



NorthWest Family YMCA

SPRING 2026

SWIM LESSONS

STRONG SWIMMERS START HERE.

SWIM STARTERS

RATIO 1:10

Accompanied by a parent, infants and toddlers learn to be comfortable in the water and develop swim readiness skills through fun and confidence-building experiences, while parents learn about water safety, drowning prevention, and the importance of supervision.

A

B

A/WATER DISCOVERY

Parent accompanies children in stage A, which introduces infants and toddlers to the aquatic environment, through exploration and encourages them to enjoy themselves while learning about the water.

B/WATER EXPLORATION

In stage B, parents work with their children to explore body positions, floating, blowing bubbles, and fundamental safety and aquatic skills.

SWIM BASICS

RATIO 1:6

Students learn personal water safety and achieve basic swimming competency by learning two benchmark skills:

- Swim, float, swim sequencing from glide, roll, back float, roll, front glide and exit
- Jump, push, turn, grab

S1

S2

S3

1/WATER ACCLIMATION

Students develop comfort with underwater exploration and learn to safely exit in the event of falling into a body of water in stage 1. This stage lays the foundation that allows for a student's future progress in swimming.

2/WATER MOVEMENT

In stage 2, students focus on body position and control, directional change, and forward movement in the water while also continuing to practice how to safely exit in the event of falling into a body of water.

3/WATER STAMINA

In stage 3, students learn how to swim to safety from a longer distance than in previous stages in the event of falling into a body of water. This stage also introduces rhythmic breathing and integrated arm and leg action.

S4

S5

S6

4/STROKE INTRODUCTION

In stage 4, students develop stroke technique in front crawl and back crawl and learn the breaststroke kick and butterfly kick. Water safety is reinforced through treading water and elementary back-stroke.

5/STROKE DEVELOPMENT

In stage 5, students work on stroke technique and learn all major competitive strokes. The emphasis on water safety continues through treading water and sidestrokes.

6/STROKE MECHANICS

In stage 6, students refine stroke technique on all major competitive strokes, learn about competitive swimming, and discover how to incorporate swimming into a healthy lifestyle.

SWIM STROKES

RATIO 1:6

Having mastered the fundamentals, students learn additional water safety skills and build stroke technique, developing skills that prevent chronic disease, increase social-emotional and cognitive well-being, and foster a lifetime of physical activity.

2026 SPRING SWIM SCHEDULE (JANUARY-MAY)

		4 WEEK SESSION 8 LESSONS PER MONTH		WEEKEND SESSION 4 LESSONS PER MONTH			
WHEN	MONDAY/WEDNESDAY	TUESDAY/THURSDAY	SATURDAYS				
SESSION	JAN: 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 & 28 FEB: 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23 & 25 MAR: 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23 & 25 APR: 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 & 29 MAY: 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25 & 27	MAR: 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 & 26 APR 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 & 30 MAY: 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 & 28	JAN: 10, 17, 24, 31 FEB: 7, 14, 21, 28 MAR: 7, 14, 21, 28 APR: 4, 11, 18, 25 MAY: 2, 9, 16, 23				
FEE	\$55 Member, \$100 Nonmember			\$30 Member, \$60 Nonmember			
SWIM STARTERS	**All Swim Starter participants under 36 months must be accompanied by a parent or guardian 18 or older.			**WATER DISCOVERY - STAGE A 8:30-9:00 AM (6-18 months) **WATER DISCOVERY - STAGE B 9:10-9:40 AM (18-36 Months)			
SWIM BASICS	S1	WATER ACCLIMATION 4:30 – 5:00 PM (3 -12 yrs)		WATER ACCLIMATION 9:50 – 10:20 AM (3-12 yrs)			
	S2	WATER MOVEMENT 5:10 – 5:40 PM (3 -12 yrs)		WATER MOVEMENT 10:30 – 11:00 AM (3 -12 yrs)			
	S3	WATER STAMINA 5:50 – 6:20 PM (3-12 yrs)		WATER STAMINA 11:10 AM – 11:40 PM (3-12 yrs)			
SWIM STROKES	S4	STROKE INTRODUCTION 6:30 – 7:00 PM (6-12 yrs)		STROKE INTRODUCTION 11:50 – 12:20 PM (6-12 yrs)			
	S5 S6	STROKE DEVELOPMENT/ MECHANICS COMBO 6:30 – 7:00 PM (6-12 yrs)		STROKE DEVELOPMENT/ MECHANICS COMBO 11:50 – 12:20 PM (13 yrs)			
SWIM BASICS					ADULT SWIM BASICS 12:30 – 1:00 PM (13 & older)		

ACCOMMODATIONS: At the YMCA we believe everyone deserves the opportunity to learn to swim. We're dedicated to providing inclusive swim lessons and are happy to discuss accommodations to meet your specific needs. Please reach out to our Aquatics Director for more information.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons offer the opportunity to have one-on-one instruction at any age or level. Lesson availability is dependent upon available instructors and pool space.

FEES Members: \$30/1, \$95/4, \$175/8, \$250/12
Nonmembers: \$150/4

See Member Services or visit columbiaymca.org to schedule.

PLEASE READ

1. Children who are not potty trained need to be in a vinyl diaper.
2. Classes require a 3 participant minimum. If your class has 2 or less enrolled you will be contacted regarding other available options.
3. Classes will be canceled in the event of inclement weather or pool mechanical issues.

REGISTER TODAY!

Visit Member Services or columbiaymca.org



QUESTIONS?

Call 803.407.8007 ext. 218 or email lillyharris@columbiaymca.org