

ALL ABOUT INVATIONALS

Who should go?

Everyone! These meets are all about teamwork and team spirit. The more kids we have representing us, the more points we earn. The pools we are invited to for invationals are typically “fast” pools which means there is a spill-over gutter (instead of the water hitting the wall and coming back out) so the chances to pop times are HUGE! Also, for those interested in more competition, there are more teams represented so more opportunities to compete against other swimmers!

Why should we go?

If you think we have good team spirit, come out to the big meets! This is where our Gator community really becomes a family! We sit in a team specific sectioned area, cheer for each other's kids and support each other through it all. The connections made, friendships built and sportsmanship reinforced make for some great experiences and some of the best memories!

Plus, If you're a parent who misses getting in the water to race, ECI and City Meet is for you! Relays for the parents and coaches finish off the day! It's always a great time.

What are Invationals exactly?

Invationals are BIG meets where multiple teams come to race, show team spirit and build community. Our typical Wednesday & Saturday dual meet has one other team, whereas City Meet (for example) will have closer to 10+ teams in attendance, and ECI even more teams!

Teams have designated sections where they sit together throughout the day. At big invational meets, programs are often printed and available to purchase so you can follow your swimmer(s) and other Gators' events, know when they are all swimming and get ready to cheer!^[OBJ] *There are job requirements at these bigger meets!*

There are often aquatic related sales tables, invitational shirts with your kiddos' name on them and typically a wide variety of food and drinks for sale.

There are A & B Divisions - this means that our middle road swimmers get more opportunities to win points for the team and earn ribbons/medals too, which can be a great feeling of accomplishment. Medals and trophies are earned for individuals *and* teams.

Pentathlon, ECI, and City Meet are ALL DAY, ALL WEEKEND meets, so you'll want to plan for that. *Note: Pentathlon swimmers will swim all 5 events (fly, back, breast, free, IM).* Coaches will help choose events for ECI and City Meet to optimize points.

Martinez 8 & Under Invitational (6 & under-8 year olds) and Middle Ages Invitational (9-14 year olds) are quicker meets because they are age-group focused. There is more of a fun feel due to the theme and the kids **love** these meets. For the Martinez 8 & Under Invitational, think treats after each race! For Middle Ages Invitational, the last relay to finish off the meet, swimmers dress up with a Viking hat, sword, and shield (SO FUN)!

Is there a cost for Invitationals?

There is an out of pocket cost for all the Invitationals except City Meet, which is paid by Gehringer. Cost breakdown is listed below. **When paying, please be specific as to which child is swimming in which Invitational.** Payment options include: **check** made out to GPST and placed in the "Invitationals" folder or **Venmo** @gpstgatorstreasurer



Gehringer Park Swim Team Inc.
@gpstgatorstreasurer



venmo

Please note: While it is completely up to you if your swimmer(s) attend invitationals, the coaches are requesting that ALL SWIMMERS do participate! These meets are very special and one of the reasons we train so hard during the season. GO GATORS!