

Newsplash

Issue 1

May 7, 2023

www.stseaotters.com



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

We want to start by expressing our deep gratitude to our amazing coaching staff who are helping our swimmers reach their full potential. Their dedication and expertise are instrumental for us to achieve our goals, and we couldn't be more grateful. You can learn more about our Coaches at the [Coaches Bio page](#).

As returning **Dual Meet and League Champions**, we're fired up and ready to defend our titles this season!!! Our team is 179 swimmers strong, and we're thrilled to welcome 18 new Sea Otters families and 36 new swimmers to our community.

Thanks to each of you for being a part of our Sea Otters community, and we can't wait to see what is in store for us this season.

VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS

Open now through Friday, May 12. Please refer to the email sent out by 'Alicia LaMarche' via TeamUnify on 4/29 or on our [website](#) for details. Questions? Reach out to our Volunteer Coordinators, [Alicia LaMarche and Allison Rice](#).

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 - May 8-12

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. Please [click this link](#) to sign up no later than May 12. Questions? Contact [Emily Becker](#).

NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION - May 8 and 9

[Dina Mansuy](#), New Otters Liaison, will be hosting orientation for new families on the upper pool deck. We will be reviewing what you can expect at a swim meet, volunteer requirements and general information regarding the season. This will be a great opportunity to chat with other new families and ask questions. You don't need to attend both, simply attend the one that works best for your schedule.

- Monday, May 8 - 3:30pm
- Tuesday, May 9 - 6:30pm

PICTURE & POSTER PAINTING DAY - Wednesday, May 10

Please reference the email sent on 5/4 for details and the order form.

FREESTYLE FRIDAY - May 12

Freestyle Fridays are an unorganized event that provides our community the opportunity to socialize with O'tters. You are welcome to bring your dinner, beverages, dessert and/or just yourself to the pool each Friday for an informal and casual evening.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT - May 13, 10am-12noon

Save-the-Date for our **2nd Annual Sea Otters Community Service Project** to benefit the Rancho Santa Teresa Swim & Racquet Club on Saturday, May 13th from 10am-12noon. Bring yourself or the whole family to help with activities such as back parking lot clean up, painting, staining, surrounding property and general landscaping clean up. More information to come, or reach out to [Edie](#) or [Scott Fischer](#)

TIME TRIALS (AKA, THE DONUT MEET) - May 20

ALL swimmers should plan on attending our **Time Trials meet on Saturday, May 20**. Times earned at Time Trials (aka the Donut Meet, because every swimmer gets a donut after their first swim) will be used to seed our swimmers and set relays at our first dual meet, and will also give each swimmer a starting point for personal best swims this season. We will not offer an alternative date, so if your swimmer is unable to make it, they will enter the first dual meet with a 'No Time' (NT).

Time Trials will run like a regular dual meet, but with just our team. More information about the meet and swimmer sign-ups will be in next week's Newsplash. In the meantime, check out [Swim Meet 101](#) to learn how a swim meet is run.

[Pauline Dinh](#) will also be distributing our swimmers' personalized swim caps, spirit shirts and selling Sea Otters merchandise.

P'OTTERLUCK DINNER & SPIRIT WEAR SWAP FUNDRAISER – MAY 20

All Sea Otters families are invited to our season kick-off P'Otterluck Dinner which will include a potluck dinner, s'mores and a fireside chat with Coach Jerry. More detailed information on potluck food assignments will be shared in next week's Newsplash.

Also, bring your gently worn Sea Otters t-shirts, sweatpants and sweatshirts that your kids have outgrown and swap for spirit wear from your fellow Otters. We will have a box at practice if you want to drop off your gently worn items before the swap. If you take something we would appreciate a donation to the team, but it is not required.

FUNDRAISERS - Check. This. Out.

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!*

Tickets will be available for purchase starting at Picture Day, and winners will be announced a day or two prior to each meet.

- \$5 for 5
- \$10 for 12
- \$20 for 25

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,

- Sunday, June 4
- Sunday, June 11
- Saturday, July 1

Packages:

- Package #1 - \$30 per person and includes a 10 minute underwater/action shot photo session. You will receive 5 edited photo files.
- Package #2 (perfect for families) - \$60 for up to 2 people and includes a 20 minute photo session. You will receive 10 edited photo files.

More information will be shared, and in the meantime if you'd like to secure a slot please email [Tracy Raivio](mailto:Tracy.Raivio) and include your swimmer(s) name(s) and preferred date.

Sponsors: If your business would like to be a Sponsor of the team and advertise on our website, please reach out to [Tracy Raivio](mailto:Tracy.Raivio). We would love to hear from you, and thank you in advance for your support!

TEAM SWIMSUITS

Please reference the email sent on 4/30 for details, or on our [website](http://www.stseaotters.com).

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. From there you can browse for general team information without logging in.

Log-in to:

- register your swimmer.
- purchase spirit shirts.
- 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 Unity (TU). TU only supports one login email address per family.

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

SEA OTTERS INFORMATION ON-DEMAND

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

[2023 season calendar](#)

Want to know how a swim meet is run? Check out [Swim Meet 101](#).

I signed up for my [volunteer shifts](#), what will I be doing?

Reference [Rancho Newsletters](#).

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram - 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](#)
 Awards, [Michelle Senner](#)
 Champs Liaison, [Lauren Sullivan](#)
 Equipment, [Scott Fischer](#)
 Fundraising, [Tracy Raivio](#)
 Historian, [Anthony Gianocar](#)
 Membership, [Jennifer Fusilero](#)
 Merchandise, [Pauline Dinh](#)
 New Otters Liaison, [Dina Mansuy](#)
 Snack Shack, [Stephanie Taylor](#)
 Technical Records, [Kumar Virwani](#)
 Volunteers, [Allison Rice & Alicia LaMarche](#)
 Webmaster, [Kimberly Ahlgren](#)

2023 SEASON ACTIVITIES/SCHEDULE

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4/30-5/12: Volunteer Sign-ups • 5/8-12: Secret Sea Otters Sign-Up • 5/8: New Family Orientation – Rancho, 3:30pm • 5/9: New Family Orientation – Rancho, 6:30pm • 5/10: Team Picture Day – Rancho, 3:30-6:00pm (swimmer shirt distribution) • 5/12: Freestyle Friday – Socialize with O'tters • 5/13: Sea Otters Rancho Service Project – Rancho, 10am-12noon • 5/19: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #1 Freestyle Friday – Socialize with O'tters • 5/20: Time Trials (aka Donut Meet) • 5/20: P'Otterluck Dinner & Spirit Wear Swap – Rancho, 5:30pm • 5/25: Restaurant Night Fundraiser – Mod Pizza • 5/26: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #2 Freestyle Friday – Socialize with O'tters • 5/27: Crossgates @ ST, Dual Meet • 6/2: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #3 Freestyle Friday – Socialize with O'tters Decorate your car for away meet • 6/3: ST @ Almaden, Dual Meet • 6/7: Restaurant Night Fundraiser – Chipotle Blossom Hill* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6/9: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #4 Freestyle Friday – Socialize with O'tters • 6/10: Creekside @ ST, Dual Meet • 6/14*: Shift to summer practice schedule • 6/16: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #5 Freestyle Friday – Socialize with O'tters Decorate your car for away meet • 6/17: ST @ Shadow Brook, Dual Meet • 6/17: Cardboard Boat Regatta & Kona Ice Fundraiser – Rancho • 6/23: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #6 Freestyle Friday – Socialize with O'tters • 6/24: Pinehurst @ ST, Dual Meet • 6/25: Restaurant Night – Vitality Bowl • 6/30: Freestyle Friday – Socialize with O'tters • 7/3-7/7: Spirit Week • 7/7: Pancake Breakfast Decorate your car for away meet Secret Sea Otters Delivery #7 & Reveal • 7/8: CHAMPS, Independence High School • 7/8: After CHAMPS Party with O'tters – Rancho • 7/10: Award's Night – Rancho |
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**Please note we will shift to summer schedule on Wednesday, June 14 (mid-week)*