
The Camden County Boomers Swim Club is a member of Georgia Swimming, one of 59 Local Swimming Committees that make up USA Swimming, the governing body for US Olympic swimming. Georgia Swimming represents about 6,500 swimmers and 44 clubs located throughout Georgia.

The Boomers swim club is the community's swim team and has its origins as a summer league team organized at the Kings Bay submarine base in 1984. Headed by a federal agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the team established itself as The Kings Bay Boomers Swim Team in 1991 and expanded to a year-round program to meet the increasing demands of competitive swimming in Georgia and Florida.

The founding of the year-round program was based on the ideal of using swimming as a crime prevention tool. The concept was simple: children and young adults engaged in an after-school physical activity program are less inclined to get in trouble or perform poorly in school. The program augments educational and family efforts by providing a supervised environment for youth during the vulnerable hours between the end of school and arriving home.

The team's philosophy is simple: strengthen the body, improve swimming skills and teach the value of individual merit and team competition. The essence of Boomers Swimming philosophy also contributes to the quality of family life in Camden County.

The county supported team dissolved in 1998 and Kings Bay became the sole program for this small community of 45,000 residents. In 2001, the team moved from the submarine base to its current home at the Camden County Recreation Center and changed its name to reflect the entire county and our growing program.

There are 65 swimmers currently in the program and a majority of the children are honor roll students at their respective schools. Colleges and universities from around the nation heavily recruit our high school seniors with 100 percent of those graduating, receiving swim scholarships.

The program has consistently improved every year since its inception and the long-term goal is to produce successful well-rounded leaders and hopefully produce an Olympian on the side. The Boomers are the 2005 Georgia 14-and-under Short Course Division III State Champions and the 2004, 2005 Georgia 14-and-under Long Course Division III State Champions. Team members have qualified for sectional and zone team competition placing them, the team and the community in the national spotlight. Swimmers have produced state records and Top-16 times (nationally ranked times) placing them in the top one percent of swimmers across the nation.

The Boomers hosted their first invitational swimming competition, The "Boomers Down Under," at the Kings Bay fitness complex in 1994. Within three years the meet grew to capacity of 500+ swimmers who were accompanied by coaching staff, family and friends. The Boomers Down Under Invitational held over Columbus Day weekend, spans three days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and a decade later continues to attract approximately 800 out-of-town guests from Coastal Georgia, Florida and South Carolina.

The Camden County Recreation Center Pool became the new home for the swim team as well as the new host for the Down Under swim meet in 2001. The recreation center pool, like the Kings Bay fitness center pool, is a 6-lane, 25-meters x 25-yards pool and can only host short course (yards) meets, thus limiting the number and type of events.

For the Boomers to grow as a team and as a meet host, a larger pool is needed. A 10-lane Olympic-size pool (50-meters by 25-yards) is ideal since it would increase the potential number of meets hosted and weekend guests it would attract. Georgia Swimming and USA Swimming require 50-meter pools for long course competition.

An increase in meets and guests would also increase the economic impact on the local community. Meets have two daily sessions, allowing swimmers and parents plenty of downtime to patronize local businesses, sightsee, shop, or catch a movie, in addition to dining and lodging.

An Olympic-size pool would also allow the Boomers to bid on the prestigious short course and long course state championship meets held each year. The four-day state championship meets traditionally attract about 1,000 swimmers representing 25 teams from across the state of Georgia. Hosting state championships also equate to additional revenue for the retail and hospitality industry in Camden County.

Savannah Swim Team (SST) and Brunswick YMCA Swim Team (BYST) are two examples of what an Olympic-sized pool can do for the local economy. The Chatham County Aquatic Center boasts an indoors 10-lane, 50-meter by 25-yard pool (Olympic) with an additional 25-meter by 25-yard pool for overflow events as well as cool down/warm-up lanes. BYST has an outdoors 10-lane, 50-meter by 25-yard pool and an indoors 25-meter by 25-yard pool.

Combined, both teams sponsor five major meets a year. In addition, The Chatham County Aquatic Center hosts the Georgia 14 & under Short Course Championship. According to SST officials, each meet attracts around 1,500 guests for at least three days and two nights and has an economic impact of approximately \$1 million for each meet.

Additional and larger meets with more participants are hampered only by the size of the existing six-lane recreation center pool. A ten-lane 50-meter pool could double participants and allow for spring and summer meets. Three annual meets of 1,000 swimmers, coaching staff and family members would have a positive economic impact of millions of dollars to our local economy. A larger pool would also enhance the quality and quantity of Boomers Swimming programs for its members. The larger pool would create a symbiotic relationship between Boomers swimming programs and the ability to attract more participants for invitational meets.
