

Newsplash

Issue 3

April 28, 2024

www.stseaotters.com



TEAM PICTURES & SPIRIT POSTER PAINTING - May 1, 3:30-6:00pm

- **Individual/Buddy/Sibling Pictures:** Jim Nelson photography will be taking pictures from 3:30-5:30pm. The order form is attached to the Newsplash email (and you can also find it on our website). Swimmers normally wear their swimsuits for individual pictures. Please don't wait until 5:00pm to arrive for your individual pictures...the line gets long as the afternoon progresses.
- **Swimmer Spirit Shirt and Swim Cap Pick-up:** Swimmers will be able to pick-up their Sea Otters Spirit Shirts and personalized swim caps between 3:30-5:30pm, on the Upper Deck near the Game Room. ALL swimmers will wear their team shirt for the team picture, so please arrive at the pool early to pick-up your shirt.
- **Team Picture:** We will begin lining up for the Team Picture at 5:30pm.
- **Spirit Poster Painting:** Show your Sea Otter spirit by creating posters during the picture taking window! Poster painting will happen on the Upper Deck. Swimmers' posters will be displayed around Rancho all season.
- **Spot-in-the-Lot & Pop-Up-Spot:** Tickets will be available for purchase - and winners will be announced a day or two prior to each meet.
 - **\$5 for 1 \$20 for 5 \$50 for 12**
 - **Spot-In-The-Lot:** Enter to win some peace of mind and a couple more minutes of sleep with a **front row Spot-In-The-Lot** at a **home or away** meet!
 - **Pop-Up-Spot:** Skip the early morning line at a **home** meet and get a Pop-Up-Spot set up for you - *in your preferred location!*
- **PLEASE NOTE: ALL practices are canceled on Wednesday, May 1 due to photos.**

VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS

Open now through Friday, May 3. Please refer to the email sent out by 'Michele Clark' via TeamUnify on April 14 & 20 or on our [website](http://www.stseaotters.com) for details. Questions? Reach out to our Volunteer Coordinators, [Michele Clark & Nina DeSimone](#).

Please note: As a reminder, for volunteer shifts starting before the gates open, you cannot set up your pop-up until the equipment team is done setting up for the swim meet and the gates are opened.

SECRET SEA OTTERS - Sign-ups are OPEN!

[Secret Sea Otter signups are now open!](#) Sea Otters who wish to participate will be secretly matched to another Sea Otter in their age group to create and deliver encouraging notes and fun surprises (<\$5 per week) the night before each meet. Signups close Friday, May 3. Questions? Email [Emily Becker](#).

OTTER BUDDIES - New this year!

This year, swimmers will be paired with a Sea Otter in another age group to foster friendships and support throughout the team. Materials will be provided before or after practices each week so that swimmers can make a craft to give to their buddy at that week's meet. Buddy matches will be shared at the Donut Meet. **Please email [Emily Becker](#) no later than May 3 if your swimmer **does not** want to participate, or with any questions.**

RANCHO SERVICE PROJECT - MAY 4, 10am-12pm

Bring your wheelbarrows, garden tools, and Sea Otter spirit to the 3rd Annual Sea Otters Community Service Project Saturday May 4, from 10AM-12PM. The whole family will be able to help prepare the Rancho Santa Teresa Swim and Racquet Club for the swim season by participating in activities such as painting, grounds cleanup, and playground maintenance. Our major activity will be laying new mulch in the playground area - wheelbarrows and large shovels will be especially useful!

TIME TRIALS (AKA, THE DONUT MEET) - May 11

ALL swimmers should plan on attending our ***Time Trials meet on Saturday, May 11***. At Time Trials (affectionately called the "Donut Meet" because each swimmer receives a donut after their first swim), swimmers will clock their times. These times are how we seed our swimmers and organize relays for our first dual meet. Additionally, they'll serve as a baseline for each swimmer's personal bests this season.

Please note that there won't be an alternative date for Time Trials. Swimmers who can't attend will enter the first dual meet with a 'No Time' (NT).

Time Trials will resemble a typical dual meet, but it will only involve our team. More details about the meet and sign-up procedures will follow shortly. In the meantime, you can familiarize yourself with swim meet procedures by checking out [Swim Meet 101](#).

Our merchandise leads [Amy Raczkowski and Kelly Hodge](#) will also be distributing any swimmer shirts and personalized swim caps that were not picked up at picture day at Time Trials.

SEA OTTERS TEAM STORE & SPIRIT SHIRTS

Our new online [Sea Otters team store](#) is open for business! This is your chance to pre-order tees, sweatshirts and tank tops for all of the Santa Teresa fans in your lives. Shirts are available in both this year's "Otters Era" design, as well as our crowd-favorite Retro design.

Online Sea Otters team store orders will be due by **10pm on SUNDAY, MAY 12**. We will only be placing one merchandise order this year. You can order online or in person with Kelly and Amy at the merchandise tent at the Time Trials meet. Other items will be available at the merch booth, including hats, bottoms, older clearance shirt designs and more. These items do not need to be pre-ordered.

Team Swimsuits

This year's team suits are available to purchase at [SwimOutlet.com](#). It is not mandatory to have this exact suit but your swimmer must wear a navy and or yellow suit for meets. We want to make sure our Sea Otters are in team colors.

FUNDRAISING

Restaurant Fundraiser Night: Saturday, May 18 - Chipotle Night, 4-8pm. More details to come.

Underwater Photos: Victor Bittorf is back and offering action/underwater photo packages and will be donating a portion of sales to the team. Photo sessions will take place in the morning at the Rancho ST pool on June 2 and 6. Keep an eye out for more details and how to sign up!

Employer Matching Donations: The Santa Teresa Sea Otters are a 501(c)(3) non-profit and an approved organization in many corporate giving programs, such as Benevity. If your employer uses Benevity or another giving program, please consider donating with your company match to the Santa Teresa Sea Otters! All donations are tax deductible.

DOWNLOAD GOMOTION APP (ONDECK APP WILL BE RETIRED)

TeamUnify recently moved to the GoMotion App. Although the OnDeck app is still working, it will soon be retired. We suggest that you download and start using the GoMotion App before they sunset the OnDeck app. GoMotions is available in the App Store and on Google Play. Log-in to the app with the same credentials as the team website. Here you can manage your account and swimmer information, enter swim meets, check results, sign up for volunteer shifts and get up to date team news, all from your mobile device.

SEA OTTERS INFORMATION ON-DEMAND

Santa Teresa Sea Otters team website, www.stseaotters.com

[2024 season calendar](#)

Reference [Rancho Newsletters](#).

Follow us on Facebook - Santa Teresa Sea Otters

Santa Teresa Sea Otters Board Members

President, [Edie Fischer](#)

Vice President, [Mark Kleiner](#)

Treasurer, [Anuja Burns](#)

Secretary, [Tanja Seidel](#)

Activities, [Emily Becker](#) (at Rancho) & [Alicia LaMarche](#) and [Allison Rice](#) (off site)

Awards, [Michelle Partsch & Nicole King](#)

Champs Liaison, [Lauren Sullivan](#)

Equipment, [Scott Fischer](#)

Fundraising, [Tracy Raivio & Michelle Senner](#)

Historian, [Anthony Gianocar](#)

Membership, [Jennifer Fusilero](#)

Merchandise, [Amy Raczkowski & Kelly Hodge](#)

New Otters Liaison, [Dina Mansuy](#)

Snack Shack, [Andrew Burns & Jenna Collen](#)

Technical Records, [Kumar Virwani](#)

Volunteers, [Michele Clark & Nina DeSimone](#)

Webmaster, [Kimberly Ahlgren](#)

2024 SEASON ACTIVITIES/SCHEDULE

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• OPEN-5/3: Volunteer Sign-ups• OPEN-5/3: Secret Sea Otters Sign-Up• OPEN-5/3: Opt out of Otter Buddies• 5/1: Team Picture Day – Rancho, 3:30-6:00pm (swimmer shirt distribution)• 5/4: Sea Otters Rancho Service Project – Rancho, 10am-12noon• 5/11: Time Trials (aka Donut Meet)• 5/12: Deadline for Sea Otters team store orders• 5/13-15: Otter Buddies Activity (at practice)• 5/16: Car window decorating, Rancho• 5/17: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #1• 5/18: Santa Teresa @ Pinehurst, Dual Meet• 5/18: Restaurant Night Fundraiser - Chipotle• 5/20-22: Otter Buddies Activity (at practice)• 5/23: Car window decorating, Rancho• 5/24: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #2 P'Otterluck Dinner – Rancho, 5:30pm• 5/25: Santa Teresa & Crossgates, Dual Meet• 5/26: Drive-in Movie Night - Capital (TBC)• 5/28-29: Otter Buddies Activity (at practice)• 5/31: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #3 Freestyle Friday – Socialize with O'tters• 6/1: Almaden @ Santa Teresa, Dual Meet• 6/2: Underwater Photos Beach Boardwalk• 6/3-5: Otter Buddies Activity (at practice) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6/6: Restaurant Night Fundraiser – MOD Car window decorating, Rancho• 6/7: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #4 Freestyle Friday – Socialize with O'tters• 6/8: Santa Teresa @ Creekside, Dual Meet• 6/9: Underwater Photos Fundraiser• 6/10: Shift to summer practice schedule• 6/10-12: Otter Buddies Activity (at practice)• 6/13: Tie Dye (at practice) Laser Tag – TBC• 6/14: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #5 Freestyle Friday – Socialize with O'tters• 6/15: Shadowbrook @ Santa Teresa, Dual Meet• 6/15: Cardboard Boat Regatta & Kona Ice Fundraiser – Rancho• 6/18: Bowling – TBC• 6/21: Freestyle Friday – Socialize with O'tters• 6/24-28: Spirit Week• 6/24-26: Otter Buddies Activity (at practice)• 6/26: Great America - TBC• 6/27: Pancake Breakfast Car window decorating• 6/28: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #6 and reveal Freestyle Friday – Socialize with O'tters• 6/29: CHAMPS, Independence High School• 7/1: Awards Night – Rancho |
|---|---|