

# Newsplash: A Weekly Update

Issue 10 · July 6, 2025

CHAMPS SPECIAL EDITION



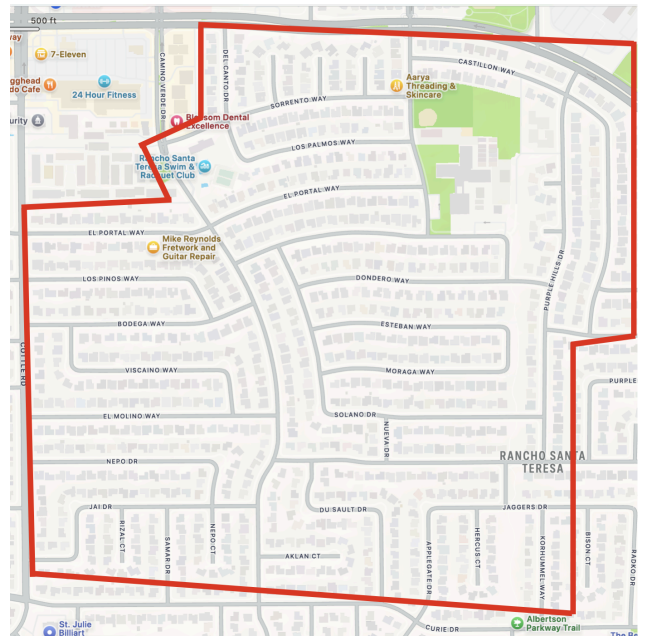
**\*\*ONLY 5 MORE PRACTICES UNTIL CHAMPS!\*\***


🌙 **MIDNIGHT MADNESS:** We had an amazing turnout with **over 60 Sea Otters** joining the fun at Midnight Madness! The night kicked off with a Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament and a Talent Show, followed by swimming, a soda dive, invisible bottle, relays, s'mores, and more. The excitement was loud enough to hear from blocks away — and yes, even the parents had a blast!

🎉 **SPIRIT WEEK IS HERE!!!** Dress according to our daily themes, and stay after practice for a fun game!



- MON: Hawaiian Day | Sponge Squeeze
  - TUE: Wear Tie Dye | Twister
  - WED: Dress Like a Coach Day | Sponge Throw
  - THU: Twin Day | Ladle Relay and Target Toss
  - FRI: Pajama Day & Pancake Breakfast | Water Balloon Toss & Car Decorating
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- 🥞 **Pancake Breakfast** - Friday, July 11, 8:30-11:45  
Join us for pancakes (gluten-free too!), sausage and orange juice. Breakfast will be served after each morning practice, except the 7/8s and 6 & Unders, who will be served before practice. If you have a griddle and spatula the team can borrow, please drop them off in the clubhouse kitchen before 7:45am on Friday, July 11. Please bring your items labeled.
  - 👑 **Otter Buddies, Champs Edition** - Stop by the Otter Buddies table during Spirit Week to make a lei or crown for your buddy to wear during the Champs parade!
  - 🔍 **Spot Otters Out of Water** - 35 Otters are hidden throughout the Rancho Santa Teresa neighborhood! Each Otter is on a 8.5"x11" sign visible from the sidewalk. Submit the location of each Otter - and what it is holding - to be entered in a prize drawing; search with your Otter Buddy for an extra entry. Be the first to find and correctly identify all 35 and be named the Top Otter Spotter! Send Otter locations or photos of Otter Buddies searching together to [activities.stseaotters@gmail.com](mailto:activities.stseaotters@gmail.com) no later than July 11 for drawing entry. See the attached graphic for scavenger hunt boundaries. You otter catch them all!
    - **Please do not disturb the families hosting the Otters! All Otters will be visible from the sidewalk.**



- **Secret Sea Otters** - Final delivery and reveal this week! Questions/comments, please reach out to [Emily Becker](#).
-  **Help us plan for next year!** Please take 5 minutes to complete a [short survey](https://tinyurl.com/STActivities25Survey) about past and future Activities: <https://tinyurl.com/STActivities25Survey>.

### **AWARDS NIGHT – Monday, July 14**

Come celebrate the end of the Sea Otter season at Awards Night on Monday, July 14 at 6:30pm on the tennis courts. Please bring your own chairs to this event. Gates will open at 6:00pm. Large shades or pop ups are not allowed. Participation trophies will be given to all swimmers as well as High Point, Second High Point and Most Improved, in each age group, for boys and girls. All Champs awards will be available for pick-up that night as well.

\*\*\*\*\* 2025 CHAMPS - SATURDAY, JULY 12 \*\*\*\*\*

### **GENERAL CHAMPS INFORMATION**

- **Attached you will find,**
  - 2025 CHAMPS Map
  - 2025 CHAMPS Heat Sheets
  - 2025 CHAMPS Meet Sheet
  - Cabana CHAMPS Meet Records
- **We are still waiting on some information, and will share it as soon as we have it:**
  - Schedule of events
  - Food vendors
  - Parent/Coaches relays
- **FRESH FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED:** If you are able to donate, please [sign-up here](#) to bring one of the following items (washed, cut and ready to eat) to the Sea Otters tent, where we will also have pre-package snack and treats for all of our swimmers throughout the day:
  - Bananas
  - Cuties
  - Sliced watermelon
  - Orange slices
  - Grapes
  - Apples
  - Strawberries
  - Bags of ice

Also, if you would like to help volunteer at this Sea Otters tent to help distribute goodies to our swimmers, please reach out to Allison, Alicia, Edie or Dina during the meet. Thanks!

- **LOCATION:** Independence High School Pool, 617 N. Jackson Avenue, San Jose, CA 95133
- **PARKING:** Parking gates will open at 6:30am. Both school parking lots off of N. Jackson will be open. Street parking on N. Jackson or Mabury is allowed. Do not park in the lot off of Educational Park Drive.
- **SEA OTTERS WARM UP SCHEDULE:**
  - Meet at the blocks at least 5 minutes prior to your warm up time - ready to swim! We will be in lanes 5-10 in the main pool.
    - 7:15-7:28am, 13-18 Yellow & Blue (lanes 5-10)
    - 7:28-7:41am, 11-12 ages (lanes 5-10)
    - 7:41-7:55am
      - 9-10 ages (lanes 5-8)
      - 7-8 ages (lanes 9-10)
    - No warm ups for 6 & under
  - After warm ups, immediately meet at the Sea Otters tent to pick up a special gift for our kids that are swimming at Champs!
  - The diving well is "open warm up" from 7:15–8:30am
- **POOL DECK ACCESS:** The pool deck will be CLOSED to families. Only swimmers, adults with the correct wristband, Senior swimmer families (for the Senior Swim), and volunteers with pool deck shifts, will be allowed on the pool deck.

- **NO SWIMMER CHECK IN:** Swimmers are NOT required to check-in at CHAMPS. But, if your swimmer ends up sick or not able to attend in the morning of, please immediately contact Edie Fischer at 408-921-0023, so we can manage scratches and possible relay changes.
- **VOLUNTEERS DO CHECK IN:** Volunteers are required to check-in at the volunteer check in tent - see attached map for location.
- **SWIMTOPIA & MEET MOBILE APPS:** Live push notifications can be turned on and you will get updated event times straight to your phones. This will greatly assist all swimmers getting to their events on time. Be sure to download Swimtopia and take advantage of this perk - it works on both the free and paid versions of the app.
- **COACHES TO SWIMMER/PARENT INFO:** Please read this [information sheet](#), and for our 10 & Under swimmers, pay special attention to the “**NAME ON THE ARM**” instructions (keep scrolling down on the web page).
- **CHAMPS AWARDS:** Swimmers are awarded a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal if they achieve a personal best (PB) at CHAMPS. We encourage our Sea Otters to always strive for a new PB... but this time, there's hardware in it!
- **SEA OTTERS TENT:** Please drop by in the morning before the meet to collect your coaches gift, write your event/heat on your hand, write your name on your arm, and then come back in the afternoon for snacks and goodies. We can also answer general questions.
- **ZOOM PHOTOGRAPHY:** Pinehurst has partnered with Zoom Photography who will be offering professional action photography services at Champs! To include your athlete, registration is [online only](#). Photos are only taken of athletes who register online with Zoom before the race. Online registration: <https://www.myzoomphotos.com/cabana-club-champs-2025>
- **FINIS AT CHAMPS:** Exclusive product discounts will be available at their booth - attached is a flier.  
[FUSE Tech Suits](#) – 50% OFF  
[Smart Goggle Kits](#) – \$50 each  
[Circuit 2 Racing Goggles](#) – \$15 each  
 For questions, reach out to Kelly Gentry at [kgentry@finisinc.com](mailto:kgentry@finisinc.com).

## **PARADE OF TEAMS AT CHAMPS**

Before the meet begins, all teams will participate in the traditional Parade of Teams (think Olympic opening ceremony) to show off their spirit — wild wigs, team gear, mascots, and more! To help things run smoothly, here's what Sea Otter families need to know:

- Only swimmers and coaches are allowed on deck. Parents can watch from the stands.
- Medley Relay swimmers will go directly to the blocks after the parade — they must wear their team suit and bring their cap and goggles with them.
- Swimmers will gather on the large concrete area near our tent camp. Look for Lauren Sullivan and listen for announcements.
- Team spirit is a must! Wear your Sea Otter spirit shirt, blue/gold gear, wigs, tutus, face paint, temporary tattoos — go all out!
- We'll provide props and decorations — please return them to the Sea Otters tent after the parade so we can reuse them next year.
- 8 & Under Butterfly swimmers should go straight to Clerk of Course after the National Anthem.
- First shift volunteers: Be ready to go immediately after the parade.
- Senior swim & recognition will be after the parade. We'll have more info on lane assignments and where parents should stand in the next few days.

Let's make a splash and show everyone that Sea Otters bring the spirit!

## **SEA OTTERS MERCHANDISE: A limited supply of merch will be available at Champs!**

We will have a small assortment of gear at the Championship meet, including large straw hats, snapback trucker hats, swim caps, tattoos, and stickers. Plus, our brand new PJ shorts with the popular Santa Cruz-style logo will also be available. Come find Kelly or Amy in the Sea Otters tent area to purchase.

## **MAKE A SPLASH! SUPPORT OUR TEAM**

### **Congrats to our Otter-Thon Winners!**

- Nintendo Switch Lite - Briar Clark
- SJ Giants Tickets - Miles Becker
- SJ Earthquakes Tickets - Alee Biglarbegan
- Happy Hollow Tickets - Wyatt To
- Squishmallow + Blanket - Norah Sullivan
- Squishmallow + V Tech Watch - Iris Crabtree
- Coach For a Day! - Talia Burns

Thank you again to everyone that participated to make this year such a success! We deeply appreciate your dedication to the Sea Otters and all your generosity throughout the season! If you have questions or want to make a donation, contact [Tracy or Michelle](#) at [stseaotters.fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:stseaotters.fundraising@gmail.com).

### **PHOTOS BY VICTOR**

For the past several years, Victor Bifforf has graciously donated his time and energy to our team. He attends most of our meets and takes great candid and action photos of our Sea Otters. These photos are free to download and to share with family and friends. Please thank Victor the next time you see him. Here are the photos from,

- May 17 - Donut Meet: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/xfXCMPmGsDqQ41ob6>
- May 31 - Shadow Brook: ST @ Shadowbrook:  
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/qQmCbmkPwQguLDHo9>

More to come!

### **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 Gianocar](#)

Membership, [Jennifer Fusilero](#)

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

New Otters Liaison, [Dina Mansuy](#)

Snack Shack, [Jenna Collen](#)

Technical Records, [Kumar Virwani](#)

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

Web & Social Media, [Kimberly Ahlgren](#)

## **2025 SUMMER PRACTICE SCHEDULE**

<b>2025 Summer Practice Schedule June 11 - July 11 MONDAY-FRIDAY</b>		
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Coaches</b>
13-18 Yellow	7:30am - 8:30am	Coaches Mark & David
13-18 Blue	8:30am - 9:30am	Coaches Mark & David
11-12	9:30am - 10:30am	Coach David
9-10	10:30am - 11:30am	Coaches Kim & Abi
7-8	11:30am - 12:15pm	Coaches David
6 & Under	11:30am - 12:15pm	Coach Abi
<b>*Evening Practices MONDAY-THURSDAY</b>		
All Ages	7:30pm - 8:15pm	Coach David

## **2025 SEASON ACTIVITIES/SCHEDULE**

- 6/30-7/11: Otters Out of Water Scavenger Hunt
- 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