

Newsplash: A Weekly Update

Issue 4 · May 10, 2026



HAPPY
Mother's
DAY



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!](#)


ST @ Creekside Dual Meet - Saturday, May 16

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, 5/12.** 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:

The timeline for the meet will be sent out later this week.

- Creekside Cudas, 3840 Yerba Buena Avenue, San Jose, CA, USA — [Directions](#)
- **FAMILIES:** Please plan to triple- and quadruple-up in tents for this swim meet. We will have approximately 350 swimmers plus families attending, and space will be very limited. Let's get cozy and make room for everyone!
- **Spot-in-the-Lot WINNER!!!** Congratulations to **The Collen Family** for winning a front row parking spot at the meet this Saturday. Your spot will be located in the front of the parking lot with a sign.
- **For the safety and privacy of our swimmers, photos may not be taken from behind the starting blocks.** This rule helps prevent inappropriate angles, especially when swimmers are bent over on the blocks. If you're bringing guests to the meet, please make sure they're aware of this rule. And if you see someone taking photos from that area, kindly inform them of the rule. Protecting our swimmers is our top priority - thank you for your support.
- Swimmers...don't forget your NEW personalized Sea Otters swim cap. Remember, no high school or competitive swim team caps are allowed at cabana club meets.
- ** Relay reminder:** 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 Coach Mark know as soon as possible.***

Relays are an exciting part of our meets and are all about teamwork! We have medley relays at the beginning of the meet and freestyle relays at the end, so it's important that swimmers are present and ready when relay lineups are finalized.

To help meets run smoothly and support our coaches and teammates, *swimmers who are not at morning warm-ups may be removed from relay assignments*. Relay teams are carefully planned, and unexpected absences or late arrivals can create confusion and last-minute changes for the entire team.

- If your swimmer will be late arriving or needs to leave early, please ALWAYS let their coaches know - ideally at Thursday practice. Clear communication helps us support all swimmers and keeps our relays strong. Thank you for being great teammates and helping our Sea Otters succeed together!

You can find information about [relays](#) on our website.

SWIMMER CHECK-IN AT THE MEET

On Saturday mornings, please make every effort to have your swimmer checked in on time. ***If you are unable to arrive by check-in, please arrange for another family to check in your swimmer for you.*** Swimmers who are not checked in by the deadline will not be eligible to swim.

If your plans change and your swimmer is no longer able to attend, please let us know before check-in closes so we can make any necessary adjustments to the meet lineup. Timely communication helps our coaches and meet volunteers keep the meet running smoothly for everyone. Thank you for helping support our team!

VOLUNTEER SHIFTS IN SWIMTOPIA

Interested in how you can view your volunteer shifts?

1. Navigate to the Swimtopia via the App or by going directly to stseaotters.com.
2. Log in using your account credentials.
- 3(a). If on a Computer, look under "My Account."
- 3(b). If you are on a mobile device, click the three vertical dots in the upper right corner. Click on "My Account"
4. Your family's shifts will be listed under "2026 Job Sign Ups"

If you are unsure of what you need to do for your shift, please review our [volunteer job descriptions](#).

MEET RESULTS IN SWIMTOPIA

We have a few new ways to check your swimmers' times for home meets this season.

- 1) Paper results are always posted during the meet near the Clerk of the Course.
- 2) If you purchase a PRO membership to the Swimtopia App, you will be able to view heat sheets with estimated start times, live results, and event reminders. This app supports Apple Family Sharing, but not Google's Family Library.
- 3) After the meet, final results will be posted to the ST Sea Otter website.

Due to our migration to SwimTopia, we will no longer be posting times to MeetMobile.

2025 TROPHY PICK-UP & RIBBON RECLYCLING

Missing your 2025 trophy? We still have several trophies that were not picked up last season. They will be available for pickup Monday–Wednesday this week on the table next to the front office.


We are also collecting old ribbons for recycling. If you have ribbons you no longer want, please bring them with you and place them in the "Ribbon Recycle" box.

FUNDRAISING

- **Otter-thon Update:** Thank you for making this year's Otter-thon such an incredible success! The response and support from our community have been amazing, and your efforts are truly making a difference.
There are still **5 MORE DAYS** left to collect donations! As a reminder, swimmers earn **1 ticket for every \$10 raised**.
If you are submitting donations electronically through Venmo or Zelle, there is no need to return the donation envelope. Please include "Otter-Thon" in the payment note so we can properly apply your donation.
- **Virtual Auction** It was down to the wire again this year! Congratulations to this year's winners! They have truly upgraded their home meet experience!
 - Pop-Up-Spot at EVERY home meet - **The Burns Family**
 - Spot-In-The-Lot at EVERY home meet - **The Howard Family**
- **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
- **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.
- **Restaurant Nights** Our first restaurant night will be at Nation's Giant Hamburgers May 27-28, mark your calendars! Proceeds from sales directly support ST Sea Otters.

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

-  **OTTER TEAM DINNER, MAY 29 - FUN, FOOD, AND SEA OTTER 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:** Thanks to everyone who stopped by the Activities tent to find your Buddy during the Donut Meet! Miss seeing yours? Check the list by the girls' restroom, or contact [Emily Becker](#). Get ready to cheer on your Buddy at Creekside!

- **Secret Sea Otters - Deliveries Start This Friday, May 15!** If you completed a form to participate in Secret Sea Otters, you should have received an email this past week identifying your Secret Sea Otter. Please deliver an encouraging note with a little treat to your Secret Sea Otter this Friday, May 15. If you signed up, but didn't receive an email, please check your junk/spam folder and/or reach out to [Emily Becker](#).
- 📅 Save the date for our other upcoming events: June 2, Dads' Night Out | June 11, Tie Dye (at practice) | 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

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 arriving very soon, and we will reach out shortly with pickup instructions!

- **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.

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.

SENIOR SEA OTTERS DEADLINES, MAY 15

Attention Graduating Senior Sea Otters Families! Please refer to the emails you received from Cindy Sperry at seniors.stseaotters@gmail.com, to ensure you have submitted, or will submit, all of the details and photos required for our Senior Sea Otters. **The deadline is MAY 15 so please don't delay!**

The Senior information and photos will be used for our Senior Celebration at our home dual meet on June 13, the Senior posters, the CHAMPS meet program, Awards Night, and on our team's Facebook page. For questions, please reach out to Cindy Sperry at seniors.stseaotters@gmail.com.

SWEETEN THEIR SWIM!

Our youngest Sea Otters (ages 6–10) love their after-practice treats - it's a simple way to celebrate their hard work and keep them excited about being in the water! We're inviting families to help keep this fun tradition going! Whether it's snacks, gift cards, or a small donation, every contribution makes a difference and supports both our swimmers and coaches.

2026 SUMMER SCHEDULE

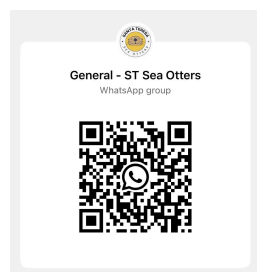
2026 Summer Practice Schedule June 10 - 26 MONDAY-FRIDAY		
Age Group	Time	Coaches
13-18 Yellow	7:30am - 8:30am	Coaches Mark, David & Mia
13-18 Blue	8:30am - 9:30am	Coaches Mark, David & Mia
11-12	9:30am - 10:30am	Coaches David & Mia
9-10	10:30am - 11:30am	Coaches Kim & Jr. Coaches
7-8	11:30am - 12:15pm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

2026 SEASON ACTIVITIES/SCHEDULE

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5/16: ST @ Creekside - Dual Meet • 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 |
|---|---|

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](#)