

[Long Distance Challenge \(LDC\) Fundraiser](#)

This is our primary fundraising event we do each season. *At the risk of sounding uncouth, the holidays are a great opportunity to ask grandparents, aunts, uncles, and family friends for a swim team gift to help support your swimmer. :) As a team we don't sell candy, flowers, or tickets; we might have a team social at a restaurant but the focus is not on fundraising; come only if you like for social reasons and team bonding. For actual fundraising, our philosophy is:*

- Fundraising should directly benefit the team, not the business “partners” who often take between 50-90% of the money spent/raised.
- No one is obligated to raise funds; if it's an obligation, then it's a team fee, not a fundraiser.
- ALL athletes are required to participate and **complete their group's assigned "Challenge" distance** even if they raise no funds. If they cannot make the date, they will make it up during another day or during regular practice time.
- The focus should be on athlete production, and not be overly burdensome for parents. After-all, we already require everyone to work 2-4 times each season at swim meets, which is more than many other sports already.

[FAQs:](#)

1. *"OK, Coach Drake..., I know you said it's not an obligation, but what should we use as a guide?"* Most raise around \$40 per family, although we've had some families raise hundreds of dollars in some years; I think \$600 is the record for one family :).
2. *"What if we raise no money, does my child still have to swim the distance?"* Yes, it's part of their required training regimen.
3. *"My swimmer is worried, he doesn't think he can swim that long non-stop. Does he really have to?"* Yes, no one has ever failed to finish, including 5 year olds who joined the swim team for the first time. It's more a mental challenge than a physical one, and these distances are well within reach of every swimmer in their group. Plus, they can use a kickboard or swim any stroke they want, whenever they want. Additionally, it builds personal confidence and it's a shared rite of passage for each team member each year.
4. *We are traveling on that date and will not be able to make it. What do we do? There will be a make-up date later in the season or if necessary talk to Coach Drake to arrange another day.*