

## Summer Nationals Preview

# A-SPIRE to 2015 Summer Nationals

The Olympic Village-style sports complex at the SPIRE Institute is a winner



Joshua Ptak

**T**he 2015 U.S. Masters Swimming Summer National Championship will be held August 6 – 9 at the SPIRE Institute Aquatic Center in Geneva, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. Swimmers need not be top seeds or record-breakers to attend; Masters Nationals are as much about camaraderie and team spirit as they are about competition.

Dozens of major competitions have been held at the state-of-the-art SPIRE swimming facility, which opened its doors in fall 2011. In addition to the 2014 NCAA Division II National Championships, at which 23 national records were broken, SPIRE has also hosted other notable events including the YMCA Divisional Championships (2011, 2014), the Speedo Champions Series Sectional Championships (2013, 2014), the Mid-American Conference Women's Swimming and Diving Championships (2014), and the Atlantic 10 Swimming and Diving Championships (2013, 2014).

Two pools in the 293,000-square-foot facility constitute the aquatic part of the Olympic Village-style setting established for athletes competing and training in multiple sports at the Michael Johnson Performance Center.

The competition pool, a 10-lane, 50-meter Myrtha pool featuring Track-Start blocks, was designed with input from USA Swimming. Two moveable bulkheads allow for 11 different course configurations.

At 14 feet deep at the starting end and 8 feet, 2 inches deep at the turn end, the competition pool will be maintained at a

temperature of 79 to 80 degrees. Meet director and SPIRE aquatic facility director Joshua Ptak says the 36-by-9-foot full video Colorado Display System will display names, team affiliations, subtractive and cumulative splits, and final times.

A six-lane, 25-yard training pool in an adjacent room behind the scoreboard will be available for warm-up and cool-down throughout the meet and will be maintained at a comfortable 80 to 82 degrees. Ptak says a second scoreboard in this area will enable swimmers to stay abreast of what's happening in the competition pool.

Seating for 1,100 spectators is available in the stands. Abundant deck space can accommodate up to 1,500 additional swimmers and spectators. Two sets of locker rooms are available; one is located near the competition pool and the other is accessible from the recreation pool.

A food court with abundant à la carte eating options is located just outside the main competition pool area and the ever-popular Vendor Village will be set up on the second floor. Fee-based parking will be available just outside the facility.

### I LOVE ROCK 'N' ROLL

Beyond the amazing facility and the meet, there are lots of fun things to see and do in and around the Cleveland area. First up, you can finally get the scoop on the artist who performed your favorite prerace song during a visit to the

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### Ground Transportation and Airport

Most major airlines serve Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. The airport is located 60 miles from the SPIRE Aquatic Center. Car rental is available at the airport.

### RV Options

#### »» Willow Lake Campground (5 miles)

3935 North Broadway, Geneva, OH 44041  
440-466-0150

#### »» Kenisee Grand River Campground (1.25 miles)

4680 State Route 307, Geneva, OH 44041  
440-466-2320  
www.keniseegr.com

### Social

This year's social will feature a wine tasting and buffet-style dinner hosted at the SPIRE Institute Banquet Center. Geneva is Northeast Ohio's wine country, and we'll showcase the unique local flavors by offering tastings from several local wineries.

### Hotel & Shuttle Information

Here are some of the hotel options in Cleveland and Geneva for your stay. We will not be running a shuttle service for this event.

Parking will be \$10 per car per day with in-and-out privileges. Parking is located immediately south of the pool area, with additional overflow parking on the east end of the aquatics building. Passes will be issued each day.

For more information on accommodations and tourist attractions, visit [spireinstitute.org](http://spireinstitute.org) and select visitor hotels for more information. When making reservations, mention "SPIRE Institute" to get special rates. Special rates are available through the home page.

Hotel rates do not include taxes.

#### »» Sleep Inn (6 miles) \$99

9350 Center Road  
Austinburg, OH 44010  
440-275-6800

#### »» Ramada Inn (6 miles) \$89

1860 Austinburg Road  
Austinburg, OH 44010  
440-275-2711

#### »» Quail Hollow Resort (18 miles) \$99-\$109

11080 Concord Hambden Road  
Painesville, OH 44077  
440-497-1100

#### »» Residence Inn (23 miles) \$109-\$149

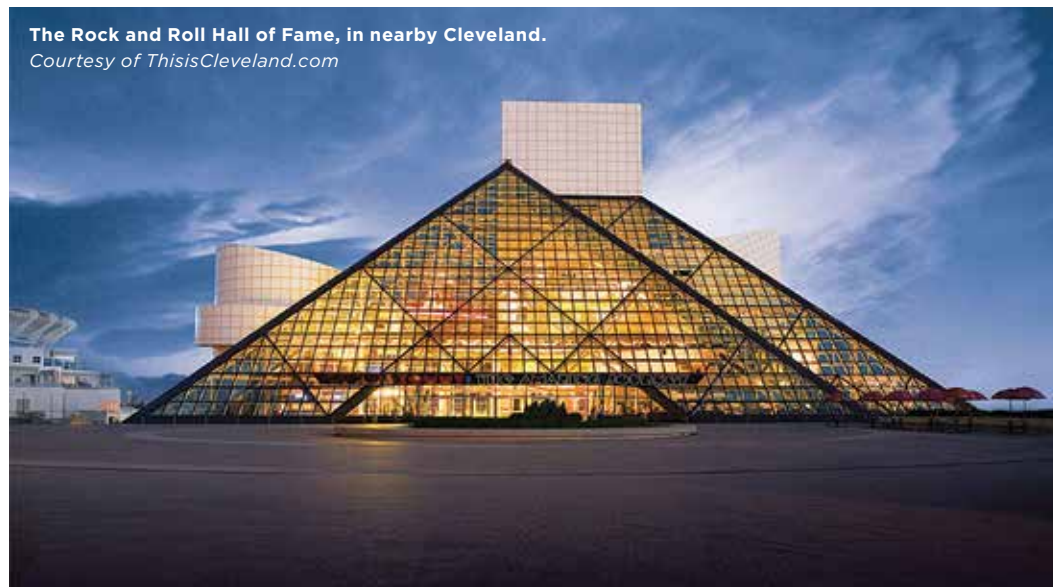
5660 Emerald Court  
Mentor, OH 44060  
440-392-0800

#### »» Red Roof Inn (25 miles) \$60

4166 State Route 306  
Willoughby, OH 44094  
440-946-9872

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Learn about the people and events that shaped rock and roll history and admire the largest collection of rock and roll artifacts in the world. Janis Joplin's Porsche and Michael Jackson's glittering

glove are just two of the more than 50 exhibits on display in the 150,000-square-foot museum. Traveling exhibits, concerts, and a variety of educational activities are also hosted here.



The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, in nearby Cleveland.

Courtesy of [ThisisCleveland.com](http://ThisisCleveland.com)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

- [usms.org](http://usms.org)
- [facebook.com/usmastersswimmingfanpage](https://www.facebook.com/usmastersswimmingfanpage)

#### Meet Directors

Joshua Ptak, SPIRE Institute  
[jptak@spireinstitute.org](mailto:jptak@spireinstitute.org)  
440-466-1002 x139

Matt Sajna, Greater Cleveland Sports Commission  
[msajna@clevelandandsports.org](mailto:msajna@clevelandandsports.org)  
216-363-1109

#### USMS National Office

[info@usms.org](mailto:info@usms.org)  
1-800-550-SWIM (7946)

# Summer Nationals Preview

## ADRENALINE FIX AT THE PARK

Seeking an adrenaline rush on dry land? Then Cedar Point, located on a Lake Erie peninsula about 109 miles from Geneva, is the place to go. Known as the roller coaster capital of the world for its assortment of record-breaking rides, Cedar Point is home to the giga-coaster Millennium Force, which accelerates to 93 mph. You can also zoom upside down six times on the Raptor or scream your lungs out on the wing coaster GateKeeper. If lunch still happens to remain in your stomach after those rides, hop on the 13 other roller coasters in the park. Located in Sandusky about an hour from downtown Cleveland, Cedar Point offers a total of 72 rides, water attractions, and children's areas along with the hot dogs, ice cream, and a lakeside beach that first made the park popular.



## HOME RUN

Major League Baseball fans can embark on a Cleveland tradition by heading to Progressive Field for a Cleveland Indians game. The Indians will play the Minnesota Twins on August 7, 8, and 9.

Professional baseball plays an important role in Cleveland's history, beginning in 1869 when the Cleveland Forest Citys met the Cincinnati Red Stockings. Cleveland was represented in baseball's first professional league, the National Association of 1871. By the turn of the century, Cleveland was an established major league city and the team became known as the Cleveland Indians in 1914. Tickets can be purchased at [cleveland.indians.mlb.com](http://cleveland.indians.mlb.com)

## OPPORTUNITY AWAITS

The 2015 U.S. Masters Swimming Summer National Championship is sure to be a winner at the spectacular SPIRE sports complex. Don't miss out on this opportunity to achieve a personal best, fell a record, or make new friends at this state-of-the-art facility.—*SUSAN DAWSON-COOK*

### MEET ENTRY

#### Online Entry

[usms.org/comp/lcnats15](http://usms.org/comp/lcnats15)

#### Paper Entry Forms

Available by calling 1-800-550-SWIM (7946)

## ORDER OF EVENTS

### Thursday, August 6

800 freestyle\*

1500 freestyle\*

### Friday, August 7

400 IM

100 butterfly

50 freestyle

200 backstroke

100 breaststroke

200 freestyle relay

### Saturday, August 8

400 freestyle (men's)

100 freestyle

200 breaststroke

50 backstroke

200 butterfly

200 mixed free relay

200 medley relay

### Sunday, August 9

400 freestyle (women's)

200 mixed medley relay

50 breaststroke

100 backstroke

200 freestyle

50 butterfly

200 IM

\* You may enter either the 800 freestyle or the 1500 freestyle, but not both. Swimmers entering the 1500 freestyle must meet the NQT.

## CHECK-IN DEADLINES

Positive check-in is required for all events 200 meters and longer. Check-in may be done in person at the registration area or online at [usms.org](http://usms.org) according to the following schedule:

Date	Event	In-Person Check-in*	Online Check-in*
Thursday, August 6	800 freestyle 1500 freestyle	Tues. 3-7 p.m.- Thur. by 7 a.m. Tues. 3-7 p.m.- Thur. by 9 a.m.	Tues. 7 a.m.- Thurs. by 7 a.m. Tues. 7 a.m.- Thurs. by 9 a.m.
Friday, August 7	400 IM 200 backstroke	Tues. 3-7 p.m.-Fri. by 7 a.m. Tues. 3-7 p.m.-Fri. by 9 a.m.	Tues. 7 a.m.-Fri. by 7 a.m. Tues. 7 a.m.-Fri. by 9 a.m.
Saturday, August 8	400 freestyle (men) 200 breaststroke 200 butterfly	Tues. 3-7 p.m.-Sat. by 7 a.m. Tues. 3-7 p.m.-Sat. by 9 a.m. Tues. 3-7 p.m.-Sat. by 11 a.m.	Tues. 7 a.m.-Sat. by 7 a.m. Tues. 7 a.m.-Sat. by 9 a.m. Tues. 7 a.m.-Sat. by 11 a.m.
Sunday, August 9	400 freestyle (women) 200 freestyle 200 IM	Tues. 3-7 p.m.-Sun. by 7 a.m. Tues. 3-7 p.m.-Sun. by 9 a.m. Tues. 3-7 p.m.-Sun. by 11 a.m.	Tues. 7 a.m.-Sun. by 7 a.m. Tues. 7 a.m.-Sun. by 9 a.m. Tues. 7 a.m.-Sun. by 11 a.m.

\*All times are Eastern Daylight.

## MEET INFORMATION

2015 U.S. Masters Swimming  
Summer National  
Championship



Sanctioned by the Lake Erie  
LMSC for USMS Inc. Sanction  
Number [185-S004]

### Location

SPIRE Aquatic Center  
5201 SPIRE Circle  
Geneva, OH 44041  
440-466-1002

### Facilities

The SPIRE Institute Aquatics  
Center is a championship-caliber  
facility with a 54-meter by  
25-meter Myrtha Pool and two  
movable bulkheads. The 10-  
lane, 50-meter competition  
course has 9-foot-wide racing  
lanes and depth varying from 8  
feet 2 inches to 14 feet. The adja-  
cent 6-lane, 25-yard warm up  
pool boasts a scoreboard that  
shows the action taking place in  
the competition pool.

### Eligibility

Participants must be regis-  
tered Masters swimmers and  
at least 18 years of age as of  
August 5, 2015. Swimmers  
turning 18 after the meet entry  
deadline and by August 5,  
2015, must enter the meet by  
the meet entry deadline and  
register for USMS at the venue  
on August 5, 2015.  
If a swimmer wishes to affiliate  
with a Masters club, the club  
and swimmer must both be  
registered with the same Local  
Masters Swimming Commit-  
tee. If there are questions about  
affiliation, the swimmer will  
be entered with the affiliation  
“UC.” (See Paper Entries). In-  
ternational entries must in-  
clude a copy of the swimmer’s  
Masters swimming registration  
card and fees in U.S. dollars.

### Age Groups

Age for the meet is determined  
as of December 31, 2015, ex-  
cept for 18-year-olds, who must  
be 18 by August 5, 2015. Age  
groups for individual events:  
18–24, 25–29, 30–34, 35–39 ...  
(five-year increments as high as  
necessary). Relay events: 72–99,  
100–119, 120–159, 160–199,  
200–239, 240–279, 280–319,  
320–359, 360–399 ... (40-year  
increments as high as neces-  
sary). The aggregate age of the  
four relay team members shall  
determine the age group.

### Registration

Prior to warm-ups or competi-  
tion, all participants must register  
at the meet by signing an emer-  
gency card, safety information  
statement, and liability release.

Registration will be held at the  
SPIRE Fuel (Located next to the  
aquatics center) on August 5,  
2015, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., and  
on all other days from 6:30 a.m.  
through the end of competition.

### Seeding

Men’s heats will precede wom-  
en’s heats for each event, except  
that men’s and women’s heats  
may be seeded together for the  
400, 800, and 1500 freestyles.  
A decision regarding this will  
be announced at usms.org by  
July 20, 2015. The 800 and  
1500 freestyles will be seeded  
slowest to fastest by entry time,  
regardless of age. The 400 free  
and 400 IM may be seeded  
slowest to fastest by entry time,  
regardless of age. The 200-m-  
eter events will be deck-seeded  
and may be seeded by entry  
time, regardless of age, for each  
gender, if the timeline is too  
long. All 50 and 100 events will  
be preceded by age group, with  
the oldest age groups first, slow-  
est to fastest within each group.

### Event Check-in

Coaches or teammates may  
check in online or in person for  
those swimmers whose travel  
plans do not permit check-in by  
the deadlines. Failure to check  
in will result in the swimmer  
being scratched from the event  
and the swimmer shall not be  
permitted to swim that event at  
another time.

### Meet Roster

A real-time meet roster includ-  
ing name, age, gender, and club  
will be available on the meet in-  
formation page, usms.org/  
comp/lnats15. Please verify  
your information and contact  
meetentry@usms.org with any  
concerns by July 6, 2015.

### Heat and Psych Sheets

Psych sheets for all individual  
events will be available on the  
usms.org website on or about  
July 11, 2015. Heat sheets for  
preseeded events will be avail-  
able online around July 24,  
2015. Heat sheets for deck-  
seeded events will be posted  
at various places around the  
pool deck and on Meet Mo-  
bile for swimmers after the  
check-in deadlines.

### Meet Start Times

The competition will start at 8  
a.m. every day unless it is deter-  
mined that the timeline will go  
too late into the day; then com-  
petition may start as early as  
7:30 a.m. on any day. Meet start  
times will be announced at  
usms.org by July 20, 2015.  
Warm-ups in the competition  
pool will be shortened if neces-  
sary to accommodate an earlier  
start time.

### Warm-up Times

The competition pool will be  
open for warm-up on

Wednesday, August 5, 2015,  
from noon to 7 p.m. On com-  
petition days, the competition  
pool will be open from 6:30  
a.m. until 7:50 a.m. and the  
warm-up pools will be available  
from 7 a.m. until the conclusion  
of the final event each day. The  
competition pool will also be  
open for warm-up for 30 min-  
utes following the last heat of  
the 400 IM and 400 freestyle  
events on Friday, Saturday, and  
Sunday, respectively. The com-  
petition pool will be open for at  
least 30 minutes following the  
last event each day. On Thurs-  
day, August 6, 2015, the com-  
petition pool will remain open  
until 5 p.m. or 30 minutes fol-  
lowing the last heat of the 1500  
freestyle, whichever is later.

### Warm-up Procedures

Swimmers must enter the pool  
feet first in a cautious and con-  
trolled manner. No diving or  
backstroke starts will be al-  
lowed, except in designated  
sprint lanes. One or two lanes  
shall be designated as one-way  
sprint lanes during the pre-meet  
warm-up sessions in the com-  
petition pools only. Any swimmer  
who acts in an unsportsmanlike  
or unsafe manner within the  
swimming venue may be consid-  
ered for appropriate action or  
penalty by the referee (rule  
102.13.3). Pull buoys, kick-  
boards, fins, hand paddles, and  
snorkels are not allowed in the  
competition or warm-up pools.

### Scratches

Any swimmer failing to report  
to the proper lane in the correct  
heat of an event shall be  
scratched from that event and  
shall not be permitted to swim  
that event at another time.

### General Meeting

All swimmers, coaches, and of-  
ficials are encouraged to attend or  
be represented at a general meet-  
ing in SPIRE Fuel (located next  
to the aquatics center) on  
Wednesday, August 5, at 5 p.m.  
Matters pertinent to the opera-  
tion and conduct of the meet  
will be discussed.

### Gold Medal Sponsorship

Gold Medal Sponsors will be  
recognized in the official pro-  
gram as supporters of Masters  
swimming. They will receive a  
commemorative gift and will be  
entitled to VIP hospitality,  
which will include breakfast,  
lunch, snacks, and drinks. Cost  
is \$90 and the pass can be or-  
dered on the meet entry form.

### Online Entries

Online entry is encouraged and  
provides immediate entry con-  
firmation. Visit usms.org/comp/  
lnats15. Online registration  
will open no later than May 15,  
2015, and will close at midnight  
Eastern Daylight Time on July  
6, 2015. The meet surcharge

increases from \$50 to \$60 on  
June 16, 2015 (see **Entry Dead-  
line/Variable Surcharge/Mail  
Entry** for dates applying to both  
online and paper registration).

### Paper Entries

Paper entry forms can be down-  
loaded at usms.org/comp/  
lnats15 or will be mailed upon  
request by calling 1-800-550-  
SWIM (7946). Read all instruc-  
tions and fill out the form com-  
pletely. Incomplete forms or  
forms with “pending” in place  
of a USMS registration number  
will be rejected (except for  
18-year-olds who turn 18 after  
the meet entry deadline, but be-  
fore the first day of the meet,  
who must enter the meet by the  
meet entry deadline, but may  
register at the venue on August  
5, 2015). A legible copy of a for-  
eign swimmer’s Masters regis-  
tration card must accompany  
the entry form. A swimmer  
whose club affiliation differs  
from what is listed on his or her  
USMS registration card must  
send either a new USMS regis-  
tration card or a letter from the  
local registrar with the new club  
affiliation and effective date.

### Fees

Fees are \$4 per individual event  
plus a surcharge per swimmer.  
The surcharge varies according  
to date of entry. (See **Entry  
Deadline/Variable Surcharge**.)  
Fees must accompany the entry  
form and must be paid in U.S.  
dollars by check or money order.  
Do not mail cash. The entry is  
not complete until the check has  
cleared the bank. If there are  
questions about an entrant’s  
check, full cash payment in U.S.  
dollars will be required before  
the entrant is allowed to swim.  
Refund requests must be re-  
ceived in writing (USPS or email)  
by July 13, 2015. No refunds  
will be given for events not  
swum. The surcharge also ap-  
plies to relay swimmers not en-  
tered in an individual event. Re-  
lay-only swimmers must submit  
an entry form with payment by  
the entry deadline. All fees  
should be payable to “U.S. Mas-  
ters Swimming.”

### Entry Deadline/ Variable Surcharge/ Mail Entry

Online entries are encouraged  
and will be accepted until mid-  
night Eastern Daylight Time on  
July 6, 2015. If entry is received  
by June 15, 2015, the surcharge  
is \$50. If entry is received after  
June 15, 2015 and by July 6,  
2015, the surcharge is \$60. En-  
tries received after July 6, 2015,  
will be returned to sender. No  
telephone or email entries will be  
accepted. Mail paper entries ear-  
ly (include a self-addressed  
stamped envelope with entry for  
proof of receipt). Do not send  
certified or overnight mail re-  
quiring a signature. Photocopy

completed entry forms and per-  
sonal checks for your records  
and verification. Mail paper en-  
tries to: USMS Summer Nation-  
als, P.O. Box 185, Londonderry,  
NH 03053-0185.

### National Qualifying Times/ Number of Events/ Sixth Event

Competitors may enter up to three  
individual events without meeting  
the national qualifying time, or a  
maximum of six events if they  
meet the NQTs; i.e., have swum a  
time equal to or better than the  
NQTs during the past two years.  
Exception: Competitors entering  
the 1500 free must meet the NQT.  
All swimmers are limited to three  
individual events per day. All  
events must include an entry time.  
If the meet is deemed too large, an  
athlete’s sixth event will be  
dropped. On the entry form, indi-  
cate this event with a “6” in the  
designated column. No refunds  
will be given if the sixth event is  
dropped. If a swimmer enters an  
event with a time significantly  
slower or faster than that swim-  
mer’s recorded time in the pre-  
vious two years, the meet director  
may, after a discussion with the  
swimmer, change the seed time to  
a realistic time.

### Distance Events (800/1500)

Swimmers may enter either the  
800 or the 1500 free, but not  
both. Swimmers entering the  
1500 free must meet the NQT.

### Relay Information

Swimmers can enter relays until  
3 p.m. on the day before the relay  
is scheduled. Relay only swim-  
mers (i.e., not entered in an in-  
dividual event) must have entered  
the meet and paid the surcharge  
by the meet entry deadline. Each  
competitor is allowed to swim  
only one freestyle relay, one med-  
ley relay, one mixed freestyle re-  
lay and one mixed medley re-  
lay. The entry fee for each relay, is  
\$12. Relay entries may be sub-  
mitted at the relay desk in the  
registration area. Each of the four  
members of any relay team must  
be registered with the same Mas-  
ters club. Relay entry fee is in ad-  
dition to individual entry fees.  
Relay entry forms are available  
for download at usms.org.

### Time Verification (formerly OVCs)

Swimmers wishing to have  
times entered into SWIMS  
(USA Swimming times data-  
base) must complete a form at  
the meet prior to the swim.  
Contact the administrative ref-  
eree at the meet.

### Service Animals

Please contact the meet director  
by July 6, 2015, if you require  
the use of a service animal. Ani-  
mals other than service animals  
will not be permitted on deck at  
the venue.