



**Barracuda Bits**  
Ashland Barracudas Swim Team  
Week of June 1



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**Practices for Summer-** A reminder that we will begin our summer schedule on Monday, June 2. The schedule is posted on the [team website](#).

**Silent Auction-** There is still one week in the online silent auction. There are a lot of good deals still out there highlighted by a 2026 pool membership and an Outer Banks Getaway. Plus... Skateland tickets... Squirrels games... Kickers games... Top Golf coupons... Peak Experience! [Check out the auction at this link](#).

**Diving Certifications-** We will be conducting diving certifications individually at practice this week for swimmers who could not attend on Thursday. Later in the week, we will send out a list of swimmers who will be starting races in the water, diving off the wall, and diving off the block.

**Raintree Meet-** Our first meet will be this Wednesday at [Raintree](#). We have not had a meet at Raintree in nearly 20 years, so there's a good chance that only a few of our families have been to a meet there.

If you know that your swimmer(s) will be late to the meet, please email us and let us know. But if you realize enroute that you didn't plan for Henrico traffic or there's a long, slow train, or if there's another reason you'll be late unexpectedly, text us at [432-4653](tel:432-4653) to let us know. We'll check your kid(s) in for you. Here are proactive answers to a lot of your questions about the meet:

- Plan to arrive for check in and warm ups at **5:00**. Raintree has requested that we have check-in finalized at **5:15**.
- Please check the list of swimmers who have alerted us to their absences for this meet in the Sunday email. If you need to add your swimmer(s) to the list, please [send an email](#). We close down the meet absence report for each meet when we send out the team email.
- Parking is usually not an issue at Raintree. But if the lot is full, you can park on Raintree Drive. Do NOT park in the lot for the townhouses that are near the pool. You will be ticketed. And do not park in the grass at the facility.
- Our team area will be on the deck adjacent to the diving well and next to Lane 6. There is also a grassy section next to this area that we can use. Please bring your own chairs. The diving well, shallow end, slide, and kiddie pool are off limits. Our team and parents should not be in the carpeted area near the lake, as this is reserved for Raintree members
- The Clerk of Course will be behind the blocks. We spent time at practice on Monday teaching new swimmers about the Clerk and reminding our younger swimmers of our behavior expectations there.
- General concessions will be available at the meet. They will have corn dog nuggets!
- Since this is the first meet, we will send out event entries on Tuesday night. They will also be available at the pool on Wednesday morning, and we will mark younger swimmers' hands at practice then. Look for two files to arrive... (1) will contain individual events for all swimmers, and (2) a file that will include relay entries for 8/under swimmers ONLY.
- For swimmers who are 9/older, we will post relay events AFTER WARMS UPS at the meet on the team banner. If you have a swimmer who is 9/older, be sure he/she checks the relay posting on our team banner to see if he/she will be swimming a relay. We do this because there are often changes to relays at the meet. So by posting them at the meet, we are able to make adjustments in real time. This will be a particular change if your swimmer is 9 years

old and accustomed to having relays marked on their hands as an 8 year old. Swimmers will need to check the following events when they are posted...

- 9/10 year olds                      Event 52
- 11/12 year olds                     Event 53
- 13/14 year olds                    Event 54
- 15/older                              Event 55

**Ribbon Distribution-** We will be continuing the ribbon distribution method we began last year. So we're adjusting our ribbon distribution process this year. We will be having ribbon boxes which we will leave for swimmers and families to pick up their own ribbons at practice after each meet. You will be able to access the ribbons boxes after improvement ribbons are written (which is usually the morning after the meet) and get any or all of your kids' ribbons- or swimmers can get their own. If your swimmer does not have a ribbon for the meet and he/she wants a participation ribbon, these ribbons will be available at one per swimmer. But, in general, our team does not promote participation awards.

For new families: In GRAL meets, the top 6 finishers in each division in each event (not each heat) will receive ribbons. So this usually means, for example, that only 8-10 swimmers in the 25 free events will get ribbons- about ¼ of the swimmers. We have made it a point to write improvement ribbons for younger swimmers who do not place in the top 6 but who do earn recognition based on swimming best times. We value improvement ribbons as awards that are earned.

**Meet Absences-** Regarding meets for beyond this week... thank you to folks who have filled out the [meet absence form](#) at this point. If you know you're going to miss a meet later in the year, please fill it out ASAP. Again... we will be closing the meet absence report for each week's meet on Sunday, so if you find out after Sunday that you'll miss a meet, you need to email.

**New Volunteering Process-** We still need a few volunteers for the Raintree meet this week. You can [click on the link to the meet to sign up](#) for a shift. The volunteer links for each meet will open when the previous meet is completed, so you will be able to sign up for the Hungary Creek meet after the Raintree meet is over.

**Team Pictures-** Our team picture will be on June 10 this year. We will take individual and/or family pictures throughout the morning practices, and the team picture will be at 10:00 between the second and third practice sessions. Look for information to be posted soon.

**Events That are Coming Up-** Several big events will be held later in June. Mark your calendars.

- Family Float Night at Carter Park Pool- This will be held on Sunday, June 22. Look for information to come out in the next few weeks about this annual, family-friendly fundraiser at the pool.
- Our annual Jamie Hess Swim Marathon will be held during practice on Monday, June 23. There is a lot of information on the team website about this event, and we will send updates in Barracuda Bits as it approaches.

**Another Congratulations-** Congrats again to our 15 graduating seniors who walked across the stage at 5 high schools over the past week. We will honor them at our July 8 meet against Wyndham. We hope you got the chance to meet them through [our Facebook posts](#).