

Dear Beckman Families (**PLEASE READ TO THE END**)

Sadly, it's the close of the 2017-2018 Beckman boys water polo regular season and just last week we honored our seniors for their water polo careers and memories at Beckman. Unfortunately, this also means some of our families are also moving on and we have to say goodbye to many outstanding parent volunteers - and for that we are incredibly sad. But no one would argue that one of the most dedicated, amazing, parent volunteers we have ever had should be especially recognized at this time.

Gretchen Reynoso has been part of the Beckman Water Polo family for the last 5 years, and was a major contributor in the startup of Patriot Aquatics in 2013. Through her tireless work, she has constantly raised the bar as a superstar parent volunteer and it's almost impossible to describe all that she has done, both officially and unofficially. To say that we have "big shoes to fill" has to be the understatement of the decade. Gretchen has literally been the backbone of both programs and if you want to see why, **PLEASE READ TO THE END!**

Here's a sampling of what Gretchen has been up to the last 5 years (this is no slouch!):

Beckman Water Polo:

- Booster's Board: Boy's secretary (2 years) and VP (2 years)
- She sent out the countless emails to communicate to the families. We would need a scientific calculator to determine the exact number.
- Registrar and Billing for entire organization. Imagine having to deal with so many clueless parents!
- Worked closely with the apparel coordinator to handle the charges for apparel and to call every family who did not participate to make sure they knew about apparel order.
- Always involved in making and bringing food for kick-off breakfast, Alumni day, snack during tournaments, CIF luncheon etc. Her burritos and salsa are legendary.
- Organized meals for season kickoffs
- Sponsored non-planned dinners and lunches just because she wanted to feed the boys. And oh, those leftovers!
- She donated not only her time and normal donations but she went beyond to sponsor boys who could not pay to go on some overnight trips. She stayed anonymous until now (thanks Judy!).
- Attended and helped (shopping, prepping, serving, cleaning, etc) for all summer retreats.
- Chaperoned many of the overnight trips. Kept the players away from cliffs while playing Pokemon Go.
- Came to almost all the games and brought along her mom and dad to cheer on the team. Go Team Reynoso!

Patriot Aquatics:

- Put in countless hours in the entire admin (billing and registration) aspect of Patriots for 3 years. This is a job you can't get someone to do even if you pay them!
- Volunteered many hours in snack bar when Patriots hosted tournaments. Another job no one seems to ever want.
- Always willing to help when help is needed. Gretchen always helped with selling apparel, setting up and opening snack bar, going to the bank to make deposits, running the gate when we hosted JOs and HS tournaments with a gate fee.

- Not afraid to question procedures to make the club better. I repeat: **Patriot Aquatics does NOT prorate fees**

And here are some unofficial roles Gretchen has had:

- Beckman and Patriot head coach
- Beckman and Patriot 2M specialty coach
- Shamelessly getting players to get their physicals done
- Chief cook and bottle washer at all Beckman and Patriot events

What do her colleagues have to say about her great work and influence over the years? PLEASE READ TO THE END!:

Duje Grubisic: When I first got the job as a head coach Gretchen was one of the first people I got to meet “again”. I say “again” because I didn’t have interaction before with Super Gretchen who is involved in organizing of almost all of the high school boys team activities and events. Organized, communicative, helpful, supportive, educational are just some of the traits that can describe Gretchen on a daily basis that have helped me transition into a new position as painless as possible. She fed me with probably hundreds of emails of information and answered every question I had, and if she couldn’t she knew people that would. Thank you for one awesome experience as it has been a true enjoyment working with you in creating the best experience for the boys as well as bashing on people that don’t read emails and ask questions we already answered (hehe)!

Sam Bailey: I have fond memories of Gretchen at our meetings at the Sirmopoulous and Hajali homes. Obviously, after Soosie Sohn left, Gretchen basically ran the Patriot Club from a financial perspective. And she did a tremendous job of keeping books and establishing protocol that kept the club afloat. Without Gretchen, Patriot would have sunk long ago.

Judy Kim: Gretchen, who is a full-time teacher, has done so much for both Beckman and Patriot Aquatics. What I most appreciate about her is that she takes complete ownership of her volunteer efforts. In addition, she is not a NATO (no action talk only). Whatever task she is given, you know it will get done. Her emails are always fun to read except when they had to be really long. And, she makes a killer salsa!

Agnes Tran: Gretchen's dedication to both Beckman's water polo program and to Patriots Club is something that I simply cannot put into words. She has filled some part of every role in both programs - from finances, to scheduling tournaments, to organizing meals for retreats, to sending out her awesome emails...the list goes on and on. I will truly miss Gretchen next year. The sport of water polo brought us together but I know that I have made a friend for life. I am so thankful for her and her dedication to our boys and our program. Gretchen has awesome email communication and her funny emails always make us laugh. Her breakfast burritos are the BOMB! She works behind the scenes in every way. We love you, Gretchen!!

Chris Ruoff: When Travis transferred to Beckman in 2016, little did we know that we were in for an incredible experience. As webmaster for both the Beckman and Patriot programs, I've had the privilege of working with Gretchen almost daily and am still amazed at all she does and the professionalism she displays, especially in the most difficult moments. She has the roles that no one seems to want but she always handles these like a pro. We are also moving on from Beckman and I'll miss our interactions and

all the fun we have had in the process. It's rare you meet someone as dedicated as Gretchen, and we should all be very grateful for that!

Classic Gretchen Reynoso email subjects and copy:

The Never-ending Saga of Athletic Clearance

- No, this is not a joke. There are still 8 people who are not cleared. Too bad I haven't sent out over 30 email reminders about athletic clearance. **OH WAIT!!! I DID!!!**

Sample Swim Sets

- ACHIEVE WITH AVIV
- ALECTRIFYING
- THE BAYLOR
- CHASE YOUR DREAMS
- TAKE IT TO THE MATT
- A HAT TRICK WITH PATRICK
- NOT WORKING OUT IS A TRAVIS-TY
- HOORAY FOR DUJE

Hell Week just got more hellish

Lake Arrowhead Retreat

- Please, no nighttime Pokemon hunting near edge of cliff.

San Onofre Retreat

- YOU MUST PICK UP YOUR ATHLETE PROMPTLY AT 10:00 AM ON MONDAY MORNING OR COACH DUJE SAYS HE IS GOING TO CHARGE \$5 PER 5 MINUTES BABYSITTING FEE FOR LATE PICK-UPS – NO EXCEPTIONS!!

GRAB YOUR TISSUES:

- Many of you may have had Stuart Marsh ask you to “Give him some sugar” during a game and may have thought he’s a freak. Well, he is, but that’s beside the point. There’s much more to the story. Grab your tissues, and read the attachment – a very touching story.

(Oh, one last one courtesy of Patriot Aquatics...)

Patriot Aquatics does NOT prorate fees. Get that? I repeat:

Patriot Aquatics does NOT prorate fees!