



**American
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News Release

American Red Cross of Greater Columbus
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Area Lifeguards to go head-to-head in life-saving competition

July 10, 2007 - Local lifeguards will compete for bragging rights at the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus 2007 Lifeguard Competition on Sunday (July 15) at the Groveport Aquatic Center – 7370 Groveport Rd. - beginning at 8:00 a.m. The competition is open to the public and admission is free.

Teams representing Columbus-area aquatic facilities will compete in six events including rescuing a distressed victim, a victim who is floating in the water and a victim with a spinal injury. The guards will also demonstrate first aid and CPR skills.

While the competition is intended to be friendly and fun, the skills that are being tested are ones that could mean life or death for an individual facing an emergency. Every year more than 4,000 people drown in the U.S. Many more deaths would occur if public and private pool facilities did not have trained lifeguards on duty.

AEP of Ohio is joined by Kroger and Greenhouse Aquatics as sponsors of this event.

Pools registered to participate include the 2006 State Champions, Hilliard East, teams from Hilliard West, three Dublin pools, Jewish Community Center, Grove City YMCA and Columbus Recreation and Parks pools.

The top four teams from the local competition qualify for the statewide competition being hosted by the Red Cross of Greater Columbus at Dublin Community South pool on August 5.

The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus trains more than 1,200 individuals to become lifeguards each year.

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Note: The best opportunity for visuals is between 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The competition should end by 11:00 a.m. with award presentations at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Results will be released to the media on Monday, July 16 and are available by phone on Sunday between 12:30 and 2:30. Call Lynn Cook at (614) 332-4929.

Directions to Groveport Aquatic Center: I-70 E toward Wheeling; US-33 E. via exit 105A toward Lancaster; Right onto Rager Rd.; Left to stay on Rager Rd.; Right onto Groveport Rd./CR-7.