

American Red Cross Lifeguard Competition



The American Red Cross has held an annual lifeguard competition since 1996. The top placing teams at the local competition move on to represent their region at a statewide competition. Blue Ash has consistently placed extremely well in both the local and state competitions. This is a testament to the fact that our guards are among the best in the state and receive the training it takes to remain at the top.

2007

After placing 1st, 2nd, and 8th out of a field of 61 total local teams, our 2nd and 8th place teams were able to compete at the state competition. Our two teams placed 6th and 18th out of a field of 27 teams.

6th Place Team Members

Chris Burke
Anne Fiorenza
Chris Lo
Rachel Wolkoff

18th Place Team Members

Adam Bookbinder
Katie Slattery
Laura Tufts
Jordan Steinburg



Jul 23, 2007 10:44 AM

Local Lifeguards Participate In Aquatic Competition

Posted By: Becky Freemal

On Sunday, hundreds of local lifeguards blew off some energy as they took their trained skills to competition.

"The adrenaline's going," said competitor Josh Kuhn with Cincinnati's North Fairmount Pool. "You're trying to go as fast as you can."

Kuhn represents one of the 57 Cincinnati teams competing in the 2007 Lifeguard Competition.

Cincinnati Recreation Commission's aquatic director Jincey Yemaya hopes one of her teams will prevail. "We actually got beat at the state level and the regional level too," she said. "We're hoping to take it home this year."

The team to beat? Well, ask just about anyone and you will get the same answer. The team to beat is obviously Blue Ash," says Kuhn.

Colin Hanner, a returning champion for last year's first place Blue Ash team said, "We come in pretty confident. We have been dominant the past couple of years.

Four-person teams compete. There are five events total, from first aid to rescuing spinal cord injury victims.

The drills, lifeguards say, go well beyond competition. "It's about getting everything done the correct way, because you have someone's life in your hands," Kuhn said.

It's always fun to show off and walk away with some bragging rights. The competition, however, also adds to the confidence, quick reaction time and constant perfection of skills these lifeguards work on every day, to save lives.

As for the competition results, in the end Blue Ash won again. Teams from Blue Ash took the top two spots. A Cincinnati team of lifeguards took third.

In total, 61 teams from the Tri-State competed. The top fourteen teams will now head to the state competition near Columbus, August 5.

2006

Two Blue Ash Lifeguard teams competed at the state level. They received 2nd place and 21st place.

2nd Place Team Members

Mike Davidson
Erin Satzger
Nicole Richter
Jerold Murray

21st Place Team Members

Adam Bookbinder
Lauren Mitchell
Chris Holscher
Hillary Datillo

Lifeguards Dive Into Trotwood

The top swimming pool lifeguards from across the state jumped into Trotwood Sunday morning for the annual State Lifeguard Competition. Twenty-three teams of four from across the state competed in the Red Cross event at the new Trotwood-Madison High School Swimming Pool.

“We are honored to have it here in Dayton,” said Susan Parks as teams signed in for the 9am start. Sparks is the Dayton Chapter Director of Health and Safety. She noted this is the first time the event has been held in Dayton since the late 80’s.

The young men and women between 15 and 25 all looked in great shape as they arrived with their gear for the competition. Carrying flotation belts, backboards and even a regulation brick (that is carried underwater across the bottom of the pool) that are used in the 6 events. The highest score takes all.

As the events got started it was apparent all the entrants deserved to be here as they pulled their first 250lb “victim” from the water. The contestants’ technical skills and speed are scored by a team of judges from the Red Cross.

Mike Davidson from Blue Ash was pumped up. Both he and his teammate from Blue Ash had painted Superman ‘S’ emblems on their chests. “Three years ago Blue Ash took the top five places and were here to win it back,” said Davidson.

Parks said the Red Cross has been hosting some local programs at the Trotwood pool and said, “we wanted to focus on Trotwood, its new facilities and programs.”

Patti Abbottiello coordinated the regional contest in Cincinnati. She accompanied ten teams from that area to the meet in Trotwood. “We had a little trouble finding the school,” said Abbottiello. Apparently most of the on-line map services still direct visitors to the schools former location.

The top three finishers for the day were the Hilliard East Team from Hilliard, Team Commando from Blue Ash, and the Dublin Pool North Team from Dublin.

2005

Three Blue Ash teams competed at the state level and took 3rd, 7th, and 13th place after moving forward from the local competition by placing in the top 11 teams out of a field of 54 total local teams.

3rd Place Team Members

Amy Stenger
Erin Satzger
Mike Davidson
John Wilkes

7th Place Team Members

Jerold Murray
Layne Curry
Ben Sage
Nicole Richter

13th Place Team Members

Nate Herrell
Guy Wiener
Adam Bookbinder
Colin Hanner

2004

Five Blue Ash teams competed at the state level and took the top five spots out of a field of 20 teams, sweeping the competition!

1st Place Team Members

Ben Sage
Nicole Richter
Jerold Murray
Layne Curry

2nd Place Team Members

Karen Anderson
Christy White
Kaleigh Coughlin
Erin Schinasi

3rd Place Team Members

Dan Guthrie
Jake Monk
Amy Krone
Matt Jones

4th Place Team Members

Joe Krone
Nate Herrell
Amy Stenger
John Wilkes

5th Place Team Members

Chelsea Bachman
Amanda Quatkemeyer
Adam Bookbinder
Guy Wiener

Cincinnati Enquirer – Local News

Saturday, August 14, 2004

Blue Ash pool's lifeguards 'best'

Good Things Happening



BLUE ASH - Lifeguards at the Blue Ash Recreation Center recently showed off their skills, taking top honors at both local and statewide lifeguard team competitions.

The five Blue Ash teams were among the top eight finishers, including first place, in the local competition and took all top five places in the state contest. The local contest was held in Florence July 18 and the state competition was held in Dublin Aug. 1.

About 22 lifeguards from the Blue Ash Recreation Center competed, said Jon Corum, pool manager.

The contests included five scenarios, including three situations in which a person is drowning, one involving first aid skills and another involving treatment of a spinal injury.

"They had to demonstrate all their skills," Corum said. "Each team is made up for four people, so they divide up the work."

The competitors, ages 15-24, included some first-year lifeguards.

The competition helps the lifeguards hone their skills and keeps them sharp in case an emergency occurs at the pool.

"Everything that they do are skills that they have to master to be lifeguards," Corum said. "We practice. The kids come in and do it on their own time."

Success in the competition helps create a safer pool environment.

"You have to be able to recognize when something is happening so you can use your skills," Corum said.



Among the lifeguard competitors from Blue Ash Recreation Center are Amanda Quatkemeyer, 17, of West Chester (left) and Chelsea Bachman, 17, of Indian Hill.

Photo provided

Local lifeguards top state competition

The best and the brightest local lifeguards went head to head at this year's Ohio State Lifeguard Competition, showing that Cincinnati lifeguards have the life-saving skills they need.

Cincinnati teams took the top five spots at the state competition in Dublin.

The teams placing in the top five spots in all work at the Blue Ash Recreation Center, 4433 Cooper Road. Pool manager, John Corum, is an American Red Cross lifeguard training instructor and all of his lifeguards are American Red Cross certified lifeguards.



Blue Ash Recreation Team O: (left) Dan Guthrie, Amy Krone, Matt Jones, Jake Monk.

With hard work and practice, Blue Ash Team "WT" placed first in the competition.

The other top spots in order of ranking were Blue Ash Team B, Blue Ash Team O, Blue Ash Team Joe Krone and Blue Ash Team Full House.

"Our chances of a local team making it to nationals is greater than it ever was before," said Cindy Tiemann, aquatic coordinator for the Chapter.

The teams advanced to state through the 9th Annual American Red Cross Lifeguard Competition. Eleven teams from the Greater Cincinnati advanced to the State Lifeguard Competition.

A panel of experts judged each team as they hustled through stations of lifeguard tests and CPR situations. The panel noted how each team member would handle an emergency situation in or around the water.

Other teams that advanced to the State Lifeguard Competition include:

- Cincinnati Pool Management Superstars
- Cincinnati Recreation Commission Krueck #1
- Cincinnati Recreation Commission Millvale #1
- Cincinnati Recreation Commission Pleasant Ridge Blue
- Cincinnati Recreation Commission McKizzle-Fo-Rizzle

Tiemann said she was pleased with the event.

"Lifeguards were able to show their abilities and demonstrate how well they performed on the job," Tiemann said. "The Competition allowed them the chance to be rewarded for their hard work and dedication to saving lives."

2003

Three Blue Ash teams competed at the state level and took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place (a total sweep of the top spots!) after moving forward from the local competition by placing in the top 5 teams out of a field of 29 total local teams.

1st Place Team Members

Dave Stauss
Joe Krone
Adam Bookbinder
Nate Herrell

2nd Place Team Members

Karen Anderson
Steve Wolf
Matt Leroy
Emily Rozzo

3rd Place Team Members

Dan Guthrie
Jake Monk
Matt Jones
Amy Krone



Underdogs paddle to top in lifeguard competition

By Brenna R. Kelly
The Cincinnati Enquirer

MASON - As a child, Flo-Ann Wilson had to be pulled from the water twice by lifeguards. The 44-year-old mother of two didn't learn to swim until her mid-30s.

Then she became a lifeguard.

"My incentive was my kids," Wilson said "I wanted to be sure they were safe in the water."

Though she was competing with 116 lifeguards - most less than half her age - Sunday at the Seventh Annual Cincinnati Area American Red Cross Lifeguard Competition, Wilson and her team were the lifeguards to beat.

The Krueck Community Center Stingrays, Wilson's team, had won the competition - in which teams of four lifeguards perform five rescues - for the past two years.

That provided plenty of motivation for the five teams from Blue Ash Recreation Center.

"We've beat everybody but her," said Jake Monk, 20, a member of Blue Ash's team #2. "We can't seem to beat her."

The Blue Ash teams used Krueck's winning streak as motivation to complete a week of 8 a.m. practices, Monk said.

It worked.

Blue Ash Team 2 placed first out of the 29 teams competing at Lou Eves Municipal Pool in Mason. Two other Blue Ash teams placed fourth and fifth. The Krueck Stingrays came in seventh.

The top seven teams move on to the state competition Aug. 3.

The Blue Ash teams painted BARC across their bodies in blue and black "war" paint. Some streaked their hair blue and tied white cloth strips around their biceps.

Though the competitive aspect of the event motivates the lifeguards, the competition is designed to get lifeguards to improve their skills.

"It's a good way for them to perfect their skills," said Cindy Tiemann, aquatic coordinator for the Red Cross's Cincinnati Area Chapter. It also shows that lifeguarding is not just "sitting in a chair all summer; there is more beyond that," she added.

The lifeguards competed in five events, including rescuing a victim who is splashing around in the water, a victim who is floating in the water, a victim who is underwater, and a victim with a spinal injury. The guards also had to demonstrate how to stop severe bleeding.

They were awarded points based on skill, time and accuracy.

Winners

Cincinnati Area American Red Cross Lifeguard Competition results:

First place team: Blue Ash Recreation Center Team 2 (Jake Monk, 20, of Liberty Township; Amy Stenger, 17, of Reading; Matt Jones, 21, of Indian Hill; Dan Guthrie, 23, of Hartwell)

Other teams moving on to state competition:

Miami Hills Swim Club; Oakley (Orange Team) Cincinnati Recreation Commission; Blue Ash Recreation Center #1; Blue Ash Recreation Center #3; Madisonville Cincinnati Recreation Commission; Krueck (Stingrays) Cincinnati Recreation Commission.

2002

Three Blue Ash teams competed at the state level and took 2nd, 3rd, and 5th place after placing in the top 7 at the local competition.

2nd Place Team Members

Karen Anderson
Steve Wolf
Sarah McClure
Joe Krone

3rd Place Team Members

Evan Malone
Brian Sweeney
David Stauss
Joe Wolf

5th Place Team Members

Dan Guthrie
Jake Monk
Kristen Bloomstrom
Matt Jones

2001

Two Blue Ash teams competed at the state level and took 2nd and 4th place.

2nd Place Team Members

Paige Kindell
Tom Margraf
Kristen Bloomstrom
Jake Monk

4th Place Team Members

Andy Sweeney
Brian Sweeney
Megan Sweeney
John Gennett

Pre-2001

Blue Ash has been competing in the American Red Cross Lifeguard Competition for many years. We do not have on record how our guards placed in the years previous to 2001 but we do know that they have always done well and finished near the top of the pack.



Scott Burdock, left, and Jay Rust cheer a teammate from Blue Ash Recreation Center. (Craig Ruttle photo)

Monday, July 27, 1998

**BY DANA DiFILIPPO
The Cincinnati Enquirer**

MASON -- In one pool, a woman floated face-down. Nearby, a man flung his arms and legs wildly, as he tried desperately to keep his head above water.

But the lifeguards waited . . . until, with a voice over the loudspeaker and a click of the timer, they jumped in to rescue the ailing swimmers. About 120 lifeguards from across Ohio competed in the third annual State Red Cross Lifeguard Competition Sunday at The Beach Waterpark. The contest was sponsored by the Cincinnati Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. All the lifeguards had completed Red Cross training programs.

Cincinnati's Red Cross has trained more than 1,200 lifeguards this year, but the area still suffers a lifeguard shortage, said Carollee Ochsner, the American Red Cross-Cincinnati's water safety coordinator. The strenuous nature of the job may deter some, she said.

Seventeen teams competed, trying to save "victims" -- actually Red Cross volunteers -- who represented active, passive, submerged, severely bleeding and spinal-injured drowning victims.

Cincinnati's team, representing the Blue Ash Recreation Center, came in second. Two Dayton teams snagged first and third.

"They're competing in skills they use on a daily basis," Ms. Ochsner said.

Judges watched every move, critiquing everything from how lifeguards got into the water and approached the victim to how they dragged the victim to safety and opened airways.

"Any Red Cross team is really well-trained," said lifeguard Andy Sweeney, 19, of Blue Ash. "We should all be getting perfect scores."

Said lifeguard Jay Rust, 20, of Loveland: "It helps you learn the stuff better if you have to do it in competition."