



The Downtown Swim Club was created in 1987 and presently has about 125 members between the ages of 19 to 85 years. They identify themselves as the LGBTQ2S+ and Allies swim club in Toronto. While the DSC does not actively promote their club at this time, those who are looking for an LGBT team tend to find them fairly easily from their website or word of mouth.

There is a strong emphasis on the social component to swimming with DSC, so you will often find members socializing after practice. Though they have not done formal training camps or trips as a club, many members who met through the club travel together to train, compete and explore the world.

Member recognition is important at DSC, there is an annual holiday celebration with awards to recognize both serious and fun achievements. Shout outs are given to fellow members throughout the year in their bi-monthly newsletter.

In 2020, prior to COVID-19, DSC hosted its first swim meet in many years and had started a program of stroke clinics for members and the broader masters community. The club is looking forward to growing its membership after the pandemic and pursuing the recently implemented activities.

As stated on the home page of their [web site](#), "DSC is more than a swim club, it is a community". They are proud of their very strong social community of people who support one another. A great example of this was when the club shut down due to COVID-19, in March of 2020, refunds were offered. Only 10% of our members asked for the refund so that they could continue paying our coaches to support them through the difficult time. DSC also has amazing coaches, including a mix of knowledgeable members of the club and U of T varsity swimmers. DSC's head coach, Gaël Chaubet, was the recipient of the Swimming Canada Masters Excellence in Coaching (2020) award.

Looking towards the future, the hope is to get members back into the water as much as possible in the upcoming season.