
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT



Press Release

Waukegan Park District will participate in the WORLD'S LARGEST SWIMMING LESSON™ - JUNE 24, 2016

Waukegan, IL, (June 14, 2016) – On Friday, June 24th, 2016, tens of thousands of children and adults at aquatic facilities around the world will unite for the seventh year in a row to raise awareness that Swimming Lessons Save Lives.™ A global event, The World's Largest Swimming Lesson™ (WLSL), will take place over the course of 24 hours at an estimated 500 locations in more than 20 countries. The Waukegan Park District's Howard E. Ganster Pool, 216 S Lewis Avenue, is serving as an Official Host Location for 75 children to receive a free water safety and swim lesson.

Since its inception, more than 155,000 children and adults have participated in WLSL lessons generating more than half a billion media impressions about the vital importance of learning to swim. The 2015 WLSL event included 38,170 participants from 22 countries.

Tragically, drowning remains the leading cause of unintended injury related death for children ages 1-4, and the second leading cause of accidental death for children under 14. Research shows participation in formal swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning by 88% among children aged 1 to 4, yet many kids do not receive formal swimming or water safety training.

Howard E. Ganster Pool will be serving as an official Host Location Facility for the WLSL 2016 event. Parents are invited to learn more about this phenomenal event by visiting WLSL.org. The free swim lesson at Ganster Pool will take place from 10-10:45am. Participation will be limited to the first 75 children that register. Registration is online; please use program number 30402402 1A. For more information, please call 847-360-4700.

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About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 48 sites and more than 735 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, disc golf course, dog exercise area and agility course, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball, tennis and pickleball. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 61 full-time and over 250 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Illinois Association of Park District (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and maintains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, and awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013.

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