

City of Gainesville

Welcome to the City of Gainesville's Swim Lesson Program. We are glad you chose the City of Gainesville as your swim lesson provider. The Aquatics Division looks forward to serving you in the weeks ahead. Please take a few moments to look through this packet; it contains a lot of information about the swim lesson program. If you have any additional concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us anytime.

First Day Expectations

Please make sure that all children come dressed and ready to get in the water at least 5 minutes before their class start time. Please find a comfortable place to sit and wait to be called for swim lessons. At the class start time, you and/or your child will be called to come to the pool for lessons. The supervisor will then call out names and direct participants to their respective classes. The instructors will evaluate the participants' swimming ability. If the participant needs to move up or down a level the instructor will notify the supervisor and the supervisor will work with the parent to change to the appropriate class.

During Swim Lessons

While parents are encouraged to watch the swim lessons, we ask all parents to stay at least 15 feet away from the pool. You may sit in prepositioned lounge chairs or under the pavilion. Keeping a distance from the class area removes additional distractions to the participants, as well as the instructors. However, we do encourage parents to get to know their instructor. If you have any specific questions about your child's abilities, your instructor will be glad to talk with you before or after class. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CHILDREN UNATTENDED AT THE POOL!** We expect the parents to stay for the entire lesson. Please do not leave to run errands or go for a walk.

We will begin every lesson at the same time on the days that class is held. An instructor will call for lessons at the appropriate time. Please do not interrupt the lessons going on before your class starts by having participants go to the poolside early. We encourage you to wait until after class for recreation swimming. Free swim before class is likely to drain their energy as well as attention span. Please remember that the city pools are fee-based facilities and that in order to use the facility other than the allotted program time you will need to pay the entrance fee.

Discipline

The swim lesson instructors and lifeguards will do their best to talk with individuals about rules at the pool, but we do expect the parents to reinforce the pool rules while here. If you feel it is necessary to discipline your child during swim lessons please remove your child from the lesson first as to avoid as much distraction as possible.

Inclement Weather

The Lifeguards will close the pool under the following conditions:

- Lightning is in the area, according to our lightning alert system
- Rain is heavy enough that it limits the visibility of the bottom of the pool
- Any other situation the lifeguard deems unsafe (mechanical failure, chemical issues, etc.)

Cancellation/ Make-up classes

If the participants are instructed to leave the pool for weather (or any other reason) we will be forced to cancel class. We will not cancel class until 15 minutes prior to the class start time. This information will be available from the pool supervisor at the pool as well as via the Remind communication app. In order to receive these communications from aquatics staff please text @cogswim to 81010. You will receive mass communications via text message. Standard text message rates apply. If in doubt please come to the pool anyway. If there is a break in the weather we will get in the pool.

Morning swim lessons typically do not have to deal with too many weather related pool closures, so if we do have a cancellation of a swim lesson we will have make-ups on Friday at the same scheduled time.

Afternoon swim lessons usually deal with a lot of weather related cancellations. So we have built in Fridays to the schedule, with this 10 lesson schedule we hope to get 8 lessons in.

1st/2nd time –AM lessons will have a make-up on Friday, PM lessons will not have a make-up.

3rd/4th time – We will stay 15 minutes later to make up time or make up on Saturday morning.

The fee for swim lessons is based on an **8** lesson schedule. If your class has been canceled multiple times and we can't make up the time during the week then a make-up will be scheduled on Saturday morning. These times will be specified on the Friday before. The City of Gainesville is not obligated to make-up any classes missed for personal reasons.

Photography

To promote the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department and its programs, we prefer to photograph participants while they are active in our programs. Many times, television, newspaper, and outside camera crews will ask permission to take pictures or to film the participants during various activities. As a parent/guardian, signing the household registration form gives your consent to have your child photographed and relinquish all rights, title, and interest in the finished photographs, tape, and negatives to be used for publicity purposes for the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department.

COVID protocols

If you or your child is sick, please do not come to the pool, call and let the staff know. We do not want any sick kids in swim lessons.

For any other information please contact the Recreation Supervisor, Scott Chase, at 352-393-8751 or chasesa@cityofgainesville.org .