

DIVE TEAM FAQs

How can the dive team benefit my diver and my family?

The Dive Team at Westleigh is a wonderful experience! It is flexible and fun, for a variety of ages, and requires no prior experience. Whether you want a casual, no-pressure environment or want to really work hard, improve your skills and seriously compete *or anything in-between*, we have what you are looking for. Your child will get to learn fun new dives, be social, be active, all while outdoors and at the pool where your family is already a member. Dive Team offers an unlimited number of practices, 4-6 fun meets with lighthearted competition, social activities, weekly snacks, a highly skilled and experienced coach and lots of splashing and fun.

Who will coach my child?

Tim Faerber will be our Head Coach for the 2025 dive season. A diver in Montgomery County since the age of 6, Tim has competed nationally and internationally throughout high school, attending the junior world championships in 2008 and qualifying for the 2012 Olympic trials. Tim has extensive experience coaching for Montgomery County Dive League, Montgomery Dive Club, and Junior Olympics diving clubs. Tim is currently working on completing his PhD in astronomy and physics at West Virginia University.

Ellie Pantezzi is our highly skilled and experienced Assistant Coach. She competes nationally as well as for Quince Orchard High School, and has been coaching at Westleigh for 4 years. Ellie is passionate about helping young divers gain a love for the sport of diving. Ellie is also the 2025 4A/3A Girls State Diving Champion!

What is the schedule?

Divers attend 45 minutes of practice each weekday between 4pm and 7pm from (about) May 28th until the 3rd week of July, with the exception of July 4th, any days the pool is closed due to inclement weather, and some Wednesdays when Westleigh hosts swim meets. **Divers should attend practice at least 3 days each week to ensure they are prepared for meets.**

There are 4-5 meets in the season held on Sundays at 4pm, with the option of a Rookie Meet for first time divers (schedule: www.mcdiving.org/meets). Divers who qualify will be eligible to compete at the Divisionals and All Stars meets at the end of the season. There is an optional final meet for those who do not qualify. We wrap up the season with a banquet which we hope all our divers and their families will attend to celebrate our young athletes.

Does my child have to come to all the practices to be able to participate in a meet?

The short answer is no. One of the best aspects of this fun summer team is its flexibility. But you should consider that your diver will not be able to perform any dive that the coach feels is not safe due to lack of practice, and therefore your child may only be able to dive “exhibition” (not for a score) at the meet. We recommend that divers attend at least 3 practices per week.

Do we have to come to all the meets?

No. The Dive Team welcomes divers at any level of commitment. Your child can either participate in practices and meets, or just the practices.

What ages can participate?

Kids from age 6 to 19 can participate. (Divers must be 18 or younger on May 31st, 2025, to be eligible.)

Can I be on both the swim team and the dive team?

Yes! That's great! There may be slight overlap in schedules but with a little flexibility it can work out well to do both teams.

Do I need a special suit/attire?

Nope. Any well-fitting suit will do. A one-piece is recommended to avoid any "wardrobe malfunctions" when your diver hits the water. For fun and spirit you can purchase the same suit as the swim team, or any other blue and white suit, but that is not required.

My child wants to participate but I'm busy. Is volunteering mandatory?

Yes. There is a lot to do and the Team Rep can't do it alone even if they wanted to. MCDL requires each team to fill certain roles at the meets. If families do not fill those roles or help out in other ways there will not be a dive team. If you are unable to contribute your time, speak with the Team Rep directly - she may consider a rare exception allowing you the option of contributing financially to offset the cost of hiring professionals for the unfilled roles.

I am willing to help out but I don't have any experience.

No problem at all! You are in good company with the rest of us parent volunteers who are just figuring it out as we go. There is free, quick and easy training for all jobs. No need to feel intimidated or to stay away due to lack of experience.

What is the cost?

Registration is \$160 per diver (\$140 per sibling). Payment must be received before your child can attend practice.

My child is unsure about joining. Can we try it out before we decide?

Sure! We have a "try it" option. For just \$40 your child can attend 3 practices, which is then applied to the registration fee if your child decides to join the team, but is otherwise nonrefundable.

I'm on the fence about my child participating. How can I learn more?

E-mail Callie and Andrea, the Dive Team Reps! They are dive moms and would love to talk: WestleighDiveTeam@gmail.com.