



The **Arizona Aquatic Sports Foundation (AASF)** is a collaborative fund of the Arizona Community Foundation with the mission of promoting awareness, access and long-term sustainability of aquatic sports throughout the state of Arizona. The **AASF** will initially focus its efforts in Mesa, AZ and neighboring communities by maximizing the unique synergy between Mesa's world class aquatic facilities, the Mesa Aquatics Club, the City of Mesa, Mesa Public Schools and Visit Mesa ([www.visitmesa.com](http://www.visitmesa.com)) and by promoting excellence, access and participation in aquatic sports. In addition, as donations allow, the **AASF** will support additional aquatic athletes, programs and events throughout the state of Arizona.

The **Arizona Aquatic Sports Foundation** began as a group of like-minded individuals with a passion for aquatic sports and a desire to encourage, support and promote aquatic sports including but not limited to, learn to swim, competitive, water polo, open water and synchronized swimming athletes, programs, training and events. In **AASF's** initial year of operations, the **AASF** has already supported team swimming scholarships, team training and aquatic events for youth who, without financial support, would not be able to continue swimming competitively.

The **Arizona Aquatic Sports Foundation** will, with additional donations, promote awareness, access and long-term sustainability of aquatic sports by:

1. *Building Awareness for Aquatic Sports, Athletes and Programs by:*
  - a. *Promoting aquatics as a vehicle to health and personal growth and well-being*
  - b. *Promoting participation in aquatic team sports and competition*
  - c. *Hosting and implementing aquatic events*
  - d. *Developing and implementing drowning prevention education and learn to swim programs*
  - e. *Promoting life-long participation in aquatic sports*
2. *Creating Access and Affordability for Aquatic Sports, Athletes and Programs through:*
  - a. *Support scholarships and funds for aquatic athletes with financial and/or special needs (AASF scholarship information can be found at [www.AzH2OFund.com](http://www.AzH2OFund.com))*
  - b. *Collaborative efforts with communities and community resources to sustain and maximize the availability and efficacy of aquatic facilities*
  - c. *Recruitment and retention of high-quality aquatic staff and coaches*
3. *Long-Term sustainability of Aquatic Sports, Athletes and Programs through:*
  - a. *Marketing, promotion and support of AZ aquatic athletes, programs and events*
  - b. *Care and maintenance of aquatic facilities, equipment and personnel*
  - c. *Developing and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships with community leaders, businesses and members*

*As a collaborative fund of the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF), contributions to the fund are tax deductible. The **AASF's** funds are held by the ACF and all grants and scholarships are approved and awarded by recommendations from a committee of the **AASF**. The Committee meets on a bi-annual basis to determine scholarship recipients, support awards, etc., for the following 6-month period.*

***For more information about AASF, please visit our website at [www.AzH2OFund.com](http://www.AzH2OFund.com) or contact Sandy Shrader, Arizona Sports Foundation, 1146 N. Mesa Dr. #102-254, Mesa, AZ 85201, 480-478-5125 or via email at [Sandy@AzH2OFund.com](mailto:Sandy@AzH2OFund.com).***