



JUDGES' COMMENTS:

"This facility appears to have mastered the art of combining state-of-the-art fitness and fun."

BEST INDOOR FAMILY AQUATICS CENTER Class 7
(100,000 to 300,000 annual attendance)

Pratt Aquatic Center, Tooele, Utah

Inside the lobby of the Pratt Aquatic Center in Tooele, Utah, is a large display board tallying the progress of patrons who have logged more than 500 miles/hours. There's one elderly woman who has clocked more than 1,100 hours in aerobics classes. Another young lap swimmer has swum 700+ miles. But what the numbers on the board don't keep track of is the mileage that this center has racked up to become No. 1.

After 52 years, the Tooele Memorial Pool was outdated. The community had experienced growth and the aquatics facility was forced to adapt with it. The pool closed its doors in 2001, and two years later opened with a new look. With an eight-lane competition pool, spectator seating for 500, a toddler pool with a slide and a 3,500-square-foot leisure pool, the newly named Pratt Aquatics Center has been transformed into a state-of-the-art aquatics fitness center.

Aerobics. Exercise. Competition. Advertising by word-of-mouth and the local newspaper. The new facility became so popular that management had to hire an additional 10 staffers to keep up with patron demand. And then two years later, the largest outdoor facility in Utah was closed permanently, leaving Pratt to take up the slack.

The Pratt Aquatic Center experienced another set of growing pains, this time from three communities. The number of patrons had increased more than 50 percent.

Fortunately, two years had been enough time to produce guards and instructors certified by the American Red Cross, and trained in WSI, CPR, first aid, AED and O2 through its aquatics programs. And because Pratt had been through a growth spurt before, its operators knew what to expect. With a grant from the city council, the aquatic center was able to pick new hires from the strongest crop of up-and-coming young adults in the area. Since then, management has continued to make headway, keeping up with the community's needs, though there is no large display board to boast how far they've come. — Rin-rin Yu



FACILITY HIGHLIGHTS: A large display board for members in the 100, 250 and 500 miles/hours club • A limited amount of donated therapy passes for community patients
FEATURES: 1 traditional pool • 2 leisure pools • 1 lazy river • 1 water slide • 2 diving boards • 1 spraypad • 1 water playground • 3 water toys • Lap swimming (12 hours per day)
PROGRAMMING: Learn-to-swim • Diving • Lifesaving • Water aerobics • Water therapy • Competitive swimming • Masters Swimming • Water polo • Scuba • Adaptive aquatics