

Northern TRIBS Swimming

Thee American Eels

Since January 2007



MISSION STATEMENT

Northern TRIBS Swimming is dedicated to enhancing technique and race ability for motivated swimmers in the communities surrounding the Tributaries to the St. Lawrence River, to compete at standards of excellence. Our mission is to provide opportunities for swimmers to achieve their highest potential, both as a person and an athlete, while promoting and encourages the highest degree of understanding and respect towards teammates, competitors, supporters, and the waters we swim in!

Explanation of Club Name:

NOTE: The American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) has been chosen as our mascot due to its historical and cultural significance to our area. They are currently being considered for designation under both the Canadian Species at Risk Act and the United States Endangered Species Act. Historically they were a species smoked and eaten heavily during the winter months. They are still an economic species They utilize the Tributaries to and including the St. Lawrence River for migration during their fascinating life cycle to feed prior to swimming back 1,000's of kilometers to the Sargasso Sea to spawn. Some scientists hypothesize that the Hydrodams in the St. Lawrence River have had the most impact on the abundance decline of the American Eels. American Eels life cycle includes multiple phases and metamorphosis that could be representative of a swimmers level progressing from Age Group to Senior Level (i.e elver, yellow eel, silver eel, glass eel). Besides encouraging pride in a local species via swimming correlation, we hope to enhance awareness of acting locally, thinking globally.

Northern TRIBS Swimming name was developed because we our emphasizing our demographics on Section 10 swimming which includes 2 different State Counties and the Mohawk Territory of Akwesasne comprised of 9 competing High Schools for Girls Swimming and 2 competing High Schools Boys Swimming. The linking factors to these schools and swimming are the north flowing tributaries to the majestic St. Lawrence River that run through each township and community involved. Many of our towns are still localized around these rivers and have an impact on our communities socially, economically, spiritually, and culturally. Culturally, Mohawks believe water is the "blood of life", and connects all living things. Therefore, we would like to attempt to create a spiritual and competitive connection with our local waters related to swimming, pool or rivers alike, that would promote a lifetime appreciation for swimming.

Co-Founded by Jessica Jock & Joshua Jock

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