

Newsplash: A Weekly Update

Issue 5 · May 17, 2026



Please be sure to check the dry erase board located near the girls restroom for up-to-date reminders! Also, in that area, you will find our [Sea Otters of the Week!](#)

DUAL MEET #1 vs. CREEKSIDE

Sea Otters and Cudas brought the team spirit on Saturday for a fun and exciting dual meet! Final score: Cudas 248, Sea Otters 232. Great job cheering on your teammates, racing hard, and showing up with so much Sea Otter pride!

RIBBONS - Available on Monday, May 18


Dual Meet ribbons will be available by Monday this week in the file boxes near the office. There is one folder for each family. **Please recycle unwanted ribbons in the designated container.** The names on the ribbon stickers will be the names on the trophies at the end of the season, so please notify us no later than June 1 if name corrections need to be made. Volunteers process over 1200 ribbons at each meet and mistakes sometimes happen.

Please email requests for corrections/missing ribbons to our Awards volunteer, [Sun Lee](#).

CHAMPS SWIMMER ELIGIBILITY

We need and want all of our athletes to swim at CHAMPS on June 27. To be eligible for CHAMPS swimmers must meet the following criteria:

- Must swim at a minimum of three Dual Meets (Time Trials does not count).
- Must have a legal time for any stroke they plan to swim at CHAMPS.

 **CALLING ALL SEA OTTERS:** The countdown is on - only **28** practices left this season! We encourage all swimmers to come to as many practices as possible. It's a great way to build skills, bond with teammates and let our coaches cheer on your progress. Let's make every practice count!

SWEETEN THEIR SWIM!

Thank you for all the donations — and keep the fun coming so we can continue this favorite tradition! Whether it's snacks, gift cards, or a small donation, every contribution supports both our swimmers and coaches.

Please note: Please note that these snacks may include common allergens (such as nuts) The team will not be monitoring or verifying ingredients. Families are responsible for guiding their swimmers on what is safe for them to eat. If needed, please plan accordingly or have your swimmer politely decline the snack.

Shadowbrook @ Santa Teresa - Saturday, May 23

Online meet sign-up process: You can now declare for all Dual Meets and CHAMPS! **"Declare" for your swimmers status and sign up for individual events by 5pm on Tuesday, 5/19.** This [link](#) has swim meet sign-up instructions.

***TIP:** You can sign-up your Sea Otter(s) for all of the meets at one time. And if needed, you can make changes prior to each week's deadline.*

General Information:








Information on Relays: Swimmers will be notified at practice no later than Thursday before the swim meet if they are on a relay team. ***If your swimmer has been slated to swim a relay and won't be there, please let their coach know as soon as possible.***

Reminder: swimmers who are not at morning warm-ups may be removed from relay assignments. Check our website for information on [relays](#).

Meet Timeline for Shadowbrook @ ST - Saturday, May 23

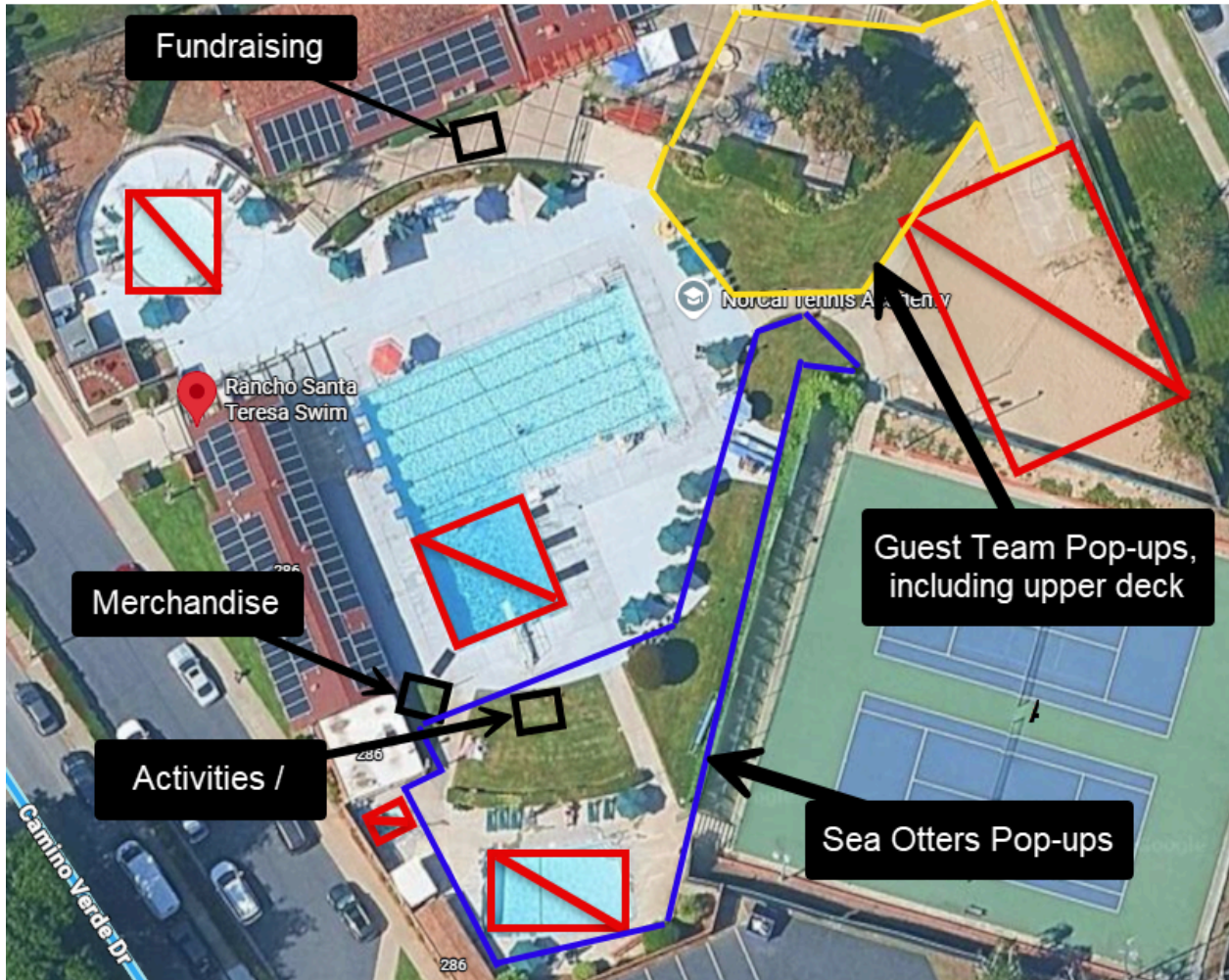
5:30-6:45am	Meet Set-up Volunteers ONLY
~6:45 & after	Family Set-up
7:00-7:45am	Swimmer Check-in
7:00-7:15am	Sea Otters 13-18 Blue & Yellow warm-up
7:15-7:30am	Sea Otters 9-12 warm-up
7:30-7:45am	Sea Otters 7-8 and 6 & Under age groups warm-up
7:30-8:00am	Volunteer Check-in
7:45am	Swimmer Check-in tables close
7:45-8:15am	Shadowbrook Warm-up
8:00am	Stroke & Turn Meeting (at the baby pool)
8:15am	First Call: Clerk of Course, Timers & Recorders Announcement
8:20am	Team Cheers and National Anthem
8:30am	Meet Begins with Medley Relays

Additional Meet Information:

-  **Spot-in-the-Lot & Pop-Up Winners:**
 - [Pop-Up-Spot: Congratulations, Zhalniha Family!](#)
 - [Spot-in-the-Lot: Congratulations, Cardona Family!](#)
-  **Relays:** Swimmers will be notified by Thursday practice if they are on a relay team. If your swimmer will miss a relay, please notify Coach Mark ASAP. Because relays are carefully planned team events, swimmers who are not at morning warm-ups may be removed from relay assignments.
-  **Photo Reminder:** For the safety and privacy of our swimmers, photos may not be taken from behind the starting blocks. Please help remind guests as well.
-  **Swim Caps:** Swimmers should wear their personalized Sea Otters swim cap. High school and competitive team caps are not allowed at cabana club meets.
-  **Be Weather-Ready:** Bring layers, blankets, sunscreen, hats, and plenty of water. Mornings can be chilly, and afternoons heat up quickly.
-  **Swimmers Don't Forget:** Goggles, towels, and team spirit!
-  **Off-Limits Areas:** The diving well, back pool, hot tub, kiddie pool, and sand volleyball courts are closed during meets. Please help keep swimmers and others out of these areas.

- 🧹 **Clean-Up Reminder:** Please clean up your area before leaving so we can leave the club better than we found it.
- 🎉 **Most of All... Have FUN!**

Please note: There should be 2-3 families per pop-up. This helps with space, and increases community and team spirit!



17 UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 🍽️ **Otter Team Dinner, May 29 - Fun, Food and Sea Otters Spirit!**
All Sea Otters families are invited to our annual team dinner located on the upper deck on Friday, May 29 at 5:30pm. Raquel's Tacos will be back this year due to popular demand! **Bring your own dinner, or [purchase a taco/quesadilla plate](#),**
 - \$10.50 (6 & unders)
 - \$15.75 for kids 7+ and adults

Click the link above and complete payment by Tuesday, May 26. A very limited number of plates will be available for \$20 at the door.

Entry is free. You won't want to miss this! The evening will include music by our own DJ Matt and a chat with the coaches. This is a fantastic opportunity to bring our swim team community together for fun, fellowship and food!

- 🦊 **Otter Buddies:** Stop by the Activities tent Saturday to make the first buddy craft of the season!
- 🦊 **Secret Sea Otters - Delivery Friday, May 22!** Questions/comments, please reach out to [Emily Becker](#).
- 🌀 **Tie Dye, June 11 - Preorder Shirts by May 28!** Join our annual tie dye party after morning practice on June 11. *Back by popular demand: save time and skip the line by preordering your 100% cotton shirt through the Team Store between now and May 28!* Ordered shirts will be shaped to the design of your choosing and presoaked so that they are ready for immediate dye application. Purchase via <https://stseaotters.square.site/>.
- 📅 Save the date for our other upcoming events: June 2, Dads' Night Out | | June 13: Cardboard Boat Regatta and Midnight Madness | June 18, Swim Up Movie Night

For any questions/comments on Activities, please reach out to [Emily Becker](#) at activities.stseaotters@gmail.com

💙💛 **FUNDRAISING**

- **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 home meets and select away meets. Tickets prices,
 - 1 ticket for \$1
 - 12 tickets for \$10
 - 25 tickets for \$20
- **Restaurant Night, May 27-28:** Our first restaurant night will be at Nation's Giant Hamburgers from May 27-28, so mark your calendars! Proceeds from sales directly support ST Sea Otters.
- **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.
- **Otter-Thon:** Pick up your tickets at practice in the Otter-Thon box! Put them in the drawing of your choice!

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

🦊 **SEA OTTERS MERCHANDISE**

- **Check Out Sea Otters Merchandise:** At our home meets, stop by the Merchandise pop-up (located near the hot tub) to check out all our Sea Otters merchandise! Quantities and sizes are limited so stop by early for the best selection. Love a good deal? Select items from previous seasons will be on sale! If you placed an **online order** at our Sea Otters Square site, orders will be available for pickup at our 5/24 home meet!
- **Team Swimsuits:** Sea Otters custom team suits are still available for individual order at [Agon Swimmer Storefront](#). 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>.

Questions? reach out to our merchandise lead [Kelly Hodge](#), merch.stseaotters@gmail.com.

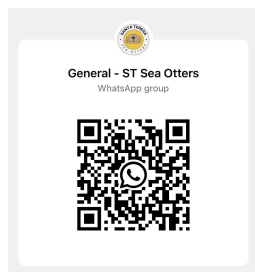
☀️ 2026 SUMMER SCHEDULE

2026 Summer Practice Schedule June 10 - 26 MONDAY-FRIDAY		
Age Group	Time	Coaches
13-18 Yellow	7:30am - 8:30am	Coaches Mark, David & Mia
13-18 Blue	8:30am - 9:30am	Coaches Mark, David & Mia
11-12	9:30am - 10:30am	Coaches David & Mia
9-10	10:30am - 11:30am	Coaches Kim & Jr. Coaches
7-8	11:30am - 12:15pm	Coaches David & Mia
6 & Under	11:30am - 12:15pm	Coach Abi & Jr. Coaches

***MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** There will be no Friday practice on May 29 and June 5.

WHATSAPP GROUP

To help foster a safe and supportive community, we ask that all members joining the WhatsApp group use their full name (and a photo, if possible) in their profile. We may need to remove anyone who is not clearly identified. Please take a moment to review and update your profile. Need help? [How to edit your WhatsApp profile](#)



- Announcements – key updates and important events
- General – team-wide chat
- Age Group Chats – updates specific to your swimmer's group
- Parents Relay Participants – ready to jump in and have some fun
- New Families – a space to connect and ask questions

https://chat.whatsapp.com/FGnS2lw553l64B8JFAL3Dp?mode=qi_t

2026 SEASON ACTIVITIES/SCHEDULE

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5/23: Shadowbrook @ ST - Dual Meet • 5/27-28: Restaurant Night @ Nations Burgers • 5/29: Annual Otter Dinner, Rancho • 5/30: ST @ Pinehurst - Dual Meet • 6/6: ST @ Crossgates - Dual Meet • 6/6: Dads' Night, Adult Pool • 6/10: Shift to summer schedule • 6/11: Tie Dye, at practice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6/13: Almaden @ ST - Dual Meet • 6/13: Cardboard Boat Regatta & Midnight Madness, Rancho • 6/18: Swim-up Movie Night, Rancho • 6/22-25: Spirit Week • 6/26: Pancake Breakfast, at practice • 6/27: CHAMPS hosted by Creekside, Independence High School • 6/29: Awards Night, Rancho |
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SEA OTTERS INFORMATION ON-DEMAND

Bookmark the team website, <https://stseaotters.swimtopia.com/>

Follow us on Facebook - Santa Teresa Sea Otters

Reference the [Rancho Newsletters](#)

The Santa Teresa Sea Otters, Inc. is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. To make a tax-deductible donation, please contact treasurer.stseaotters@gmail.com for information on payment options and to receive a receipt.

Board Members & Operational Leads

- President, [Edie Fischer](#)
- VP & New Otter Liaison, [Dina Mansuy](#)
 - Membership, [Lynda Stahl](#)
- Secretary & Historian, [Alicia LaMarche](#)
 - Awards, [Sun Lee](#)
 - Web & Social Media, [Lauren Sullivan](#)
- Treasurer, [Anuja Burns](#)
 - Fundraising, [Tracy Raivio](#)
 - Merchandise, [Kelly Hodge](#)
 - Snack Shack, [Jenna Collen](#)
- Activities, [Emily Becker](#)
 - Spirit Lead & Events, [Christie Moore](#)
 - Senior Recognition Lead & Events, [Cindy Sperry](#)
- Meet Operations Director, [Iqbal Chadda](#)
 - Equipment, [Scott Fischer](#)
 - Technical Records, [Kumar Virwani](#)
 - Stroke & Turn, [Jodi Taylor](#)
- Volunteer Director, [Nina DeSimone](#)
 - Volunteer Coordinator, [Michelle Senner](#)