



Inaugural Amazing Grace Award 2018 Call for Nominations

About the Amazing Grace Bunke Award

This is an award to honor Grace Bunke's positive attitude, fearless determination, and infinite spirit. Swim Across America (SAA) – Atlanta will present the award annually at the open water swim event as a way of keeping Grace in our hearts as well as a reminder for *Why We Swim*. The purpose of the award is to encourage everyone to take after Grace and to remember that “Hope has no finish line.” Grace was loved and admired for her go-getter attitude and display of grit in the face of hardship. Grace represents the passion and commitment that Swim Across America participants and its supporters embrace – in Atlanta and across the country – to swim, to volunteer and to fundraise to the fullest potential and to *Make Waves* to fight cancer. The award honors Grace while simultaneously promoting perseverance and fearless determination and recognizing an individual who embraces these same qualities of character.

This award has been created by the members of the SAA Junior Advisory Board Class of 2018 as their lasting legacy in support of SAA-Atlanta and its beneficiary the Aflac Cancer & Blood Disorders Center of Children's Hospital of Atlanta.

About Grace Bunke

Grace Bunke battled osteosarcoma - an aggressive form of bone cancer - for nearly four years and while she underwent treatment including a partial leg amputation and two lung operations she transitioned from running track to swimming. Grace never let the cancer stop her. She quickly excelled at swimming making the US Paralympic Team and her varsity high school swim team as a freshman. Last year she took to open water swimming and participated in SAA-Atlanta. She bravely and publicly battled cancer with her trademark nickname “Amazing Grace” and quote “Prayer is asking for rain; faith is bringing an umbrella.” Grace Bunke passed away on March 25, 2018, the day before her 15th birthday.

Call for Nominations

This is an open call for nominations. Anyone can nominate an individual they think is deserving of the Grace Bunke Award. The nominator does not need to be registered for the Swim Across America event on

September 22, 2018 at Lake Lanier; however, the person nominated must meet the requirements listed below:

- A registered participant (swimmer or land volunteer) of the 2018 SAA – Open Water Atlanta Swim;
- The nominee must have reached Wavemaker status at the time of the nomination (Wavemaker status is an individual who has fundraised a minimum of \$1,000);
- The nominee must exhibit fearless determination, perseverance, and a spirited attitude toward fundraising efforts in support of the beneficiary;
- The nominee must demonstrate leadership, a go-getter attitude, and grit in the face of hardship;

- The nominee must have organized at least one fundraising event or initiative, i.e. bake sale, car wash, pool swim, golf tournament or spirit night.

Important Dates:

- The two-week nomination period begins: Wednesday August 22, 2018
- Deadline for nominations: Wednesday September 5, 2018 by 11:59pm EST
- Amazing Grace Bunke Award announced and presented at the SAA Atlanta event: Saturday, September 22, 2018

How to Nominate:

Please tell us why your nominee should receive the Amazing Grace Bunke Award by completing the online nomination form below. DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: Wednesday September 5 by 11:59pm EST.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Ci64fMnnNz6UzhhtibnMVG6ER1xC1AUQvC67Wf39Rok/prefill>

2018 Panel of Judges:

The following judges have been selected to determine the final award recipient based on unsighted judging and a comprehensive scoring format.

- Junior Advisory Board (JAB) Class of 2018 -

Maddie Singletary JAB President
 Ellie Crosswell
 Sarah Grace Thompson
 Eemil Harkonen
 Jaime Matherson
 Stella Newton

Abby Pilkenton
 Kate Pitfield
 Emma Schwartz
 Kendall Seefried
 Parker Solberg
 Ava Westfall

Rob Butcher, SAA National Executive Director
 Megan Melgaard, SAA National Event Director
 McClain Hermes, US Paralympian
 Alison Millsaps, 2017 SAA-Atlanta Volunteer of the Year

Dr. Julie Granger, Advisor
 Amelia Farmer, Moderator (President, 2017 Jr. Advisory Board)

Questions? Please call or email Madeline Singletary at maddieswims2020@gmail.com or 678-209-6329