

Dear Crawfish Aquatics Families, Friends and Followers,

Happy New Year!! WHAT A 2018! As part of my annual reflection on the past year, both personally and for the Team, I am once again amazed at the accomplishments the Crawfish Aquatics athletes have achieved. More importantly, I am grateful for the quality individuals that I meet or hear about from the other coaches. As a staff, we are truly blessed with incredible individuals we get to coach and the families that raise these athletes. The connections that are developed through this team are bonds we value and we hope you take with you even after you finish in one of the programs.

Let's take a look back at the highlights of 2018 and the many different areas in which we can all be proud!

COMPETITIVE TEAM

- Won our 12th Short Course State Title in February/March with the split format on different weekends for 13 & overs and 12 & unders
- Won our 14th consecutive long course title in the traditional format in July with the split format on different weekends for 13 & overs and 12 & unders
- Athletes set 39 short course yards individual and relay team records
- Athletes set 33 long course meters individual and relay team records
- Athletes set 14 individual and relay short course yards state records
- An athlete set 1 individual long course meters state record
- Had Junior National qualifiers for the 7th straight season and both Rylee Moore and Jolee Liles competed in the competition in Irvine, CA
- Swim A Thon- we raised \$60,000
- Graduated four athletes who are now swimming in college (Birmingham Southern, Centenary, Colorado School of Mines, Saint Peter's) with five current seniors who have already committed to swim upon graduation in 2019
- Took a team of seven athletes to the 2018 Winter Junior Nationals West in Austin, TX and competed with multiple team and state records as well as scored points in the women's meet
- Our annual December Meet focused on fast and fun swimming while giving back. Families were so generous bringing in canned food items in support of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. We were able to turn in more than four overfilled bins. THANK YOU!
- Hosted our 2nd Annual Alumni Meet where we had more than 25 former athletes compete and even more athletes and families come back for a great afternoon of reconnecting.
- *2018 High School Season:* In November, we had 22 individual and multiple relay and team member high school state champions across all four divisions- greater than past years. Crawfish athletes broke eight state records and four CCSL Meet records. We had two Swimmers of the Meet for their divisions: Jolee Liles and Jacques Rathlee. Both

Jolee Liles and David Boylan were named the Baton Rouge Advocates Swimmers of the Year, an honor Crawfish swimmers have swept for the last seven years. The success is seen by the non-year round community and has helped lead to growth of our team and we know that the high school coaches are grateful for our athletes competing on their teams and being such fine representatives for their schools.

LESSONS PROGRAM

With over five different locations now for swim lessons, we pride ourselves in helping infants, youth, teens, and adults the ability to learn to swim. It is a lifelong skill and the value of knowing how to swim can never be overstated. It is a 'gift for life.'

Lessons by the numbers:

- 2,822 lessons taught in Baton Rouge at swim team site
- 1,282 lessons taught in Lafayette
- 535 lessons taught at Nicholls
- 230 outreach lessons provided at no cost to the participants
- Over 3,000 people have been through the Swim School Programs at the Siegen and Bayou Oaks locations this year!

LAFAYETTE

- Hosted two high school meets with more than 150 swimmers at each high school meet
- While the rain affected us two different times, we were able to have our 3rd annual Northern Hemisphere 25-yard World Championships. While there is some tongue in cheek to the meet name, it is always a great event with FAST SHORT swimming
- We had Crawfish Coaches very involved in the high school swim league, coaching for North Vermillion, ESA, Lafayette High, and Lafayette Christian Academy.
- Performed upgrades and fixes on the outdoor pavilion, indoor pool and other facility improvements:
 - The entire pavilion, stairs to the pavilion and scoreboard were repainted.
 - One of the pool pump motors to the indoor pool was replaced, providing the pool with better circulation and clarity.
 - A new heater for the indoor pool was purchased.
 - All 12 of the existing outdoor pool lights were replaced with new LED lights, making the pool literally glow at night.

THIBODAUX

- As we said goodbye to Coach Steve and Coach Addy, we warmly welcomed Coach OJ as Site Director to the bayou and saw great growth in Brent as he assumed the Head Age Group and Lessons Director roles
- Replaced/updated the Crawfish Aquatics graphical border for the Scoreboard
- Hosted more school league and summer meets, drawing people from the area and even beyond to the facility
- Fixed the pool pump and motor and the baby is humming right now, helping to circulate the water and keep the athletes in a great environment
- Hosted the 5th year of Blessed by Downs program, a success for those who received swim instruction and even more so for our athletes/staff who helped teach

BATON ROUGE

- We opened our second Swim School location as a part of the Bayou Oaks complex on Highway 73 in Prairieville.
- We had many site improvements specifically for our outdoor pool including:
 - New lane ropes
 - New skimmers to help with filtration
 - New blankets/covers to keep the heat in the pool during the cooler period
- Hosted the Capital City Swim League again with over 500 high school athletes in and out of the facility through different cluster meets and the City Championship Meet
- Had over 600 athletes in our Middle School League with more joining the CA team post season than we have ever had before.

FACILITIES

With all of these successes, this year has not come without struggles. As you know, many parts of our facilities, even through improvements, are older in nature. They require constant "TLC". The issues are not always visible to those that come to the pools. They are usually the "nuts and bolts" that keep everything running smoothly and create safe environments for all to swim. *I want to personally acknowledge and thank Coach Billy, Coach Thomas, Coach Steve and Coach OJ for being, not only our 'pool boys', but our maintenance men in addition to their coaching duties.* They say a pool is another child, and these men do a great job taking care of their 'babies'. Our pools received many upgrades that cost money this year. We have worked hard to properly rectify the issues and will continue to do so whenever challenges arise. We didn't think the repairs would occur this year. So this is all to say, despite challenges of being out of a pool for a few days or low water levels or less heat at times, please know we are constantly working to make sure there is a high quality environment to swim.

Where do we go from here?

From the outside, many would say that this Organization, this Team, this Family is at the top. As alluded to in this yearly recap, we feel very confident about where we stand; however, we know we can always be better and we want to do more to serve all of you. YOU are the lifeblood and we need your backing and support to then be able to help each member and his/her family more. As a staff we cannot do it alone.

What do we need from you?

- An increased participation in giving during our annual fundraiser, Swim A Thon, or other new ideas in this area. Your contributions help us to keep dues and costs as low as we possibly can while providing a quality aquatics product.
- Your vocal support and affirmation of the values your athletes receive from Crawfish Aquatics. Word of mouth advertising is our number one means to get the word out that youth benefit so much from this sport and being in touch with other great kids, excellent coaches and mentors. A positive Google & Yelp reviews or a shared FB post highlighting the organization help point inquiring parents our direction. Please continue to tell others that you know to join the program. Their kids and families will gain so much more than a 'fast swimmer'.
- Help and support at competitions (both hosted and meets we attend as visitors). We always need timers to help run the meets and we DEFINITELY need more officials to continue hosting meets. We are currently at our lowest number of registered officials in the past 10 years. Officials are required for us to host and conduct sanctioned meets, which provides opportunities with less travel and cost to our families. Please consider becoming a registered USA Swimming Official (you get the best seat in the house & meet fees are always on us).
- Finally, and most importantly, we want to hear from you. We welcome any thoughts, suggestions, criticisms, ideas, etc. that will make this experience better not only for your family, but for other families involved in the program now and in the future. Please send comments and thoughts to our main Baton Rouge office account office.br@crawfishaquatics.com. *If you prefer to just send to your site's main account for now, you can send an email to those specific accounts: office.lafayette@crawfishaquatics.com or office.nicholls@crawfishaquatics.com.*

What to expect from us.

We know we cannot remain stagnant in what we do. We must continue to evolve and reinvest in you our members. We want to know what will improve your experience at Crawfish Aquatics. Our staff goal for the year is MTN: Meet the Needs. We do not take this goal/task lightly. We want to meet your needs (or do everything in our power to try to meet them). With so many remarkable people working for, being a member of and associated with Crawfish Aquatics, this is truly a tall mountain (MTN). We intend to climb it and make your experience, not temporal, but a lifelong memory.

We will continue to work toward building our new facility on Siegen Lane. The Swim Schools are integral components that assist us to generate capital to have our 'own home' one day. Once phase two begins- the actual pools and buildings- we will communicate this with our membership. It is still our intent and vision to have a new facility, but for now the relationship with our landlord at our current BR home is positive and allowing us to continue to thrive. We are so thankful for everyone's patience and support.

As always, I want to say how blessed we are as a staff to serve you, our families, and we pray you will always find value in this sport that we all love.

Looking forward to an amazing 2019!

Dig Deep,

Coach Jayme Cramer

Rate & Review us on Google!

-Crawfish Aquatics, Baton Rouge: <https://goo.gl/1sPxqS>

-Crawfish Aquatics, Lafayette: <https://goo.gl/cPWT3A>

-Crawfish Aquatics, Nicholls: <https://goo.gl/FNLo3t>

Rate & Review us on Yelp!

-Crawfish Aquatics, Baton Rouge: <https://tinyurl.com/yd8x9n6x>

-Crawfish Aquatics, Lafayette: <https://tinyurl.com/yajx5hog>

-Crawfish Aquatics, Nicholls: <https://tinyurl.com/ybxar647>