

Swim Fun

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An old fashioned swimming competition can be a great family event to kick off the new year in August when school starts. Here are a couple of events that our boys really enjoyed. Both of these events are done in the shallow end of the pool (3-4 ft deep is great). Be sure and have lifeguards present. Often the city will lease a pool to a club for 1 hour for a modest fee.

Inner tube racing - get enough inner tubes so that each boy of a club has a tube (you can have 2 heats of competition if you can't get enough tubes for every boy to race at the same time). Have 2 adults in the pool to help the boys get onto the tubes. The boys sit in the tube and use their arms as paddles to row (backwards) toward the finish line. Have 3 adults to note 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers.

Paddle Board Kicking Race - get enough paddleboards so that each boy of a club has a paddleboard. You can make these boards from 1" Styrofoam (or urethane) siding (get at the lumberyard). Make the boards about 1' x 2'. Tape the outside edges with Duct® tape to keep bits of Styrofoam from flaking off and so they are stronger. Line boys up by club and away they go across the pool (shallow end) kicking their feet and holding on to the paddleboard with their hands. Have 3 adults to note 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers.

Awards - Medals with chest drapes plus Swim Fun Patch (see Patch Place in Where to Get It).

Supplies: inner tubes, paddleboards, whistle (for starting), and clipboards with boys names by clubs for each event.

Optional: cookies and punch or other refreshments.

