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## Swim for Sadie program provides free swim lessons to local students

HARRISONBURG, Va. — The generosity of local community members and the memory of a beloved swimmer will make sure hundreds of kids in the Harrisonburg area learn to swim.

The City of Harrisonburg is offering a new, free swim lesson program to Harrisonburg City Public Schools students in grades kindergarten through second. The program, called Swim for Sadie, will teach both fundamental water safety and basic swimming skills. It also aims to instill a love of swimming, create opportunities for kids to build friendships and simply serve as a source of joy in our community.

Registration for upcoming Swim for Sadie swim lessons will take place in-person at the Registration & Kick-Off Event on Friday, May 29 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Westover Pool.

This event, which is exclusively open to HCPS students in grades kindergarten through second and their families, will feature leisurely swimming, music, Kona Ice, and both healthy refreshments and goodie bags from Augusta Health. Registration will highly prioritize families with second graders this year as it's the only year current second graders will be able to participate before aging out of the program.

Swim for Sadie was created through a partnership between Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation and the Deeble family in memory of their daughter, Sadie, who passed away on October 25, 2022 from sudden cardiac arrest. The program is funded by hundreds of donations from the community. "Sadie was an avid swimmer and loved spending time with her friends and teammates in the water," Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Director Brian Mancini said. "Swim for Sadie is one way that her light can continue to shine, both in spreading joy to the community and teaching life-saving skills to local kids."

Find more information about Swim for Sadie at [HarrisonburgVA.gov/Swim-for-Sadie](https://HarrisonburgVA.gov/Swim-for-Sadie).

**The City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 56,879 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](https://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).



*(Above) Swim for Sadie registration and swim lessons will be held at Westover Pool in Harrisonburg, Va.*

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