

Cottonwood Swim Team FAQs

Is my child old enough to be on the swim team?

Most children are ready for swim team the summer before Kindergarten. Readiness is determined on a case-by-case basis, but if your child can listen and follow directions, is not afraid of the water, has basic survival swim skills, then there's a good chance your swimmer is ready for the team. Coach Marla and Coach Elizabeth can assess your child at their swim clinic or during the 6 & Under swimmer evaluations.

Does my child need to be a good swimmer to join?

Swimmers must be able to swim independently at the beginning of the practice season. 6 & Under swimmers who do not attend a swim clinic will be required to attend a swim evaluation before the season starts to ensure they can swim across the shallow end of the pool.

What is the swim clinic?

There are several options available. Swim clinics are **optional** and offered by Coach Marla and Coach Elizabeth for an additional fee. If you wish to sign up, you can do so on the website at the same time as swim team registration.

Swim clinics are especially helpful if you are new to the swim team and/or you have a young swimmer and want to assess their readiness.

Does my swimmer have to practice every day?

We understand that summer includes vacations, camps, and other activities. However, daily attendance at practice (Monday–Friday) is important for improvement and team bonding. Please try to attend as consistently as possible.

Do I need to stay for practice? Can I be on deck with my swimmer?

- **Swimmers 8 & Under:** A designated adult must be present during practice (parents can take turns).
- **Older Swimmers:** Can ride bikes or walk to practice.
- **Parents:** Must remain outside the fenced pool area but can watch from the steps and socialize.

What is the parent volunteer requirement?

Swim meets are **100% run by parent volunteers**. Each family is required to earn **6 volunteer points** per season. Jobs vary in time, scope, and interest, allowing parents to select the roles that best fit their schedules.

- New families have priority in selecting jobs.
- Volunteer jobs officially open to all families on April 2 and can be accessed under the “Events” tab on the website.

What gear does my swimmer need?

- **Practice Suit:** Girls – racing suit | Boys – jammer
- **Goggles & Towel**

- **Swim Cap:** Provided with registration
- **Team Suit:** Not mandatory, but this year's suit (2025) is the Speedo Eco Splice in Team Red, which can be purchased from SwimOutlet.com.
 - [Link for Girls Suit](#)
 - [Link for Boys Suit](#)
 - If not purchasing a team suit, please find a **red/black suit** for meets (options available on [SwimOutlet](#) or Amazon).

What is Thrilling Thursday?

Each Thursday, swimmers receive treats after practice! Parents sign up on the website to bring snacks such as: popsicles, fruit snacks, granola bars

Note: Thrilling Thursday sign-ups do NOT count toward volunteer points, but they are a fun way to boost team spirit!

How can I be involved?

- Volunteer! (Every family has a required number of points)
- Help with meet days, the Awards Banquet, or the 4th of July BBQ
- Join the Pirate Swim Team Board! (Fulfills all volunteer requirements)

Being involved is a great way to meet neighbors, build community & support the team!