



LAKE ERIE SILVER DOLPHINS

LESD SERVICE POLICY

Lake Erie Silver Dolphins rely on our families' support to provide the best possible experience for our swimmers. With your help, we can efficiently run events and sustain a vibrant, enthusiastic swim program. A continued area of focus this season will be securing volunteers for LESD-sponsored swim meets and team events. While swim team fees help cover program expenses, your volunteer hours are **essential to our continued success**.

SERVICE HOURS REQUIREMENT- To ensure a successful season, LESD families must complete a **minimum of 20 service hours per season**, with most hours available at LESD-hosted swim meets and events.

- When volunteering for one (1) full session of a meet, you will earn approximately 3–5 hours. Job sign-ups will show apx hours
 - Families who do not fulfill their service hour requirement by the end of the season will be billed **\$30 per unworked hour**.
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PAYMENT OPTION (OPT-OUT)- While we strongly encourage active participation, families may choose to opt out of the volunteer requirement by making a one-time financial contribution of **\$600**.

- To select this option, you must complete the [opt-out form](#) by **October 1**, or **within one week of joining LESD if joining after October 1**. Your team account will be billed once you submit the form.
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HOW TO EARN SERVICE HOURS- Families can earn service hours in a variety of ways, including:

- Volunteering at **LESD-hosted swim meets, events, or fundraisers**
- Volunteering at **Ohio Swimming Championship events**
- Volunteering at meets where **LESD has been asked to provide help**
- Providing cash donations or goods in kind - **will be awarded hours based on donation levels (1 hour per \$30)**
 - Our goal is for all hospitality to be fully donated either in cash or kind for 2026/2027

Additional Opportunities Include:

- Serving in a **Booster Board or Committee Role**, such as:
 - Board Member
 - Volunteer Coordinator
 - Hospitality Committee
 - Events Committee
 - **Becoming certified as a USA Swimming Official** (Stroke & Turn Judge or Starter) and volunteering at LESD-hosted meets.
- Reminder: All members must provide a minimum of 20 hours of service at LESD-hosted swim meets or events.***
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HOW TO SIGN UP FOR VOLUNTEER JOBS- All volunteer sign-ups will be shared with families once available

- A "Job Sign-Up" link will be posted for all LESD-hosted meets, approved OSI meets, and special events.
- You must sign up using **your LESD account** to receive credit.
- Each family's responsible for signing up before the posted deadlines.
- Volunteers must stay for the **entire session** to receive full credit unless otherwise noted or released by the Meet Director or Volunteer Coordinator.

IF YOUR PLANS CHANGE AND YOU CANNOT FULFILL A SHIFT

- Remove your name from the sign-up list as soon as possible
 - Email lakeeriesilverdolphins@gmail.com to notify the team of your absence
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ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Anyone **13 years or older** may volunteer on your behalf (including extended family or friends)
- LESD will gladly provide documentation for **School service hours** if requested
- You may volunteer at any eligible event, regardless of whether your swimmer is participating.



- **Older LESD athletes** are encouraged to help fulfill family hours and give back to the team.
- Any returning family with **22 or fewer volunteer hours (or equivalents) delivered in 2025/2026 will receive early access to volunteer sign-ups** and are encouraged to volunteer early in the year to fulfill their commitment.
- The Volunteer Coordinator will work with families who may have extenuating circumstances or difficulty volunteering. Please communicate to an LESD board member early if you anticipate challenges in fulfilling this commitment

TRACKING YOUR HOURS

Each volunteer opportunity will list the **minimum service hours you will earn** directly on the sign-up. For example, if **Timer – Session 1** is listed as **4 service hours**, your family will receive a minimum of 4 hours for completing that assignment.

If a shift runs longer than scheduled, the additional time will be added to your total. Any **bonus service hours** offered for specific jobs or events will also be added.

This allows families to easily track their own progress throughout the season by reviewing the assignments they have completed and the service hours listed for each. LESD will maintain the official service hour tracking spreadsheet and can provide an updated total upon request.

LESD is a year-round organization, and we provide volunteer opportunities throughout the entire swim year (2026 and 2027, through Long Course Meters - Summer). We will review accounts in mid-to-late July and send a billing notice for any outstanding hours before applying charges. If a family leaves the team before the end of the season, we will contact them about any outstanding service hours and ask whether they plan to fulfill those hours or pay the balance.

For a sneak peek at what LESD-hosted meets are already on the calendar, refer to your registration packet. More opportunities will be announced throughout the year.

By participating in the LESD Service Program, you'll have the opportunity to connect with other LESD families, build community, and actively support your child's swimming journey—all while helping our team thrive. Registration serves as acknowledgment and acceptance of this policy