



BROOKSIDE SWIM CLUB IS HOSTING THE 2018 TRI-COUNTY SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

What is "Tri-County"?

The Tri-County Swimming Pool Association was established in 1956 by swim clubs in the Cherry Hill area. The association has grown to 36 member clubs from Burlington, Camden and Gloucester Counties (there is one swim club from Salem and one from Cumberland). Brookside joined Tri-County in 1957 and hosted one of the first Tri-County Championships in 1959. It has grown into the largest single youth athletic sporting event in South Jersey.

What are the Tri-County Championships?

Swimmers ages 5-18 from each swim club compete against five other swim clubs in their division every summer in a dual meet format. Individual event champions and a league champion are crowned at the end of each season during a two-day meet held the first weekend in August. To qualify for the championships, swimmers must swim at or under a specified time for each particular event. Approximately 1,500 swimmers compete in the championships and is attended by more than 4,500 spectators during the two days of the meet.

What is Brookside Swim Club's role in 2018?

The championship meet is organized/held each year by a member club on a rotating basis. Every Tri-County member club has the opportunity to host the championship approximately every 30 years. Hosting the meet is an incredible opportunity for the host club to raise money for their membership. Some clubs are too small to host and have to decline the opportunity. Brookside hosted one of the first Tri-County Championships in 1959, again in 1987 and hosts this year's meet on August 4th and 5th.

How does the meet work?

Approximately 1,500 swimmers who qualify for the championships will compete for the championship in each of 66 events. Preliminary heats are held on Saturday. The top twelve swimmers for individual events return Sunday for a semi-finals and finals heat. Also, the top twelve relays swim on Sunday for a finals and semi-finals heat. During the finals, team points are awarded for each individual/relay finish and a Tri-County Championship team is crowned.

More Than a Swim Meet

The championship meet has a festival atmosphere with food, apparel and other vendors selling items. Many of swimmers have been competing for years and swim all year round with winter

swim clubs. The meet is a chance for swimmers to see old friends and catch up with their teammates from winter swimming. "Tent City" is an area of the meet where the teams pitch their canopy tents and the swimmers rest/prepare between races. Tent City is the real center of the meet and is a colorful mix of team colors and the many, many swimmers who are fortunate enough to qualify.

What is the impact of hosting on Brookside?

Brookside Swim Club will be closed from Wednesday August 1st, through Monday August 6th, to prepare for and clean up after the meet. During this time, Brookside members in good standing will have access to another Tri-County Club in the area while Brookside is closed for this event. During the meet on August 4th and 5th, the area around Brookside Swim Club will have limited traffic and parking by permit only and will be closed to vehicular traffic. Hosting the meet is a great opportunity for our local community and the swim club to show off the great club and atmosphere that we have here at Brookside. The Tri-County Championships are also an opportunity to raise significant funds for the needs of our club. With the potential to make tens of thousands of dollars, this event and the fundraising and sponsorships that will raise money, should benefit the Brookside Swim Club for years to come.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Fundraising: Sell an ad or sponsorship! Or buy one yourself. Do you own a business or know someone who does? Does your employer have a sponsorship/community relations budget? Do you frequently visit the same business? Simply ask if they'd like to support a great community event that attracts 6,500 visitors and supports the best of youth swimming in South Jersey. If they will help, put them in contact with our sponsorship committee at Brooksidetricounty2018@gmail.com and you have performed a huge service for your swim club for years to come. For all club members that bring in sponsorship dollars the club will reimburse 10% of every dollar you bring in and apply it towards your 2019 membership up to a maximum of your total membership fee. For more information regarding sponsorships contact Sonia Shah at soniarshah@gmail.com, (407) 620-1541.