



To: Central Zone LSCs

Re: Zone Diversity Camp

USA Swimming annually hosts a National Diversity Select Camp: an outstanding program aimed at developing fast swimmers and future leaders in the effort to diversify our great sport. So the question arises: Why are we only doing this on the National level? Why not at the LSC or Zone level? Good question! And it is no surprise that it is the Central Zone that has risen to the challenge and stepped forward to pilot a Diversity Zone Select Camp in 2010.

As stated above, the purpose of Diversity Camps is to highlight outstanding swimmers from diverse backgrounds who will go on to become future leaders. Perhaps they will immediately become athlete representatives in their LSCs or perhaps their impact will be later on when they give back to the sport as instructors, coaches or volunteers.

The willingness of the Central Zone to pilot a Zone Diversity Camp was a direct result of the Diversity Summit held in Colorado Springs in November. Representatives from Indiana, Illinois and Midwestern are leading the effort. Here is the outline so far:

1. Camp to be held June 10-13 at the Natatorium in Indianapolis. Swimmers will be housed in hotel accommodations in Indianapolis, two athletes to a room.
2. Sample athlete applications will be provided to each LSC. Each LSC will be asked to select and provide funding for two athletes to attend the camp.
3. Each LSC will be asked to select a coach who is actively involved and motivated to be a part of the diversity initiative and provide funding to send that coach to the camp. Each LSC will also be asked to provide funding to send its Diversity or Outreach Chair to the camp. Meetings and workshops for the coaches and Diversity Chairs will be held in conjunction with the camp.
4. The camp schedule for athletes will focus on both competitive swim training and leadership development. Various guest speakers and USA Swimming technical support personal will participate in the camp. It is also envisioned that the swimmers will participate in a clinic for local city children.

Obviously, this camp is still in the planning stages and we are aware that you have not budgeted for this event for 2010. Frankly, neither have we. But we are going to work to find some money to help get a valuable program like this off the ground. We hope that each LSC in the Central Zone will be willing to do the same.

If you have questions please contact the Central Zone Diversity Camp Committee:

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Sincerely,

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USA Swimming