



**American
Red Cross**

of Greater Columbus

NEWS ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

Nearly 20 Teams of Lifeguards From Area Pools Competing for Top Honors At OSU This Weekend

July 10, 2008 – They have the skills to save lives, but hope they never have to use them. Lifeguards from nearly 20 greater Columbus teams will gather this Sunday, July 13th at The Ohio State University McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion, 337 W. 17th Avenue, to test their skills on “volunteer victims” in the annual American Red Cross of Greater Columbus Lifeguard Competition sponsored by The Ohio State University, Abercrombie & Fitch and The Ohio Aquatic Council, Ltd. The event begins at 8 am and is scheduled to run until noon. Teams will be tested at several events including resuscitating a distressed victim, demonstrating CPR skills and more. During the competition Red Cross lifeguards will be diving into 1.5 million gallons of water at The Ohio State University McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion. That’s nearly a gallon of water for every adult in Central Ohio!

The main purpose of this event is to measure the performance and readiness of Central Ohio’s lifeguards in a fun and safe environment. This Lifeguard competition is run in conjunction with American Red Cross competitions in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton and Summit County. The weekend’s top four teams will advance to the American Red Cross State Lifeguard Competition later this summer.

Editor’s 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 14th.

The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus is dedicated to helping make families and communities safer at home and around the world. Sustained by over 600 volunteers, the Red Cross provides assistance to more than 500 families each year after home fires and other disasters strike. Last year the organization trained and educated more than 97,000 area residents in vital lifesaving skills like first aid, CPR and how to prepare for emergencies. The Red Cross also sent more than 800 emergency messages between members of the military and their families. The community transportation program provides rides to medical appointments for seniors and individuals with disabilities, logging more than 19,600 trips last year. All these programs and more are made possible by the donations of time and money from the greater Columbus community.

Michael Carroll is the CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus and Mary Navarro serves as the board chair.

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