

# Newsplash

Issue 1

May 4, 2025

[www.stseaotters.com](http://www.stseaotters.com)



This is Issue #1 of the Newsplash, your go-to source for all the latest news and updates for the Sea Otters swim team.

Please be sure to refer back to this frequently, as it is full of helpful information.

## **VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS - Sign-ups Now Open!**

*Volunteer sign ups are now open through May 10.* Please be sure to view [volunteer shifts](#) to see what each shift entails. Questions? Reach out to our Volunteer Coordinators, [Michele Clark & Nina DeSimone](#).

## **SECRET SEA OTTERS - Sign-ups 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 are now open!](#) Questions? Email [Emily Becker](#) at [activities.stseaotters@gmail.com](mailto:activities.stseaotters@gmail.com).

## **VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION - May 5-9**

**Pop-up-Spot:** [BID HERE](#) (Starting Monday, May 5)

Spend more time sleeping in! The winner of this auction will have a tent set up at **\*every\*** HOME meet this season.

**Spot-in-the-Lot:** [BID HERE](#) (Starting Monday, May 5)

We will also be auctioning off a parking spot or 'Spot in the Lot' for **\*every\*** HOME meet.

**Refresh the form throughout the week and don't miss a chance to guarantee the spot of your choice for the season! [Bidding closes at 6pm Friday, May 9th!](#)**

Other fundraising activities this season are:

**Weekly Drawings:** Purchase tickets and enter to win a Pop-up-Spot at home meets and/or a Spot-In-The-Lot at all dual meets, home and away! Tickets will be sold at Picture Day, May 15 and at all home swim meets. Tickets prices,

- 1 ticket for \$1
- 12 tickets for \$10
- 25 tickets for \$20

**Corporate & Family Sponsorships:** For \$250, your company logo or family name will be displayed on a banner at Rancho and on our website.

**Special Project Donation:** Help create a scholarship fund to keep the team accessible to all. Let us know if you'd like to contribute to this project.

**Underwater Photos:** June 8th! Save the date and stay tuned for how to sign up.

Thank you for your support! If you have questions or want to make a donation, contact [Tracy or Michelle](#) at [stseaotters.fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:stseaotters.fundraising@gmail.com).

### **OTTER BUDDIES - Opt out by May 10**

Swimmers are 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. This works best when swimmers are excited about having a buddy and completing the crafts available after practices - please talk to your swimmer about participating. Coaches will be assisting swimmers with signups or opting out at practice. Buddy matches will be revealed at the Donut Meet. *Please email [Emily Becker](#) at [activities.stseaotters@gmail.com](mailto:activities.stseaotters@gmail.com) no later than May 10 if your swimmer **\*does not\*** want to participate, or with any questions.*

### **SEA OTTERS SERVICE PROJECT - May 10, 10am-12pm**

Bring your shovels, rakes, loppers, trimmers and work gloves to Rancho this Saturday morning for the 4th Annual Sea Otters Community Service Project. The whole family will be able to help with activities such as grounds maintenance, window washing, and gardening. This is a great opportunity for high schoolers to log volunteer hours!

### **TEAM PICTURES & SPIRIT POSTER PAINTING - May 15, 3:30-6:00pm**

- **Individual/Sibling/Buddy Pictures:** Jim Nelson Photography will be taking pictures from 3:30-5:30pm - order form attached in email and you can also find it on our website. Swimmers normally wear their swimsuits for individual pictures. Please don't wait until 5pm to arrive for your individual pictures. The line gets long as the afternoon progresses! Filling out the order form ahead of time will also help the line go quicker.
- **Team Picture:** We will be lining up for the team picture at 5:30pm.
- **Spirit Poster Painting:** Sea Otters will also have the opportunity to create spirit posters during the picture taking window. Poster painting will be taking place on the Upper Deck. Swimmers' posters will be hung up around Rancho all summer.

Team spirit shirts will be distributed to swimmers this day and they will be work for our team picture. As a reminder, you already indicated your swimmers shirt size during the registration process.

### **TIME TRIALS (AKA, THE DONUT MEET) - May 17**

All swimmers are expected to attend our Time Trials meet on Saturday, May 17. Times from this "Donut Meet" (yes, every swimmer gets a donut after their first swim!) will be used for seeding and relays at our first dual meet, and will serve as a baseline for personal bests. No makeup date will be offered; swimmers who miss it will enter the first meet with a "No Time" (NT).

Time Trials will run like a regular dual meet, but with just our team and no relays. Details and sign-ups will be shared soon. In the meantime, check out [Swim Meet 101](#) to learn how meets work.

Personalized swim caps will also be distributed at this meet by our Merchandise leads, [Amy Raczkowski and Kelly Hodge](#).

## **SEA OTTERS SPIRIT SHIRTS & MERCHANDISE**

### **Team Swimsuits:**

- This year's team suits are available to purchase at the [Agon Swimmer Storefront](#). To determine what swimsuit size to order, Please reach out to our merchandise leads, [Amy & Kelly](#) with any questions, [merch.stseaotters@gmail.com](mailto:merch.stseaotters@gmail.com).
- Just a reminder that custom swimsuits are not required, but swimmers should wear suits in the team colors of navy, yellow and/or white to our swim meets.
- An alternate resource is [SwimOutlet](#), where you can get suits, team parkas, goggles and more. If purchased at the Sea Otters page, the team receives a small percentage of the sales. <https://www.swimoutlet.com/collections/stseaotters>.

### **Sea Otters Online Team Store - Spirit Shirt Pre-orders!:**

- Parents, grandparents, siblings, extended family and friends will all have the opportunity to purchase this year's Sea Otters spirit shirt design as tees or sweatshirts.
- You can also pre-order Sea Otters pajama bottoms and new Otter Pop tees.
- Items are listed on our [Sea Otters Online Team Store](#) for purchase or can be ordered in person at the Time Trials meet. <https://stseaotters.square.site/>
- **Online Sea Otters team store orders will be due by Sunday, May 18th.**

*Please note: this is a pre-order and we will not be ordering large quantities of these items to have on hand to sell.*

## **SEA OTTERS WEBSITE, TEAMUNIFY & MOBILE APP TIPS**

We use a swim team management software called TeamUnify, which hosts our team website. For access, always use our team specific domain [www.stseaotters.com](http://www.stseaotters.com). From there you can browse for general team information without logging in.

Log-in to:

- register your swimmer.
- see your volunteer shifts.
- sign-up your athlete for swim meets.

*Please note: You must use the same email your family used for registration to log-in to Team Unify (TU). TU only supports one login email address per family.*

**Mobile APP:** TeamUnify provides a FREE and simple-to-use mobile app called **SportsEngine Motion**, available in the App Store and on Google Play. Log-in to the app with the same credentials as the team website. Access app Tips-and-Tricks [here](#), and on our website.

## **SEA OTTERS INFORMATION ON-DEMAND**

Santa Teresa Sea Otters team website, [www.stseaotters.com](http://www.stseaotters.com)

[2025 season calendar](#)

Reference [Rancho Newsletters](#).

Follow us on Facebook - Santa Teresa Sea Otters

## **Santa Teresa Sea Otters Board Members**

President, [Edie Fischer](#)  
Vice President, [Dina Mansuy](#)  
Treasurer, [Anuja Burns](#)  
Secretary, [Tanja Seidel](#)  
Activities, [Emily Becker](#), [Allison Rice](#) and [Alicia LaMarche](#)  
Awards, [Sarah Miers](#)  
Champs Liaison, [Lauren Sullivan](#)  
Equipment, [Scott Fischer](#)  
Fundraising, [Tracy Raivio](#) and [Michelle Senner](#)  
Historian, [Anthony Gianocarò](#)  
Membership, [Jennifer Fusilero](#)  
Merchandise, [Amy Raczkowski](#) and [Kelly Hodge](#)  
New Otters Liaison, [Dina Mansuy](#)  
Snack Shack, [Andrew Burns](#) and [Jenna Collen](#)  
Technical Records, [Kumar Virwani](#)  
Volunteers, [Michele Clark](#) and [Nina DeSimone](#)  
Web & Social Media, [Kimberly Ahlgren](#)

## **2025 SEASON ACTIVITIES/SCHEDULE**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5/3-10: Volunteer Sign-Ups (Online)</li><li>• 5/5-11: Virtual silent auction (Online)</li><li>• 5/7-19: T-shirt sales open (Online)</li><li>• 5/10: Sea Otters - Rancho Service Project, 10:00am-12noon</li><li>• 5/10: Secret Sea Otters Sign-up &amp; Otter Buddies Opt Outs CLOSE</li><li>• 5/15: Team Picture Day/T-shirt Distribution/Poster Painting (Rancho)</li><li>• 5/17: Time Trials / Donut Meet (Rancho)</li><li>• 5/25: Drive-In Movie</li><li>• 5/27-29: Otter Buddies Activity, at practice</li><li>• 5/29: Car window decorating, at practice</li><li>• 5/30: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #1</li><li>• 5/30: P'Otterluck Dinner, 5:30-7:30pm (Rancho)</li><li>• 5/31: Santa Teresa @ Shadowbrook</li><li>• 6/2-5: Otter Buddies Activity, at practice</li><li>• 6/6: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #2</li><li>• 6/7: Pinehurst @ Santa Teresa</li><li>• 6/8: Underwater Photos Fundraiser (Rancho)</li><li>• 6/9-13: Otter Buddies Activity, at practice</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6/11: Shift to Summer Practice Schedule (Wednesday)</li><li>• 6/13: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #3</li><li>• 6/14: Crossgates @ Santa Teresa</li><li>• 6/16-20: Otter Buddies Activity, at practice</li><li>• 6/18: Tie Dye, at practice</li><li>• 6/20: Car Window Decorating, at practice</li><li>• 6/20: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #4</li><li>• 6/21: Santa Teresa @ Almaden</li><li>• 6/23-27: Otter Buddies Activity, at practice</li><li>• 6/27: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #5</li><li>• 6/28: Creekside @ Santa Teresa</li><li>• 6/28: Cardboard Boat Regatta, 5-7pm (Rancho)</li><li>• 7/5: Sea Otters Sleepover! Details coming...</li><li>• 7/7-11: Spirit Week, at practice</li><li>• 7/11: Pancake Breakfast &amp; Car Window Decorating, at practice</li><li>• 7/11: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #6 and Reveal</li><li>• 7/12: CHAMPS, hosted by Pinehurst</li><li>• 7/14: Awards Night</li></ul> |
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