to attend.

Committee and Zone meetings will again be conducted through Zoom in the weeks leading up to the meeting. There will also be legislative forums conducted virtually to allow delegates to understand USMS Rule Book amendments in advance of the annual meeting. More details will be available in the coming weeks and months.

Looking forward to a great summer in the pool, lake, river, and ocean,

Peter Guadagni
President | U.S. Masters Swimming

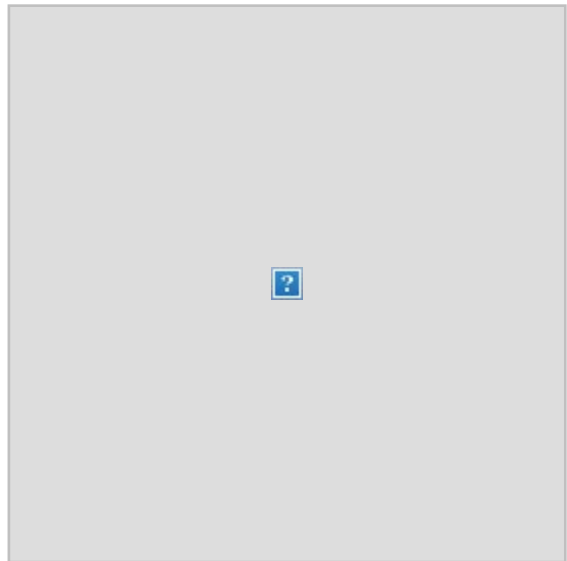
[Upcoming Educational Opportunities](#)



ALTS Community

These sessions are coordinated by relevant national committees, hosted by subject-matter experts, focused toward a specific group of volunteers

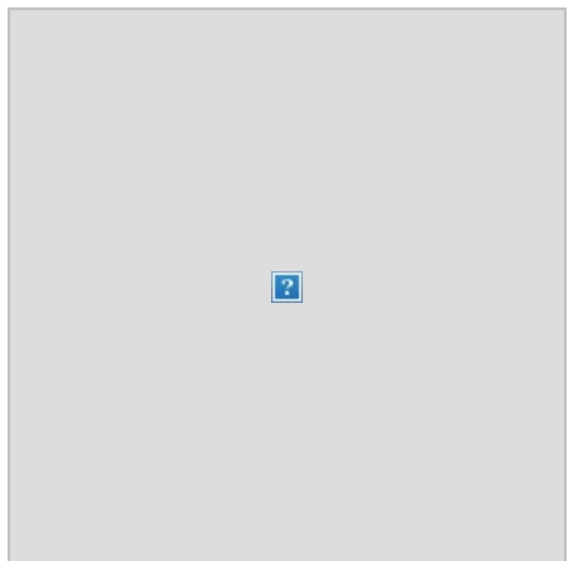
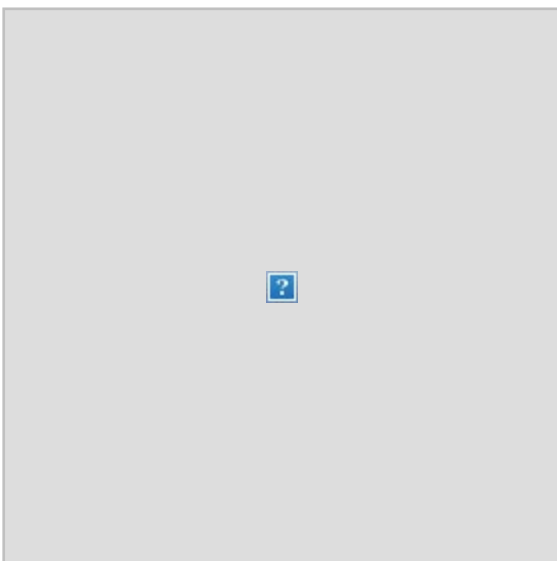
May 12 - Inviting ALTS Graduates to 'Try Masters Swimming'



Peer-to-Peer

Hosted by the LMSC Development and/or relevant national committee for a specific LMSC role focused on establishing and growing mentoring relationships

June 2 - LMSC Communication Coordinator



LMSC Update

Hosted by the LMSC Development Committee to review webinar schedule, how to sign up for a national committee meeting as a guest, & highlight info for LMSC volunteers

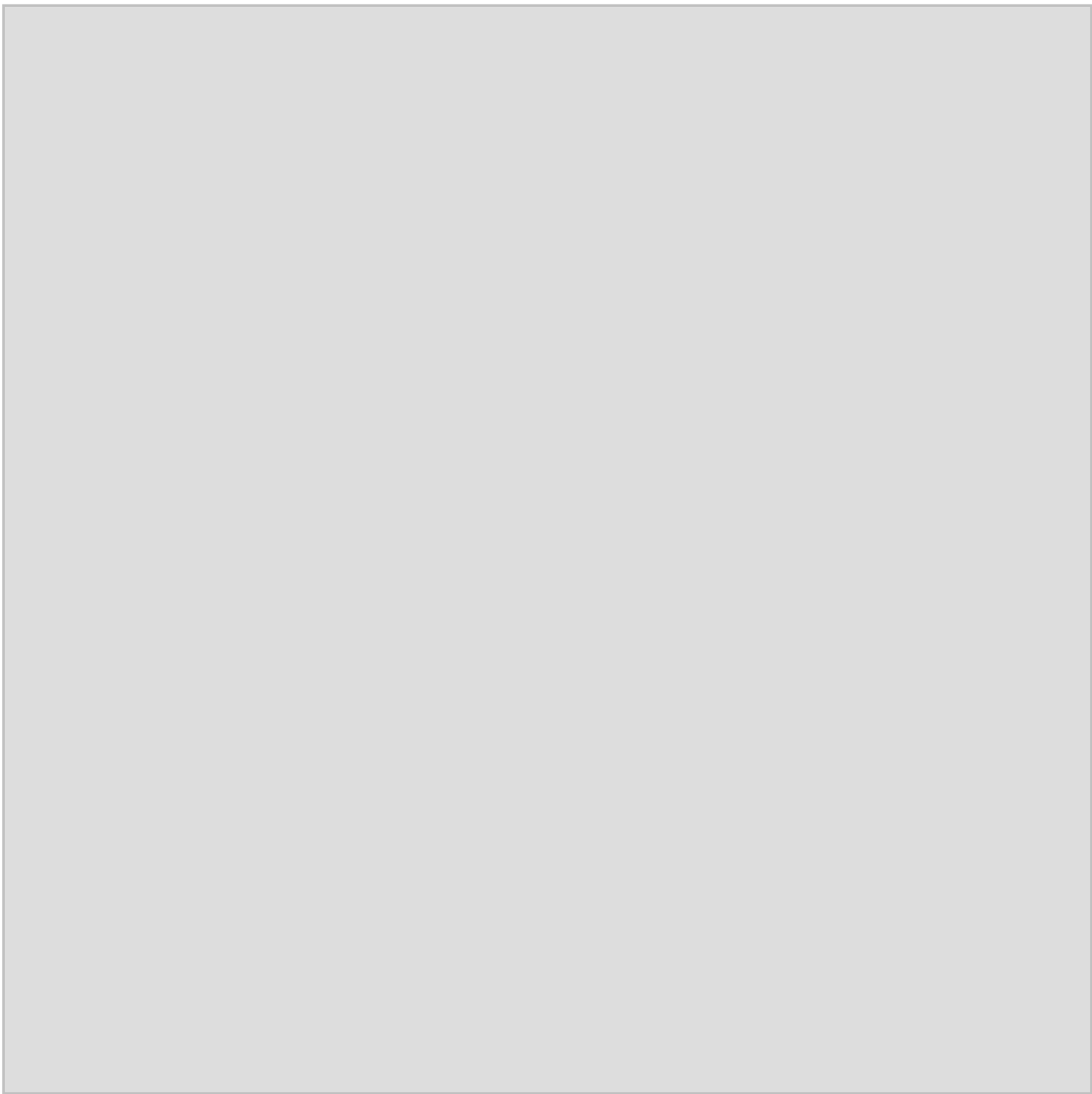
May 26 - Volunteer Development

Coaches Community

These sessions are coordinated by relevant national committees, hosted by subject-matter experts, focused toward a specific group of volunteers

May 19 - Learn about Try Masters Swimming

Important Deadlines



Volunteer Working Calendar

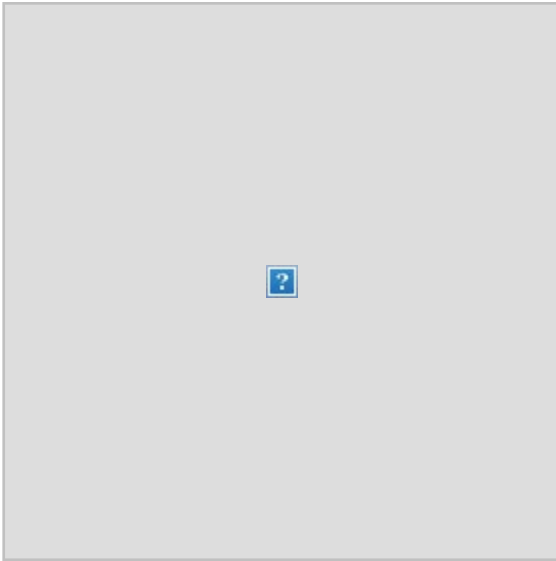
We've put together a working calendar for our national and local volunteers to help them stay up to date with important information and dates throughout the calendar year. The working calendar will include national initiatives, important registration information, deadline reminders, educational webinars, national events, observed holidays, etc.

Events such as the annual meeting and Relay will be listed on the volunteer calendar with their event date(s). These events will continue to have their own robust digital calendars built separately containing their specific schedule of events and meeting times as more details are developed.



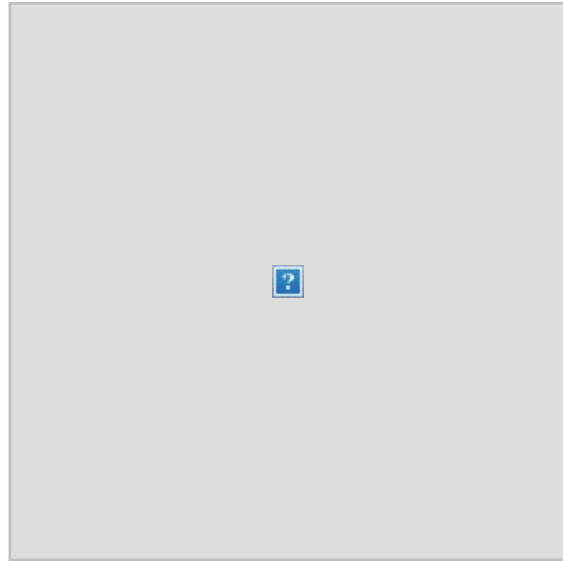
[View Calendar](#)

Upcoming USMS Initiatives



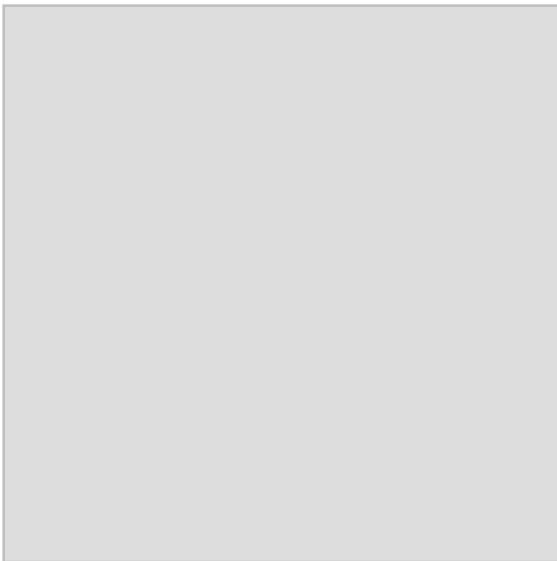
Reach out to Meet Directors in your LMSC to ask how you can help with their events this year

[Calendar of Events](#)



Reach out to Clubs to ask how you can help with Try Masters Swimming Month

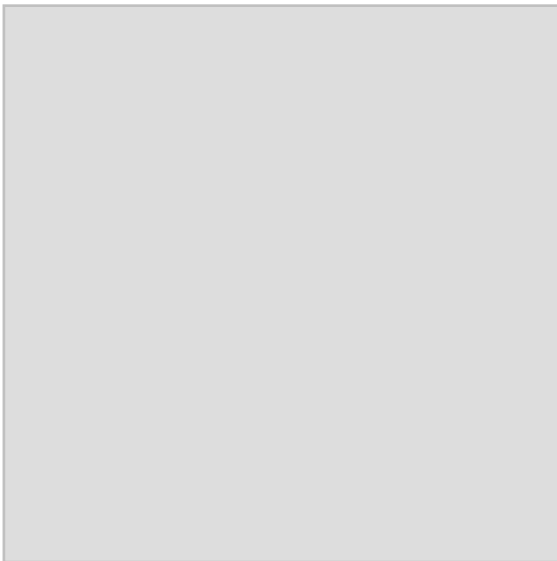
[Try Masters Swimming Initiative](#)



Volunteer Service Awards

USMS presents a number of awards annually to members who have excelled in various areas. Nominations for most awards are due July 1, except the Capt. Ransom J. Arthur M.D. Award.

[Click Here](#)



Proposed Rule Book Amendments

All proposed changes to the USMS code of regulations and rules of competition must be submitted by June 10, 2022 to be considered by the House of Delegates at the 2022 Annual Meeting. Early submissions are highly encouraged.

[Process Overview](#)

Aaron Norton Lends Help to USMS Clubs in Need

By Kristina Henry

Aaron Norton has loved swimming his entire life.

He was drawn to the water at age 2 by the backyard pool at his family's house, and he went through all the available swim lesson classes at age 7 so quickly that the instructor suggested he try out the local club team. He then swam in high school and at the University of Utah, but needed a break from the sport after college.

“I took 15 years off and got fat,” the South Davis Masters member says, laughing. “Getting back in the pool was both a want and a need.”

He serves both the Utah LMSC and the LMSC Development Committee. Here’s more about Norton and the unique role he’s in within his LMSC.

Kristina Henry: How did you become a USMS volunteer?

Aaron Norton: When I got back in the water about 10 years ago, I had no idea what Masters Swimming even was, but I found my local team through doing internet searches. Once I started, I fell in love all over again with swimming.

About four years later, the head coach for our team asked if I would be willing to serve as the sanctions chair for the LMSC. Again, I had no idea what that was, but since it involved swimming, I said, “Sure!”

Volunteering in the LMSC was both fun and a new experience. That next year, I went to my first annual meeting and enjoyed it so much that I stayed involved. Since then, I have done sanctions, been the Utah LMSC Chair, and am now the Northwest Zone chair. On our Utah LMSC, I currently serve as the club development chair.

Kristina: Can you tell us more about your work as the Utah LMSC’s club development chair?

Aaron: The club development position is something relatively new in our LMSC. It came about by our LMSC realizing that there were many small groups of people who were swimming at many different locations but not really organized into any type of team structure. We set up a position with the charge to reach out and help those groups become more organized and, if they desire, even set up a Masters club.

The real scope of this role is still being worked out because we’re learning as we’re going. Right now, we’re in the “reaching out” phase to see where the needs are and then determine where the LMSC can dedicate some resources to help out. As an example, we have one group that wants to put on a swim meet for the first time, so we’re helping them set that up and helping them run it.

Kristina: How can other LMSCs start a similar role?

Aaron: The best way for other LMSCs to implement a similar role is to first create the position! Then, find someone passionate about getting small

groups organized. It helps if they themselves came from one or have ever tried swimming on their own and understand how difficult that can be. Then, they need to go out and find these groups. We've found that many rec centers have "adult swimming" or "masters swimming" groups on their website but do nothing else to support it. We can search for those key terms and contact them.

Kristina: What work do you do for the LMSC Development Committee?

Aaron: Coming from a small LMSC, it's been a big interest of mine to help volunteers know how to best serve in their LMSC. Many small LMSCs don't have the succession planning or institutional knowledge to pass along to new members, as was my case when I began as sanctions chair, so I have felt that revamping our LMSC role descriptions has been a great place to start. Relay 2022 was another great step in this direction.

Kristina: What do you do outside the pool?

Aaron: I'm a hydrogeologist working for our local electrical utility company. For fun, I love to be outdoors and go backpacking. I also love, love, love open water swimming. Here in Utah, we're very fortunate to have many lakes and reservoirs that are wonderful to swim in. However, drought conditions made that difficult last year.

Kristina: What's your fondest USMS memory?

Aaron: I have two. Meeting Rowdy Gaines at the annual meeting a few years ago. He was awesome to talk to! Every year, we also do a local open water swimming event called "The Tour of Utah Lakes," where we swim 1 mile in six lakes in one day. We drive to a lake, swim a mile, then hop back in our cars, and drive to the next one until we hit all six. It has been such a blast to organize and participate in those events.

Connect With U.S. Masters Swimming!

We'd love to hear your stories. Follow us on your favorite social media channel and let us know how swimming is a part of your day.



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