



Education & Outreach Program

Ashley Kelly Swim Program



Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation partners with the Ashley Marie Kelly Foundation, the American Red Cross, and Loyola University to provide a free weeklong swim program in May to anyone who lives in the Pontchartrain Basin and is 5 years or older.

Lessons are held in Orleans and St. John Parishes. They consist of 5 weekday classes, each a 40-minute session of swim instruction. In addition to the swim lessons, each day there is a 5-minute session about environmental issues that affect the Pontchartrain Basin.



We live surrounded by water here in South Louisiana, and we need to know how to be caretakers of our environment as well as how to safely enjoy the recreation it offers.



Lessons were organized in 2003 in honor of Ashley Marie Kelly, who lost her life in Lake Pontchartrain. Her sister, Lotoya Kelly, helped create the Ashley Kelly Swim Program along with LPBF to teach people how important it is to learn how to swim.



Volunteers are needed each year to assist in this program. To provide an adequate number of instructors, an additional program was created to train strong swimmers 16 years and older to be Water Safety Instructors (WSIs). Normally a \$300 class, the WSI students attend a week of instruction free of charge and complete training the following week by serving as swim instructors for the Ashley Kelly Swim Program. Classes are offered in the evenings.

