

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

Kids Stuff



## Program teaches the important life skill of swimming

By ANGELA COOPER-McCORKLE

Hundreds of second graders have dived into free lessons at the Snohomish Aquatic Center, getting stronger and safer with every swim.

Swim for Life is a program that allows every second grader in the Snohomish School District to take a series of classes for free.

“It’s really, really fun,” said second grader Lukas Felten, age 7. “I was a bit worried when I started but after the first day I loved it, it’s totally easy to like.”

The swim center on Maple Avenue is full of the sounds of splashing and children playing and learning. Bright lime and blue life jackets, orange and red noodle shaped foam floats

and printed swimsuits of superheroes and flowery fields fill the space.

Once students get in the water, sometimes for the first time ever, they are taught how to float on their stomach and back and other basic skills. For first-level lessons, boys and girls also work up to bobbing under water 10 times, kicking with straight legs against the wall, and rolling over and calling for help.

Felten said one of his favorite parts is games like Red Light, Green Light. When the instructor says green light, he gets to kick but has to stop the second he hears “red light!”

For brothers Ian Hough, 6, and Nathan Hough, 8, the boys act out their favorite technique, the torpedo, by

raising their hands above their heads into triangles and kicking their feet. They’ve also learned the elementary backstroke and crawl stroke, swimming faster and faster with each new stroke they master.

Over time, swimmers can learn how to glide easily back and forth through the water and stay safe in place treading water.

A first time in the pool can be a little scary. The Houghs cried when they first started but are glad they continued. Now, they’re not only safer in the water but they get to do cannonballs, too, Ian Hough said.

“I wish more people would take advantage of the program. I grew up here and knowing that I’m helping make my community safer

makes me feel awesome!” high school swim coach Rob Serviss said.

Last year, 167 Snohomish second-graders learned to swim for free. Since the free lessons were first offered in 2015, about 450 children have taken the classes said Serviss, who is also the Aquatics Manager at the center and Swim for Life board president.

“I think everybody should know how to swim,” Serviss said. The “scholarships available through Swim for Life provide a lot of opportunity for people in our area to learn an essential life skill. We want to make kids safe, that’s the most important part, and my favorite part.”



Normally swim classes can cost \$70 but second graders in Swim for Life receive a four-to-five-week session of classes free. Classes meet once or twice a week.

Families that want to sign up for lessons can register starting Oct. 8 for a fall session that begins Oct.

15. The next session starts Nov. 19. There are also some partial scholarships available for families with school-aged children in any grade. Go to [www.swimforlifesnnohomish.org](http://www.swimforlifesnnohomish.org) for more information or ask at the front desk of the Aquatic Center, 516 Maple Ave.

## Harvest Festival at Remlinger Farms



Remlinger Farms opens their gates every fall for five weekends of old fashioned Harvest entertainment starting Sept. 29. In addition to the Farm Market Fall specials, the Gift and Craft Shops, the Farm Restaurant and the U-Pick pumpkin fields, the Northwest’s largest Fall Harvest Festival continues every weekend in October from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Festival admission is \$20.75 plus tax – this one low admission gets you the “Full

Farm for the Full Day”

Among all the extravagant fall decorations and over 400 scarecrows, there are over 25 rides and attractions including: authentic steam train rides, hand-led pony trail rides, antique car rides, corn maze, 4-H barnyard animals, mini ferris wheel, mini roller coaster, carousel and more. Little tykes rides include Remlinger’s additions of the Crazy Corn Ride and El Paso Train Ride – both

under cover! There is also live entertainment in the Farm Theatre. You can also find a pumpkin from the mounds of pumpkins in the Festival Area or head out to the Pumpkin Patch to pick out your perfect pumpkin—priced by size.

Also in October Remlinger Farms offers educational tours, by reservation.

The tour includes live entertainment, a visit with the 4-H barnyard animals, an educational stop at the Pioneer Village, ride on the authentic steam train and more!

Remlinger Farms is located just south of Carnation off Highway 203.

For more information visit [www.RemlingerFarms.com](http://www.RemlingerFarms.com)



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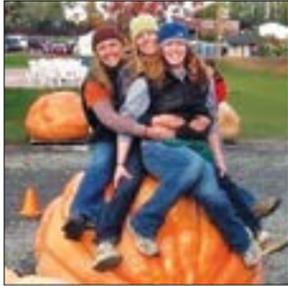


## Fall Family Fun at The Farm

Operating through October 31, The Farm at Swan's Trail has 50 acres of pumpkins as well as gourds, corn stalks and bales of hay for fall decorating. The Farm is home to the Washington State Corn Maze which is a 12-acre maze that looks like a giant map of the State of Washington. There are over 600 signs in the maze marking the roads, cities and towns that cover our state. The maze is used by teachers all over the region as a teaching tool to help students begin their study of Washington State History and Geography.

Visitors who come to The Farm also enjoy wagon rides,

a petting farm, 9 hole putting course, flashlight maze, pig show, live duck races, hay barn maze/slide, children's play area which includes a



cow train and giant covered hayjump, a huge box of dried corn kernels (like a sand box), critter swings and a giant pile of sand with

excavators.

There is also a large covered area available in case of weather mishaps.

If you have never seen the pig show or duck races you owe it to yourself to come out and witness some hilarious farm entertainment!

The gift shop, concessions, bakery, kettle corn and espresso will be open on the weekends.

The Farm also offers fresh, hand-picked, sweet corn and U-pick apple orchard!

Farmers Ben and Carol Krause and family are always on hand to help make your visit fun for the entire family. For details visit [www.thefarm1.com](http://www.thefarm1.com)

## Fun at Thomas Family Farm

With a half-million pumpkins, 10-acre corn maze, The Nightmare on 9 Haunted House, Zombie Paintball Hayrides with live Zombies and glow-in-the-dark paintballs, and many more kids' activities in Kid Land, Thomas Family Farm is the perfect place to celebrate fall and Halloween!

New this year is the 5-Minute Escape Rooms and Haunted Hay Rides.

Zombie Ride sales for

online purchasing of "Timed Ticketing" has begun! ([www.thomasfamilyfarm.com](http://www.thomasfamilyfarm.com))

Bring the family and take a hayride to search for the perfect pumpkin, mine for gems, ride the Monster Truck, Pro-Karts and race down the 100-foot Super Slide!

Children will also love the Kids Paintball, apple cannon, putt-putt golf, hay mazes and duck races. And of course, everyone will love the food court!

Grandparents Weekend is Oct. 6-7, everyone gets 50% off pumpkins and daytime corn maze if they bring their grandparents! Heroes/Service Weekend is Oct. 13-14 offering the same discounts.

Try out your skills on the Zombie Mechanical Bull Oct. 20 (7-9 p.m. only).

Thomas Family Farm is located at 9010 Marsh Rd. in Snohomish. For details visit [www.thomasfamilyfarm.com](http://www.thomasfamilyfarm.com).

## Craven Farm Fall Festival

Craven Farm offers a 20-acre pumpkin patch with over 30 varieties of pumpkins and squash!

Explore the Adventure Maze - a fun and educational trail through the corn! Travel through Storybook Lane and view scenes such as "Clifford the Big Red Pumpkin" and "Goodnight Pumpkin," play on the tire animals in "Crit'tire' Place," climb and jump through "Obstacle Highway," create your own music in the "SoundGarden," take the Sunflower Loop to learn about the parts of a plant, and then answer farm-related educational questions in a short maze to exit the trail.

Get lost in the 15-acre corn maze with Alice in Pumpkinland-themed story while you search for the three secret rooms. When you find

room two, will you choose the easier Bunny Trail or the more challenging Wild Hare Loop?

Purchase a rubber duck and race with your friends using the old fashioned water pumps.

Challenge your friends to a game of Human Foosball!

Stop by the I-Spy barn near the tractor ride to Minionville and try to find all the items on the list.

Follow along with Craven Farm's story "There's Mice in the Pumpkin Patch" as you play 9 holes of Mini Golf.

On the weekends, take aim at Bigfoot with the apple slingers and take a hayride through Minionville!

Craven Farm invites you to start a family tradition and make a scarecrow. Bring him back each year to restuff.

Other activities include



farm animals, harvest market, face painting (weekends) and more.

The Night Owl Corn Maze is open October 19 and 26, it's not scary - just fun! Bring a flashlight!

For more information and rates, visit [www.cravenfarm.com](http://www.cravenfarm.com). Craven Farm is located at 13817 Shorts School Rd. in Snohomish.

Come see why Craven Farm was voted one of America's Best Pumpkin Farms by both Travel & Leisure and Reader's Digest!

## Fall Harvest Celebration Oct. 13

Come to the Evergreen Cemetery Saturday, Oct. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a day of fun! There will be a petting zoo, pumpkin decorating, Bouncy House, refreshments and much more! The Cemetery is located at 4504 Broadway in Everett.