

December 26, 2016

To All Shark Families & Aquathon Participants:

The Annual Mount Desert Island YMCA Sharks Aquathon will be held on Sunday, February 5 (Super Bowl Sunday) from 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM. The Aquathon is a pledge event to help defray the cost of the swim team. Last year's event raised a little more than \$20,000 that was used to keep the cost of the program low. All the money that is raised, is used to offset the cost of operating the swim team. These costs include but are not limited to salaries, awards, meet/other fees, travel, transportation, pool costs, scholarships and other expenses that arise during the season.

The Aquathon is for Shark Swimmers and any parents/community members that would like to participate. We ask that each swimmer raise at least \$125 for the Aquathon and they will receive the World Famous 'I Survived Shark Infested Waters' t-shirt. Donations can either be for a set amount or a pledge per lap. Each swimmer has 90 minutes to complete their laps to a 200 lap maximum. Each member of the team has been given a realistic goal by the Shark coaching staff that shows how much they can complete in the allotted time.

Community members, including swim team parents and Shark Alumni are invited to participate in the Aquathon as well. Parents and community members who raise at least \$50 will also receive a 'I Survived Shark Infested Waters' t-shirt. Again, this year Lane 6 will be reserved for parents, alumni and other community members wishing to participate on Aquathon Sunday.

Swimmers and others should sign up on the board at the pool. This year, Harry Potter will be 2017 Aquathon Theme. We will again have a party with lots of food, drink, and games to celebrate the event. Every year the swimmers do many laps and finish it off with lots of happy faces. We do offer make-up days for those that cannot make it on Aquathon Sunday during the month of February.

This year the Sharks will have four collection dates. These dates are Jan 6, Jan 23, Feb 13 & Feb 28. Please plan to bring your pledges on those dates. You do not have to have all of your pledges, we will take what you have each time. You may also receive your pledge money with the Front Desk in envelope marked Aquathon that will be recorded by the Aquathon committee.

In addition to the t-shirts, swimmers can also get other prizes for earning certain dollar amounts. Those prizes are outlined in the Aquathon FAQ's. We also offer awards to the top 3 earners and the top 3 with the most sponsors. Again, this year we will be allowing the Shark members a chance to raise money online through Crowdrise. Click on www.crowdrise.com/MDIYSharks2017 on 'Set up Fundraiser' and then follow the prompts to create an Aquathon page for the swimmer that can be posted via social media to many sites.

If you have any questions about the Aquathon or would like to volunteer to help, please email sharks@mdiymca.org.

