

This event requires participants to stand in line for long periods and be in loud spaces that are potentially very warm and include big crowds. For information on accommodations and sensory supports, please contact accessibility@asphaltgreen.org.

PREPARING FOR THE MEET

- Have your swimmer arrive at the event in their swimsuit to ease the transition of changing clothes.
- Keep in mind that swimmers and their guardians must part ways prior to swimmers entering the changing room. Asphalt Green staff will be in the locker rooms to support changing, but parents are not allowed inside. If this is a direct concern, please contact us at accessibility@asphaltgreen.org.
- For changing back into clothes after the swim meet, we recommend packing baggy clothes and easy-to-fasten shoes.
- If your swimmer has support needs, here are some suggested items to bring while waiting in line (please note: items can't go on the pool deck):
 - **A bracelet or nametag** with your family member's name, a contact number, and any other important information.
 - **Ear plugs or headphones.** This event can be very noisy, especially in the locker room and on the pool deck.
 - **A favorite device or activity.** Bring your participant's tablet, video game, comic book, or anything else you think might be calming or distract them and keep them occupied during any downtime.
 - **A sensory toy, like a stress ball or other calming item.** If your participant experiences sensory overload, the sounds, smells and commotion could become an issue.
 - **Reinforcers for good behavior.** Waiting for the participant's turn can be long, so items that motivate them will help reinforce good behavior, so your family can enjoy a day of fun!
- **Use a Visual Schedule.** There are many ways to create a visual schedule. We suggest starting with the activities that you know will take place, such as how you will travel to Asphalt Green and the time you plan to arrive. Next, fill in the remaining times with the schedule (waiting in line, register at the desk, enter Asphalt Green, change in the locker room without your parent, head onto the pool deck, participate in the swim meet, change back into clothes, meet your guardian outside) and use a question mark or a change card to build flexibility into the schedule (especially in regard to wait times). Review the visual schedule with your family members before your visit so they have an idea of what to expect.
- **Consider taking a photo** of your participants on the day of your visit (especially if your family member with support needs tends to wander off or not respond immediately to their name) on your mobile device. This photo can be very helpful in the event someone in your group becomes separated and/or during pickup time.

STANDING IN LINE

- Be prepared to stand in line for as long as **90 minutes**.
- Bring sunglasses, hats, water, snacks, and activities for you and your participant(s) to stay occupied while standing in line.

DISABILITY ACCESS SERVICE:

The Disability Access Service is designed for participants with **cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities** who have difficulty tolerating extended waits in a traditional queue environment due to their disability, and the service allows the party to schedule a return time that is comparable to the current queue wait.

- To learn more about the Disability Access Service as well as additional accommodation available based on individual service needs, contact us at accessibility@asphaltgreen.org.
- To utilize the Disability Access Service, eligible guests will participate in a registration/intake process.

DURING THE SWIM MEET

- The pool area can get very warm, so audience members should wear removeable layers to feel comfortable while sitting and waiting for participants to swim.
- Our viewing area is fully accessible for any audience members with physical disabilities.
- Swimmers should expect to wait on the pool deck for upwards of an hour without personal belongings. There will be games and entertainment to keep kids engaged, but we do encourage preparing children who struggle with wait times so that they know what to expect.
- Staff on deck will have sensory bags with sensory items for swimmers to borrow while on deck.
- **Swimmers will not have access to personal belongings while on the swim deck.**
- Need a break? Notify an Asphalt Green Staff Member and they can direct you to the closest quiet space.
- **Asphalt Green staff members specializing in supporting with disabilities and sensory support needs will be wearing yellow.**

AFTER THE MEET

- Children will be reunited with their parents at the front of the AquaCenter in the playground area.
- Pickup moves quickly and Asphalt Green staff are there to support pickup.
- Please be patient as there will be lots of kids exiting at once.
- If you are concerned about pickup procedures, please contact us at accessibility@asphaltgreen.org.

We hope this guide has provided helpful information in support needs planning for your participation in the Big Swim.

If you have any questions that were not answered in this guide, please email accessibility@asphaltgreen.org.

If you are interested in our adaptive programs, please visit asphaltgreen.org.