



YMCA
We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

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YMCA “SPLASH WEEK” HELPS KIDS TO BE SAFER AROUND POOLS

YMCA to offer free swimming and water safety lessons, April 12-16

Philadelphia – April 7, 2010 – With the return of warm weather comes the return of outdoor activities, and now is the perfect season to get ready for one of summer’s best pastimes—swimming. For parents, swimming raises questions of safety as well as of fun and taking their children to the pool requires concern about safety in and around the water. To prepare children with basic swimming and water safety skills, the YMCA of Philadelphia & Vicinity is offering “Splash Week” from Monday, April 12 through Friday, April 16.

“Splash Week” is open to the community-at-large; membership at a YMCA is not required and non-members are encouraged to participate. Moreover, “Splash Week” is offered free of charge to all participants. Pre-registration is required, however.

The Center for Disease Control & prevention (CDC) reports that more than one in four fatal drowning victims are children 14 years old or younger. For every child who dies from drowning, another four children receive emergency care for nonfatal submersion injuries. The problem is magnified in minority populations to the extent that the rate of drowning for African American children ages 5-14 is 3.2 times that of Caucasian children in the same age group.

“Splash Week” is the YMCA of Philadelphia & Vicinity’s effort to help lower the incidence of drowning among children. To that end, each YMCA branch will host multiple 30-minute classes each day geared towards teaching children to become safe and strong swimmers. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends introducing children to swimming around ages 3-4, and so each branch of the YMCA will offer classes for various youth and families at different times throughout the day. For more information or to reserve a spot, contact the YMCA of Philadelphia & Vicinity at 215-963-3700.

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“The YMCA has a long tradition of teaching children and adults alike how to be strong and smart swimmers,” says YMCA CEO & President, John Flynn. “The goal of “Splash Week” is to continue that tradition by teaching kids to have a healthy respect for the water, to know their limitations, and to share what they learn with their families.”

The YMCA of Philadelphia & Vicinity serves more than 52,000 members and 140,000 individuals a year through ten branch locations and 55 program sites in Philadelphia, Montgomery and Delaware counties. The YMCA’s good work in so many different communities would not be possible without the help of dedicated individuals within those communities. Throughout the Y, an emphasis is placed on building character through the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

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