

January 6, 2023

To All Shark Families & Aquathon Participants:

The Annual Mount Desert Island YMCA Sharks Swim Team Aquathon will be held on Sunday, February 5. The Aquathon is a pledge event to help defray the cost of the swim team. The event, the Sharks only fundraiser, is used to offset the cost of operating the swim team. These costs include but are not limited to salaries, awards, meet/registration fees, travel, transportation, pool costs, scholarships and other expenses that arise during the season. Our goal for this season is to meet last year's total of \$30,000 and exceed it by as much as possible.

The Aquathon is for Shark Swimmers, parents and/or community members that would like to participate. We are still asking that each swimmer raise at least \$125 the Aquathon to receive the World Famous "I Survived Shark Infested Waters" t-shirt. Donations can either be for a set amount or a pledge per lap. This year 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 receive a "I Survived COVID-19 Infested Waters" t-shirt. Community members/parents may participate during any lap swim from January 31 – February 28.

Swimmers will need to reserve a lane online at tinyurl.com/aquathon23lanes. There will be up to 5 swimmers/lane. There will be goody bags, snacks and drinks during the Aquathon. We will offer make-up days during scheduled swim team practices and February vacation.

This year the Sharks will have three collection dates, but you can drop off your donations at any time at the front desk. Pledges should be placed in an envelope, clearly marked 'Aquathon' w/swimmer's name. The dates are for collections are February 1, February 15 & March 1.

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, the top 3 with the most sponsors and the top fundraisers in each practice group (WeeSharks, Green, Gold, & Senior)

This year we will be allowing the Shark members a chance to raise money online through the MDI YMCA. The following link mdiyymca.org/aquathon will allow anyone to make a donation to a certain swimmer. You can use the link on social media sites, emails and other methods to allow as many to donate to this year's Aquathon.

If you have any questions about the Aquathon, please email sharks@mdiyymca.org.

