

Nurturing skills and building confidence in the water

For more than 160 years, the YMCA has nurtured potential and united communities across America to create lasting, meaningful change. Everything the Y does is in service of building a better us. One of the most effective ways to accomplish this is to teach youth, teens, and adults to swim, so they can stay safe around water and learn the skills they need to make swimming a lifelong pursuit for staying healthy.

Y swim instructors are nationally certified. Their training includes CPR, AED, First Aid and Oxygen Administration. Swim lessons provide important life skills that could save a life and will benefit students for a lifetime.

To learn more about this program contact:

Swim Lessons
AKRON AREA YMCA

WE'RE HERE FOR EVERYONE

All ages—from infants to seniors—can learn to swim. Check out our class offerings below to find one that fits your family's busy schedule.

Swim Starters Aquatic Program

Accompanied by a parent*, infants and toddlers learn to be comfortable in the water and develop swim readiness skills through fun and confidence-building experiences, while parents learn about water safety, drowning prevention, and the importance of supervision.

Stage Descriptions:

A / Water Discovery Introduces infants and toddlers to the aquatic environment.

B / Water Exploration Focuses on exploring body positions, blowing bubbles, and fundamental safety and aquatic skills.

* We define parent broadly to include all adults with primary responsibility for raising children, including biological parents, adoptive parents, guardians, stepparents, grandparents, or any other type of parenting relationship.

Swim Basics for Preschool, School Age, Teen, and Adult

Students learn personal water safety and achieve basic swimming competency by learning two benchmark skills: **swim, float, swim**—sequencing front glide, roll, back float, roll, front glide, and exit—and **jump, push, turn, grab**.

In Water Acclimation, Water Movement, and Water Stamina, students are taught the recommended skills for all to have around water including safe water habits, underwater exploration, and how to swim to safety and exit in the event of falling into a body of water. Activities, games, and drills, geared to reinforce learning, are utilized heavily as students progress in this skill-based approach to swimming.

Stage Descriptions:

1 / Water Acclimation Increases comfort with underwater exploration and introduces basic self-rescue skills performed with assistance.

2 / Water Movement Encourages forward movement in water and basic self-rescue skills performed independently.

3 / Water Stamina Develops intermediate self-rescue skills performed at longer distances than in previous stages.

Swim Strokes for Preschool, School Age, Teen, and Adult

Having mastered the fundamentals, students learn additional water safety skills and build stroke technique, developing skills that prevent chronic disease, increase social-emotional and cognitive well-being, and foster a lifetime of physical activity.

In Stroke Introduction, Stroke Development and Stroke Mechanics, swimmers are introduced to the four competitive swimming strokes as well as rescue skills and healthy lifestyle habits.

Stage Descriptions:

4 / Stroke Introduction Introduces basic stroke technique in front crawl and back crawl and reinforces water safety through treading water and elementary backstroke.

5 / Stroke Development Introduces breast-stroke and butterfly and reinforces water safety through treading water and sidestroke.

6 / Stroke Mechanics Refines stroke technique on all major competitive strokes and encourages swimming as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Specialty Classes and Programs

Swimmers who love the water and want further instruction for future aquatics activities enjoy participating in our Specialty Programs focused on leadership, competition, and recreation. We continually develop our specialty program curriculum. Please check with your Y for new offerings.