

Newsplash: A Weekly Update

Issue 2 • May 11, 2025



HAPPY
Mother's
DAY



Please be sure to check the dry erase board located near the girls restroom for up-to-date reminders!

SWEETEN THEIR SWIM! Help Us Keep the Treats Coming!

Our littlest Sea Otters (ages 6–10) love their after-practice treats—it's a fun way to celebrate their hard work and keep them motivated in the water! These small rewards bring big smiles, but the cost is starting to add up for our coaches.

We're inviting family donations to help keep this fun new treat initiative going strong! Whether you contribute snacks, gift cards, or a small donation, every bit helps bring joy to the kids and show support for our amazing coaches.

Want to help? Please reach out to [Coach Kim](#) for details on how to contribute. Let's keep the treats flowing and the kids smiling—thank you for your support!

VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS - Now Closed

Volunteer sign-ups are now closed. Our Volunteer Coordinators will be reviewing submissions to ensure each family has signed up for the correct number of shifts. Over the next few weeks, some adjustments may be necessary and could affect your assigned shifts. Please know these changes are being made thoughtfully and with the best interests of the swim team in mind. Questions? Contact our Volunteer Coordinators, [Michele Clark & Nina DeSimone](#).

SECRET SEA OTTERS - Sign-ups Now Open through May 17!

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.

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 worn for our team picture. As a reminder, you already indicated your swimmers shirt size during the registration process.

****PLEASE READ**: 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](#).

Digital Online Meet Sign-up Process - PLEASE READ THIS SECTION

In order to ensure we know who will be swimming at each meet, we require you to sign-up for each meet via [TeamUnify](#) or via the SportsEngine Motion App. *You must declare your swimmers' attendance, whether they plan to swim or not.* Sign-ups are only available ONLINE or via the APP and are OPEN NOW. *"Declare" for your swimmers status and sign up for individual events by 5pm on the Wednesday before each meet.* **For Time Trials, that means you need to submit your online sign-ups by 5pm - Wednesday, May 14.** This [link](#) has swim meet sign-up instructions.

Time Trials:

7 & Up: Enter all four (4) events
6 & Under: Enter Backstroke and Freestyle

Dual Meets:



7 & Up: Enter three (3) events
6 & Under: Enter Backstroke and Freestyle

Timeline for Saturday, May 17

5:30-6:30am	Meet Set-up Volunteers ONLY
~6:30am & after	Family Set-up
7:00-7:45am	Swimmer Check-in (ALL SWIMMERS MUST CHECK IN) <i>TIP: If you will arrive after 7:45am, ask a friend to sign-in swimmers.</i>
7:30-7:45am	15-18 age group warm up
7:30-8:00am	Volunteer Check-in
7:45am	Swimmer check-in tables close
7:45-8:00am	11-14 age group warm-up
8:00-8:15am	10 & Under age group warm-up
8:15am	Team Cheers and National Anthem
8:30am	Meet Begins

Swim Meet Set-up: Families will NOT be allowed into the club until after the meet set-up team has completed their work, which will be approximately 6:30am. **Please Note:** Any pop-ups that are in the pool area before the set-up team is done will be removed.

Additional Information About the Donut Meet

-  Swimmer Check-In: All swimmers must check in between 7:00-7:45am. Check-in sheets will be located on the tables near the club entrance.
-  Donut Tickets: After their first race, swimmers should head to the Sea Otters tent (behind the diving well) to get a ticket for one free donut at the Snack Shack. Each swimmer receives one ticket = one donut, and tickets will only be handed out after the first race.

- 🌤️ Be Weather-Ready: Mornings can be chilly, and the day can heat up fast—so bring layers, blankets, sunscreen, hats, and plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- 🧴 Don't Forget: Swimmers, pack your goggles, towels, and team spirit!
- 🚫 Off-Limits Areas: The diving well, back pool, kiddie pool, and sand volleyball courts are closed during all meets. Parents, please help us keep kids out of these areas for everyone's safety.
- 🧹 Clean-Up Reminder: Let's leave the club better than we found it! The pool will reopen after the meet, so please clean up your area before you leave.
- 🎉 Most of All... Have FUN!

SEA OTTERS SPIRIT SHIRTS & MERCHANDISE

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

The issue on the team site has been fixed, so ordering should now work.

- 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.
- ADDITIONAL ITEMS ADDED! Women's Cut Zip-Up and Otter Pop Hoodie now available.
- Items are listed on our [Sea Otters Online Team Store](https://stseaotters.square.site/) 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.

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.
- 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](https://www.swimoutlet.com/collections/stseaotters), 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>.

MAKE A SPLASH! SUPPORT OUR TEAM

We have some fun and meaningful ways to support the Sea Otters this season:

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 supporting the Rancho Santa Teresa Sea Otters! If you have questions or want to make a donation, contact [Tracy or Michelle](#) at stseaotters.fundraising@gmail.com.

DRIVE IN MOVIE - May 25th

Save the date to join us in seeing Lilo and Stitch at the West Wind Capitol Drive-In on Sunday, May 25th at 8:50pm. Plan to arrive about 15-30 minutes early to get your parking spot and get set up. Admission is \$11 for ages 12 and up, \$2.75 ages 5-11 and free for 4 and under. We will be parked to the right of the screen, look for the balloons. This is not a drop off event.

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.
- 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

[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 Gianocar](#)

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