



PRESS RELEASE

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Help Break a World Record at Sea Lion Aquatic Park on June 22

Photo: [The World's Largest Swimming Lesson™ will take place on Thursday, June 22, from 10:00-10:30am at Sea Lion Aquatic Park](#)

Lisle, IL – On Thursday, June 22, from 10:00-10:30am, the Lisle Park District's Sea Lion Aquatic Park invites residents and nonresidents ages 3-16 to participate in a free swimming lesson to help spread the word that *Swimming Lessons Save Lives™*.

This will be the eighth year for the global event referred to as the World's Largest Swimming Lesson™ (WLSL). Organizers hope to break a Guinness World Record by reaching more than one billion by 2019 with this important message. Local WLSL events occur at hundreds of locations in more than 20 different countries on five continents over the course of 24 hours. The main objective of the event is to expose kids and parents to life-saving water safety skills and build awareness about the vital importance of teaching children to swim to help prevent drowning. Organizers are working to connect the dots between the real risk of childhood drowning and the need for basic water competency skills and crucial parental supervision to keep kids safe in and around the water. Research shows:

- **The problem is life threatening for children:** Per the CDC, drowning remains the leading cause of unintended, injury related death for U.S. children ages 1-4, and the second leading cause for children under 14; drowning is an even greater threat in other countries around the world.
- **Many lack basic swimming skills:** In 2014, a survey completed by the American Red Cross found more than half of all Americans (54 percent) either can't swim or don't have all of the basic swimming skills.
- **Parents don't recognize supervision is key:** According to a 2016 Safe Kids Worldwide report, despite the fact that lack of supervision played a role in the majority of drowning deaths, less than half of parents (49 percent) indicate they remain within arms' reach of their child in the water.

The World's Largest Swimming Lesson™ was created as a platform for the aquatics industry to build awareness about the fundamental importance of teaching children to swim to prevent drowning. Since its inception, more than 195,000 children and adults have participated in WLSL lessons generating more than half a billion life-saving media impressions. WLSL events provide more than 20,000 hours of water safety training in a single day.

The Lisle Park District and Sea Lion Aquatic Park are proud to be a part of this important initiative and invite all residents and nonresidents ages 3-16 to participate. All swimming abilities are welcome. Participants

will be divided into groups by age. Registration for this free event ends on June 19. Please arrive at Sea Lion Aquatic Park, 1825 Short Street in Lisle, a few minutes before 10:00am to check-in prior to the swimming lesson.

The Lisle Park District provides a variety of leisure activities for people of all ages throughout the year. Park district facilities include Lisle Community Park; the Recreation Center which houses Gentle Learning Preschool, SEASPAR, the Senior Center, and multipurpose rooms; Sea Lion Aquatic Park; River Bend Golf Course; Wheatstack – A Midwestern Eatery & Tap and numerous neighborhood playgrounds and parks offering amenities such as tennis courts, ball fields, walking paths and picnic areas totaling close to 400 acres. It is the mission of the Lisle Park District to enrich the quality of life for people of all ages by providing constructive and creative leisure opportunities. For more information about the Lisle Park District, please call 630-964-3410 or visit lisleparkdistrict.org.

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