

Dear Parent(s) of a Purdue Crew Team Member,

On behalf of the **Purdue Crew Parents Club**, welcome to another fast and exciting year of Purdue Rowing, from Milwaukee, WI to Gainesville, GA and all cities in between!

- **To Varsity Crew Rower Parents:** Welcome back after a short summer following the Dad Vail Regatta in Philadelphia and ACRA National Championship Regatta in Georgia last May!
- **To Novice Crew Rower Parents:** For those of you parents who have sons or daughters that have just joined and are starting the Purdue Crew experience as Novices, we would like to extend you an especially warm welcome to the Purdue Crew Family. We are glad to have you aboard!

The Purdue Crew Parents Club:

With the fall season starting, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce and tell you a little bit about the Purdue Crew Parents Club.

Who Are We?

Quite simply, we are a group of active crew parents who help support the Purdue Crew team members and coaches throughout both the fall and spring seasons.

What Do We Do?

- **Feed The Team:** One of our main functions is to organize, purchase, transport, and prepare cooked food and beverages in order to keep all student crew team members (around 125 for 2018-19) fed and hydrated before, during and after each regatta. As you can imagine, the rowers burn many calories and need lots of energy, thus they quickly consume lots of food and beverages during each regatta. This is especially true at late fall and early spring regattas, when it is cold outside and yes, can even be snowing! Our goal is to insure your sons and daughters have enough quality hot / cold food and beverages to eat and drink at each regatta, as well as a Parent's Club prepared to-go meals for their long bus rides back to Purdue after each regatta.
- **Provide Awards:** We purchase custom made individual and team awards that are presented to the rowers during the end of the year banquet in May.
- **Coordinate Purdue Alumni Support:** Many of the regattas are held in major cities or metropolitan areas. Since both Purdue University and Purdue Crew have a large nationwide alumni base of graduates and previous rowers, the Parents Club reaches out, works and coordinates directly with these local alumni chapters for regattas. Based upon this coordination, the alumni will come to the regattas, provide local support, cheer on the rowers, network with them, etc. This provides the students with a great opportunity to not only meet these Purdue alumni and past rowers, but to also network and build relationships that could add value come graduation time.

How Are We Funded? As we are Purdue parents and not part of the university, we are not funded by nor receive any funds from the university. Meaning, **we are 100% self-funded and rely fully on donations from parents** in order to buy the food, beverages, cooking equipment, propane, etc. needed in order to feed and hydrate your son or daughter at each regatta throughout the year.

How You Can Help Support Your Son or Daughter?

- **Financial Support:** As mentioned above, being that we are 100% self-funded and rely fully on donations to buy, transport, and prepare the food and beverages needed to feed each rower, we are always in need of donations. Whether it be to buy something as simple as water or as advanced as a generator to power toasters, coffee pots, etc.

- **What Type of Donation Can I Make?** This year, with the number of rowers increasing and as food and other costs continue to rise in this strong economy, the average cost to feed each rower per day is \$15. There are typically about 4 regatta days in the Fall and 8 in Spring. All donations large or small are greatly appreciated. Please be assured that ALL donations go fully and directly to pay for the items (food, beverages, awards, etc.) needed for your sons and daughters.
- **How Do I Make The Donation?** Donations can be made through **PayPal** at the following link:
 - <https://www.paypal.me/purduecrew>
- **Help at Regatta's:** As our Parents Club is a small group of folks and we are challenged with having to quickly plan, prepare for and feed 125 student rowers at each regatta, we could always use another set of helping hands. You don't have to be a chef or cook, though we will gladly take those as well ☺. If you are willing to roll up your sleeves and work a little, can cut vegetables, stir a pot, load ice, make coffee, etc., want to have fun, laugh, and a good time with other Purdue Crew Parents, all while cheering on your student athlete, then come help us. We would love to have you!
 - **Next Step: What If I Want to Help At Regatta's:** If you are interested and want to help, then come see and introduce yourself to us at a regatta. We can always be found during regattas working under the Purdue Crew Tents (Black Top with Purdue Crew Logo). Since we feed the rowers out of the Purdue tents, they act as the main focal and gathering point for both the team and Parents Club during the regattas.
- **Sign-Up To Bring Something:** If you are coming to a regatta and would like to bring something to support the Parents Club and the Team, we have a way that you can do that. In the week before each regatta, a list of items needed is placed out on **Sign-Up Genius**. If you have provided your e-mail to the Parents Club, you will receive an e-mail inviting you to the Sign-Up to bring specific items for that upcoming regatta. Please review the list and select items that you would like to buy and bring to the regatta that weekend. Item selection is on a first come sign-up basis.

In summary, our role as the **Purdue Crew Parents Club** is simply to provide the needed support for your sons and daughters throughout the fall and spring rowing seasons. In order for us to keep doing that, **we need your help and support, both physically at regattas and financially. Your PayPal donations will keep the Purdue Crew Parents Club solvent & keep the horses fed.** If you would like to help at regattas, please feel free to come meet us at the Purdue Tent, we would love to meet you, welcome you to the Parents Club and bring you on board!

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me directly. My contact information is noted below.

On behalf of the Parents Club, thanks in advance for your continued help and support as we begin another successful, rewarding and fun Purdue rowing season!

Boiler Up!

Jay Taylor

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