



USA Swimming Zone Select Camps

Description and Purpose:

Begun in the spring of 2006, USA Swimming now sponsors four Zone Select Camps. USA Swimming seeks to identify the emerging young athletes in each Zone, offering them a unique motivational and educational experience. The Zone Select Camps are viewed as an integral step for athletes to move from the local and Zone level onto to the national scene.

Eligibility:

28 male and 28 female athletes are selected in each of the four Zones. Selected girls must be age 12-13, selected boys must be age 13-14. Age at time of performance (May-August 2006) determines eligibility. The fastest swimmer in each Zone in each Olympic event (excluding the 50 free, including the 800 and 1500 for both sexes) is invited for a total of 13 male and 13 female athletes. An additional 15 athletes of each sex are selected based on IMX point scores according to the following:

- ◆ 8 girls age 12 and 8 boys age 13
- ◆ 7 girls age 13 and 7 boys age 14

The selection process seeks to identify the fastest swimmer in each event in each Zone as well as athletes who successfully compete in a full menu of events. Athlete selected based on IMX scores are those not already selected for an individual event.

Other criteria:

- ◆ Long course times only will be considered.
- ◆ Times must be achieved between May 1 and August 31.
- ◆ Athlete must be registered in an LSC within the Zone at the time of the qualifying swim.
- ◆ All athletes must be US citizens.
- ◆ Athletes who qualify for or are selected to National Select Camp, National Junior Team or any USA Swimming National Team are not eligible for Zone Select Camps. Athletes who have ever attended a National Select Camp or been a member of any USA Swimming National Team are not eligible for Zone Select Camps. Athletes can attend one Zone Select Camp. An athlete who turns down the opportunity would be eligible the following year if he/she still meets the age criteria. An athlete who accepts the invitation and does not attend is not eligible the following year unless an alternate was able to attend in his/her place.

Location:

Four sites, one per Zone, are selected by USA Swimming. First preference is a college campus that can provide on campus housing and dining accommodations. Private sites will be considered if college sites cannot be secured.

Dates:

The preferred date for the camps is Memorial Day weekend. Facility availability may dictate that the camps be held on an alternate weekend. A Memorial Day weekend camp will begin on Friday PM and end midday on Monday. Without the use of a holiday weekend, the camp will begin on Thursday PM and end midday on Sunday.

Costs:

All athlete expenses at the camps are covered by USA Swimming. Athletes are responsible for their own transportation arrangements and expenses. Some LSCs have expressed interest in assisting athletes with travel expenses.

Staff:

USA Swimming selects a head coach for each camp as well as four assistant coaches and two managers. In addition, one male and one female National Junior Team athlete attend each camp. Two members of the USA Swimming National Headquarters staff attend each camp to conduct educational sessions.

Gear and Materials:

USA Swimming provides each athlete and staff member with appropriate gear, equipment and educational materials.

Camp Schedule:

Camps include five long course workouts, four educational sessions and recreational activities. Athletes are required to stay the entire time and must stay onsite in the accommodations provided by the host.

Notification:

Selection of athletes takes place no later than December 30. Personal coaches are notified and have "right of refusal" for their athletes. Athletes are then notified of selection and are given a reasonable amount of time to accept or decline the invitation. In the case of a refusal, either by a coach or athlete, the next eligible athlete will be invited until all slots are filled in each camp.

Additional Information:

Check the USA Swimming website in the Camps and Clinics section for additional details.