

Henry Moses Aquatic Center

Youth Swimming Lesson FAQ

Who is in charge of the swim lesson program?

Brandi Burke currently supervises the program and is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the lesson program. You may contact Brandi at 425-430-6712 or via email at bburke@rentonwa.gov.

Once lessons begin in June, Julie Howe is the swim lesson coordinator and is responsible for daily program details, including instructor training and evaluation, scheduling lessons, and authorizing transfers for individual students. Julie has been teaching lessons here at the aquatic center for many years. Julie is at the pool every morning and available to address your questions or concerns. Once lessons have begun, please feel free to contact Julie in person, via email (jhowe@rentonwa.gov) or by telephone (425-430-6780).

What ages are included in your group swim lesson program?

The youth program includes ages 6 months to 12 years.

How do you divide the different age groups?

Youth lessons are divided into 3 different age groups and then divided again by skill level. Starfish (1 level) are 6 months to 3 years (with parent or guardian). Sea Otters (3 levels) are 3 to 5 years of age. Orcas (7 levels) are 6 to 12 years old. Students must reach the minimum age during the session for which they are registering. Only the Swimming Lesson Coordinator is authorized to make exceptions to the age guidelines.

When do you offer youth lessons?

- Weekday morning lessons run Monday-Thursday 8:00-10:25 a.m. and all classes are 25 minutes in length.
- Weekday evening lessons run Mon/Wed or Tue/Thurs 6:30-7:25 p.m. and all classes are 25 minutes in length.
- Private lessons are 30 minutes in length and scheduled as available.

How do I determine what class is best suited for my child?

Please refer to the Quick Assessment Criteria or the Individual Skill Sheets (available online and at the front desk) to begin the process. Both new and returning students will have a fairly accurate idea of what class they need, especially if they took some swim lessons in the off-season. If you have a progression card from another facility, it will help with the placement. We would rather have students succeed in a class that is appropriate, than to struggle in one that is beyond their abilities. If Julie is available to help, she will be glad to answer any questions. If a child is somehow placed incorrectly, we will do everything possible to put them in the right class on the first day. Sometimes a shortage of classes and space does not allow for that, but we will give it our best effort.

Do you offer private/personal lessons?

Yes, we offer private lessons, however they are offered only when we have additional instructors available. Private Lesson Request forms are available at Rentonwa.gov/HMAC. Julie will contact you to schedule your private lesson after June 17, 2016.

Can I request a particular teacher for a class?

Julie will be happy to take your requests, but there is no way to insure the request will be possible. Schedules for the next session are finalized at least one week in advance. Not all instructors are available to teach in all sessions or time slots.

If my child is sick, injured, or for some reason unable to attend a lesson, are there make-up lessons?

No, there are no make-up lessons. If your child is ill, it is best to keep them out of the water. We will not withdraw a student if they miss a class. If your child will miss an extensive amount of time and is unable to finish a session due to serious illness or injury, please contact Julie immediately.

What if I register my child and we find out they are not really ready for lessons?

We will make every attempt to create a comfortable environment for all students. Occasionally, it will be necessary for students to withdraw from class. Circumstances such as this are addressed on an individual basis and Julie will speak with the parents regarding credits or refunds.

Can others enjoy the water during the morning lessons?

Only instructors and students may be in the swimming pools during lessons. Safety is our primary concern for all participants. We understand the water is very inviting, especially for toddlers. Please refrain from wading or swimming in any area. As an alternative, we encourage you to use the spray garden near the entrance, free of charge.

The only area available for public use during lessons (for patrons 16 years of age and up) is the self-directed water walking area in the lazy river. Posted fees can be paid (or pass cards scanned) at the front office window. Parents of students are welcome to pay to participate in this program.

Who can I speak with if I have questions or concerns?

During the off-season, September-May, please contact Brandi Burke, Aquatics Coordinator. Brandi may be contacted via phone at 425-430-6712, or email at bburke@rentonwa.gov.

During the swim lesson season, June-August, Julie is on the pool deck every day for the duration of lessons. Her mail address is jhowe@rentonwa.gov. You can reach her by phone at 425-430-6780.