

# Coach Jon Brenner

## 2026

### Wisconsin & Upper Michigan YMCA Swimming Scholarship

Jon Brenner spent nearly 30-years coaching YMCA swimming, including eighteen seasons (1991-2009) with the La Crosse Area Family YMCA Wave. He was a soft-spoken man who loved what he did and accepted any and all who wanted to swim. He was genuinely interested in and appreciated each swimmer, regardless of ability. His teams were large and happy and known for their camaraderie, spirit, and goofy songs. He stressed kindness, individual responsibility, and team unity. Jon counted it a privilege to watch as his swimmers grew and improved both in and out of the pool. Jon's career was cut short in January 2010 when he passed away of brain cancer at the young age 54.



In Jon's memory, the Wisconsin & Upper Michigan YMCA Swim Coaches Association is awarding \$2,100 in six scholarships to graduating high school students. The scholarship amounts are one \$500, one \$400, and four \$300. Eligible swimmers must be: graduating from high school in 2026, attending a four-year college or university in the Fall of 2026, and be a current member of their YMCA swim team. Scholarships will be awarded based on a short essay that will be judged by a panel of YMCA personnel.

#### To Enter

Submit a 400-600-word essay explaining how being a member of a YMCA swim team has affected your life. Submit the essay via e-mail to [south.eastern.aquatics@gmail.com](mailto:south.eastern.aquatics@gmail.com). Write YMCA SCHOLARSHIP and your YMCA TEAM NAME in the subject line. **Make sure to include both your name and your YMCA on your essay.** You will receive a confirmation of receipt within 24-hours, if you don't, please contact Neil Wright at the above email or at phone number 262.994.3157 to confirm your entry was received.

Deadline: Sunday, February 22, 2026. Essays are only accepted in electronic format. Please ensure essays are forwarded in Microsoft Word format or as a PDF.

By submitting an essay, the swimmer is agreeing to have the document shared with the YMCA community both online and in print.

Scholarship winners will be announced on Saturday at the 2026 Wisconsin YMCA State Championships. All scholarship awards will be paid by check directly to the recipient's school of attendance. **Scholarship winners must email their school information to Eric Demrow [edemrow@spymca.org](mailto:edemrow@spymca.org).**