



Communication Tools and USMS Resources for Volunteers

Presenters

Bethany Burchill and Jacky Merianos

Agenda

- Introductions
- Channels of Volunteer Communication
- USMS Website
- Volunteer Calendar
- Role-Specific Communication
- STREAMLINES for Volunteers
- Community Forums
- Peer-to-Peer Groups
- Webinars
- Q&A



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Bethany Burchill

- USMS Member & Club Services
- Unattached, Florida LMSC
- Ex-Officio, USMS LMSC Development Committee



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Jacky Merianos

- Lone Star Masters / Dallas YMCA Masters, TX
- Coach, competitor, open water enthusiast
- Chair, South Central Zone
- Chair, North Texas LMSC
- USMS Coaches & LMSC Development Committees
- Certified USMS Level 3 Coach & ALTS Instructor



Question

How many volunteers does USMS have supporting their mission across the country?



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Meet & Race Directors

LMSC Chairs and Committee members

Officials

LMSC Officers

A Whole Lot

National Board of Directors

National Committee Members

Zone-Level Leadership

LMSC and Club Volunteers



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Question

How do our hundreds of volunteers stay connected, informed, and properly educated?



Volunteer Communication

If you know where to look and what to look for, you're in good hands!



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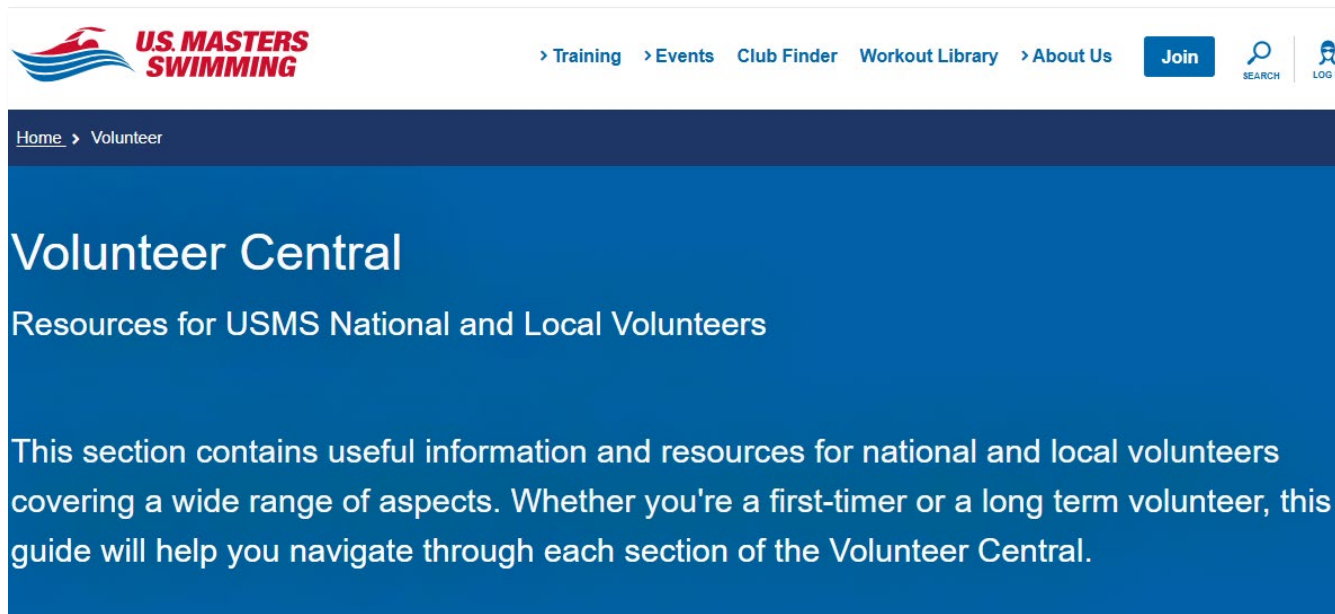
Volunteer communications channels

1. USMS website
2. USMS volunteer working calendar
3. Role-specific emails from the National Office
4. STREAMLINES for Volunteers newsletter
5. Community Forums
6. Peer-to-Peer groups
7. USMS volunteer webinars



USMS Website

An information hub for all USMS volunteer resources. This is a great starting point for new volunteers, as all role requirements, documents, and resources are easily accessible.

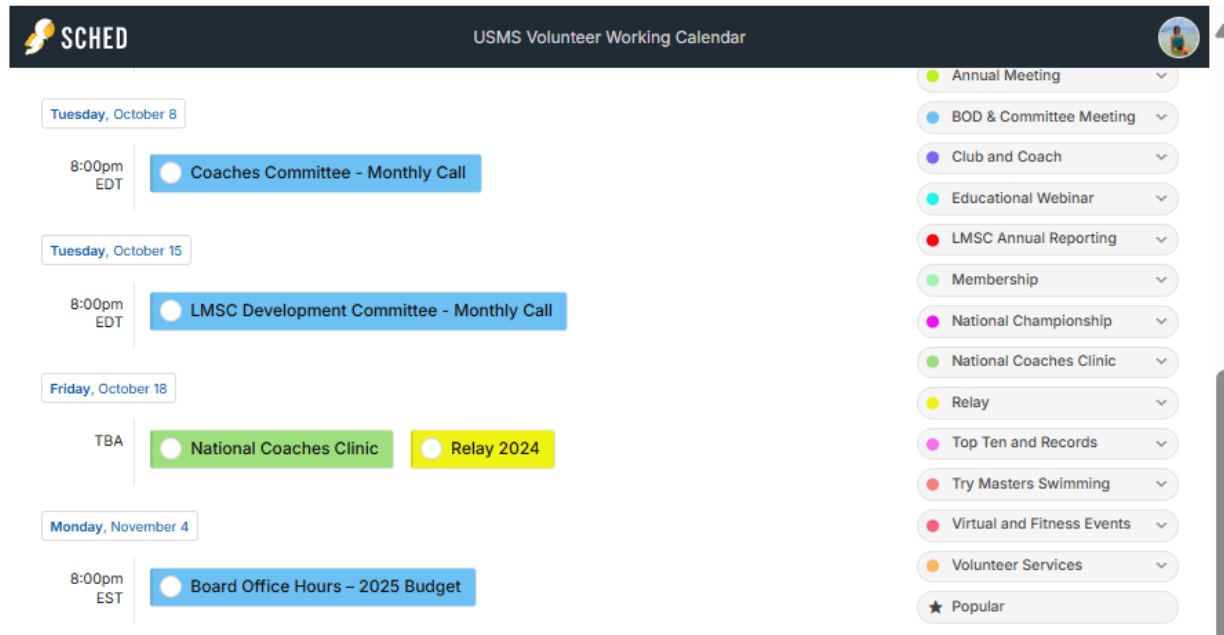


We recommend starting with Volunteer Central:
www.usms.org/volunteer-central



USMS volunteer working calendar

A calendar of events for national and local volunteers, inclusive of important dates and deadlines throughout the calendar year.



To access the USMS Volunteer Working Calendar, visit:
www.usms.org/volunteer-central/volunteer-working-calendar

Role-specific emails from the National Office

Email communication from the National Office targeting a specific volunteer group within USMS. (e.g. - all Sanction Chairs, all Treasurers, etc.).

Relay 2024 agenda, details, and deadlines Inbox x



Jessica Reilly
to USMS, Jessica ▾

Wed, Aug 28, 8:23 AM (2 days ago) ☆ ↶ ⋮

Dear LMSC Chairs, Vice Chairs, Membership Coordinators and Treasurers,

[Relay 2024](#) is nearly 50 days away. We can't wait to gather in Houston October 18-20. Here are important details and updates to [help with your LMSCs planning](#):



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STREAMLINES for Volunteers newsletter

Monthly newsletter sent directly to your inbox. Streamlines newsletters for Volunteers include regular updates, news, and valuable information from the USMS National Office.



STREAMLINES for Volunteers

July 2024

NOTE: There are three different Streamline newsletters - *Streamlines* (for all USMS members), *Streamlines for Coaches* and *Streamlines for Volunteers*. Every newsletter is sent out once per month.



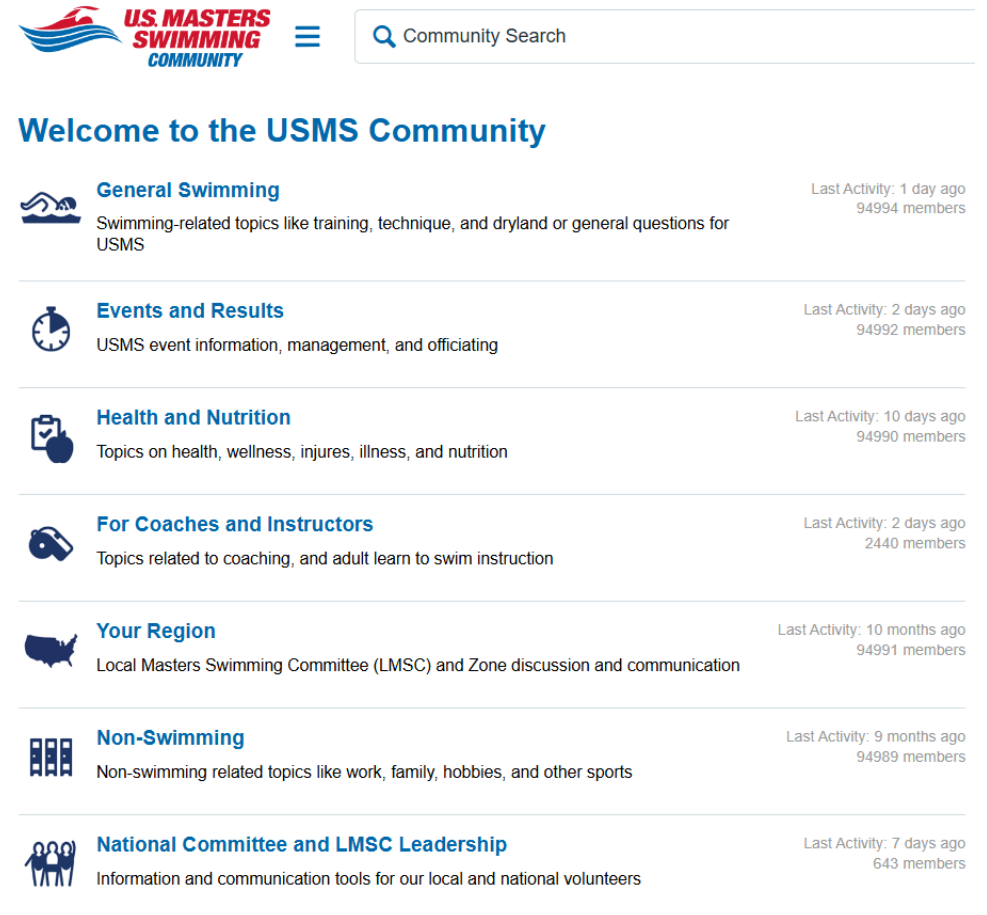
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USMS Community Forums

Like Reddit, for Masters Swimming!

A social platform where volunteers can connect, exchange information, ask questions, and support one another. The Community Forums are a place for volunteers to seek out specific advice and discover ideas from volunteers across the country.

You may access the community forums via the USMS website. <https://community.usms.org/>
You must be logged in to your USMS account.



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the US Masters Swimming Community logo on the left, a search bar labeled "Community Search" on the right, and a hamburger menu icon in the center. Below the navigation bar is a heading "Welcome to the USMS Community". The main content area lists eight forum categories, each with an icon, a title, a description, and activity statistics:

- General Swimming**: Swimming-related topics like training, technique, and dryland or general questions for USMS. Last Activity: 1 day ago, 94994 members.
- Events and Results**: USMS event information, management, and officiating. Last Activity: 2 days ago, 94992 members.
- Health and Nutrition**: Topics on health, wellness, injuries, illness, and nutrition. Last Activity: 10 days ago, 94990 members.
- For Coaches and Instructors**: Topics related to coaching, and adult learn to swim instruction. Last Activity: 2 days ago, 2440 members.
- Your Region**: Local Masters Swimming Committee (LMSC) and Zone discussion and communication. Last Activity: 10 months ago, 94991 members.
- Non-Swimming**: Non-swimming related topics like work, family, hobbies, and other sports. Last Activity: 9 months ago, 94989 members.
- National Committee and LMSC Leadership**: Information and communication tools for our local and national volunteers. Last Activity: 7 days ago, 643 members.



Peer-to-peer volunteer groups

A network of like-minded volunteers. Peer-to-peer groups are made up of other individuals serving in the same volunteer role. In these groups, volunteers will support and learn from one another through shared knowledge and discussion.

**ACTION
REQUIRED**

There are two ways you can sign up for peer-to-peer today:

1. Scan one of the QR Codes hanging around the facility
2. Register via the surveys posted in the USMS Volunteer Forums.



USMS volunteer webinars

An opportunity for live and interactive information sharing. Webinars provide volunteers with the opportunity to view role-specific presentations, learn from other volunteers, and engage in discussions in real-time.



New volunteer webinars will be back on our volunteer calendar soon! In the meantime, if you'd like to view webinars from years prior, you may do so here:

[USMS Webinar Library](#)



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Questions & Answers

Don't be afraid. Ask away.
(If you're thinking it, someone else
probably is too!)