

Ohio's First All Breast Cancer Survivor Dragon Boat Team



We empower breast cancer survivors with the spirit of hope, wellness, fun and friendship through the camaraderie and paddle sport of dragon boating. We are moving forward, sharing "Boatloads of Hope" and celebrating a great, active life after breast cancer.



Our Mission

Inspired by the courage of the dragon and the power of the paddle, our mission is to support and care for each other, increase self esteem, physical and emotional wellness through paddling. We welcome all those living with breast cancer to join us in sending the message of hope and encouragement to other survivors, their families and the community. The Dragon Dream Team demonstrates that there can be a full and active life after a Breast Cancer diagnoses.



Our History

The Dragon Dream Team was founded in 2007 thanks to the efforts of a local Breast Cancer Survivor, Jessica Mader and Dr. Douglas Wagner, her plastic surgeon, from Akron. During the summer months, 76-year-old Jessica was a member of a BCS Dragon Boat team in Nova Scotia. Back in Akron, her enthusiasm and positive attitude while undergoing cancer treatment inspired Dr. Wagner. He offered to purchase a full size 20-paddler dragon boat, challenging Jessica to invite other breast cancer survivors to "get on board".

Fun Fact

Dragon Boats date back 2000 years ago to Southern China and even further back to the first Olympics in Greece. Modern dragon boats are typically 40-feet long with 20 paddlers, a steersperson and a drummer.



On-the-Water Practice

New members participate in a set of training sessions to learn the paddling stroke and procedures in the boat. After completing these introductory sessions, they will move on to either casual or competitive practices, depending on their level of commitment. Casual practices occur twice a week – on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings, while competitive practices are held three days a week - on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. These competitive practices lead to participation in out-of-town “festivals.”

What Should You Bring To Practice?

The team provides life jackets (PFDs) and paddles. You should bring a water bottle, hat, comfortable clothes, and shoes which can get wet. Plan on keeping your cell phone in your car or in our locked boat house.



For More Information, Contact Us on Our Website
<https://www.dragondreamteam.org/>