



World's Largest Swimming Lesson, June 21

--Break a record, learn a lifetime skill--

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Two Dayton recreation centers will host the 2018 World's Largest Swimming Lesson on Thursday, June 21. The international event has a mission of teaching basic water safety and reminding everyone that learning to swim helps prevent drowning. More than 41,000 swimmers in 27 countries on six continents participated in 2017.

The Greater Dayton and Lohrey Recreation Centers are official host locations, and admission is free. The lesson begins at 11 a.m.; participants are asked to arrive by 10:30 a.m. All ages



are welcome; children (accompanied by guardians) are especially encouraged. Learn more about the event by visiting WLSL.org, or call 937-333-8400 for more information.

Recreation center locations:

Greater Dayton, 2021 W. Third St.

Lohrey, 2366 Glenarm Ave.

More about swimming and drowning prevention:

The problem is life-threatening for children: According to the CDC, drowning remains the leading cause of injury related death for children ages 1-4 and the second leading cause for children under 14. Internationally, the World Health Organization estimates drowning is one of the top five causes of death for people aged 1-14 in 48 of the 85 countries it monitors.

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.

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