

OPENING CEREMONY NOTES & PROGRAM IDEAS



Audience: Elite Age Group Athletes ages 9-14

Date: Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm - 7:45pm

Pace: Fast pace--to keep attention of athletes

Meet Motto: Swim Your Passion

Meet Vision Statement: Create opportunities for each to discover something great within, and also among, through inspiring passionate performance, expanded connection and lasting legacy.

Activity Ideas:

- Video clips (Olympians & Former Olympians wishing them luck)
- Video Segments (longer “meet messaging” video segments)
- Video Intros (Short visual “introduction” titles)
- Athlete Reps (Introduce them, then they introduce unique info about the meet & help “ignite passion, connectivity & legacy” for the participating athletes)
- Olympian Talk (10ish minutes)
- Filming of all athletes wishing Olympians “Good Luck!”
- Possible parade of athletes? (Worried about time constraints)
- Use announcer to tie it all together & host event?

Ignite Passion, Connectivity & Legacy

- **Passion**
 - ***Swim Your Passion! (What does this mean to you? Share the joy of being part of America’s Swim Team on Social Media!)***
 - **Connectivity**
 - ***Cheer on Olympic Teammates***
 - ***Cheer on your LSC Teammates***
 - ***Get to know other USA Swimming “Teammates” from other LSC’s***
 - **Legacy**
 - ***How will you be different when you leave? What will you have gained? What will you have done? What will you have learned?***
-

Meet Host Focal Points:

1. Passion

- Have fun while inspiring the next generation of athletes, and all others associated with the meet, to tap into their potential, experience the intensity of competition and share the joy of being part of America’s swim team, especially in this, an Olympic year.

2. Connection

- Building on Utah’s Olympic legacy, create a unique and exciting event that fully utilizes the opportunity for all involved to unite in the Olympic Spirit. The Olympic connection will be leveraged through the use of local venues and mirroring fun traditions.
- Enabling connection for the athletes to their team and to other swimmers in the Western Zone.
- Facilitating connection for all associated with the meet to each other, our country and the sport of swimming.

3. Legacy

- Leave a positive, enduring legacy by:
 - i. Making this one of the most fun and memorable, quality swimming events for everyone involved no matter how large or small a part they play.
 - ii. Utilizing the USA-Swimming community within Utah to plan, prepare and host the event to increase interaction, experience and certification (where applicable) among members.
 - iii. Seeking partnerships with community organizations for volunteers, donations and purchasing locally where feasible.
 - iv. Running a fiscally responsible event.

Pre-Program Prep:

- Get “Rocky Makes Waves” artwork to LSC’s and encourage them to make one of their team shirts, a “Rocky Makes Waves” shirt to wear to Opening Ceremonies. Suggest team colors so there will be a variety of colors in the stands.
- Get video of Olympians wishing WZ athletes good luck at their meet (various sources)
 - Later idea: Get a few “Rocky Makes Waves” T-shirts to www.breakoutswimclinic.com before Olympic Trials and ask to have Olympians they film wear one when making the video. They can keep shirt as a “Thank You.”
- Create additional videos
- Prepare Floating Flag (*After Note: This was harder than originally anticipated*)

Program:

- **Videos**
 - 5 min. Countdown prior to start
 - Inspirational video (*2016ZonesOpeningCeremonies*)
- **Experience:** Video introduction of LSC’s & roll call
- **Speaker: Meet Director (~5 min)**
 - Welcome! What does it mean to “Release the Raptor”, Did You Know?, Intro of Gratitude Campaign, TrueSport & Various Deck Pass Patches
- **Video:** Introduction of Olympic Speed Skater Gold Medalist Derek Parra
- **Speaker: Derek Parra (~5 min)**
 - Share Olympic experience & speak briefly about motivation
- **Video:** Olympians wishing Western Zone athletes good luck at their meet (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2xZ7tL1-ae2hO9HgSAGwjw>)
- **Experience:** Create video cheer to send to Rio Olympians
 - American flag floated across pool by swimmers while athletes chant “U-S-A” then cheer