



Barracuda Bits
Ashland Barracudas Swim Team
Week of May 25



ashlandbarracudas.swimtopia.com

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SO MUCH IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS IN THE BITS EVERY WEEK. PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE NEWSLETTER.

Practices this Week- We will swim Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday only this week. Monday is a federal holiday for Memorial Day, and Friday should be for the Last Day of School.

Diving Certifications- We will be conducting diving certifications this week on Wednesday and Thursday during the first two practices. New families... see your email for information on this league requirement.

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

Please, Please Use the Website- [Our NEW website](#) is the primary means of disseminating information. You used it for registration, and you should have a SwimTopia account as a result. It includes the meet and practice schedule, links to away meet locations, apparel order links, links with swim marathon information, and so much more. We're always happy to answer questions, and if you have them, please email them. But a huge number of the questions we get are located on the website in various places. So do take a moment to find your way around- or re-acquaint yourself with- the website. We do have [Facebook](#), but we can't possibly get all of the information we need you know on them. So the website is the place to have your questions answered.

We will also be using the [Calendar](#) portion of the website more extensively than in the past. You'll find meet dates, team events, and more. Additionally, this will be the way for you to sign up to volunteer for meets this year. (See below) Do note one calendar exception... in addition to the last meet being on a Tuesday (July 8) like in most years, we will have another Tuesday meet on June 17. This is to provide Wednesday, June 18 as a make up day if there is thunder, and in the process, making sure that Juneteenth remains an open date on June 19.

Download the SwimTopia App and Click Notifications- If you download the SwimTopia app, you'll have access to all of our information on your phone as well. Additionally, turn on NOTIFICATIONS on the app. We will be using it for weather and traffic alerts and for any other information that needs to be disseminated quickly. We do not plan to use the Remind app this year as ST has a much more powerful potential to get information to you.

Meet Absences- If you know absences are coming this season, go ahead and fill out the [Absence Form](#) to let us know. The earlier you let us know about absences, the better. It helps us plan the meet we are swimming next as well as those later in the year. If you know you'll be missing the June 4 meet, please fill out the form for us now. Thanks!

New Volunteering Process- With use of the ST program, we will be shifting in our volunteer sign up format. Each meet is listed on the [ST calendar](#). There you will see each meet, and the volunteer sign up will be opened for each meet individually. You can click on the Volunteer link for the Raintree meet on June 4 now. From there you can click on which parent plans to volunteer for the meet and then make your selections. NOTE: If you are an official, you will find the officials positions at the

bottom of the list. If you have questions, feel free to email our Volunteer Coordinator, Kelley Sweeney at volunteer.coordinator@ashlandbarracudas.org.

The Meets on the Calendar- Also note that the meets on the calendar will say “Entries Closed” and that your swimmer may be listed as “undeclared” or “not yet signed up for this meet.” **Ignore these.** They allude to a feature of the program we are not using.

Additionally Regarding Volunteers- Our Meet Director, Jen Balut, is seeking 4-5 crew to help with meet setups for our home meets on June 17, July 2, and July 8. The crew would need to be at the pool at 3:30, but... would be done with volunteering prior to the meet AND would have access to a prime parking space in the back lot. This is also a good opportunity for parents of young children who want to stay with their kids during the meet. This crew would work with the guards and coaching staff, so there are a lot of hands on deck... literally. If you’re interested in this opportunity, email Jen at meet.director@ashlandbarracudas.org.

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.

Fundraising Update- Don’t forget your chances for some fun Fundraising Activities. Here is information regarding each:

- Silent Auction- Bidding is open for this year’s online silent auction. All kinds of stuff for kids and adults... and pets. This includes a weekend getaway in Kill Devil Hills. And you can buy your 2026 pool pass at a bargain price now! [Check out the auction](#), and see what you want to bid on!
- 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.

Congratulations Graduates- We will congratulate our Class of 2025 at the Wyndham meet on July 8, but we do want to acknowledge them now as they finish their high school journeys this week. Some of them are finalizing their post- high school plans, but we’ll let you know where they’re all headed when they’re set! (Parents of graduates... remember to fill out the form for Senior Night ASAP. See your email for the link.)

Graduate

Chance Archer
Kate Balut
Sam Blaylock
Duke Flanagan
Sophie Givens
Grace Gordon
Eloise McCall
Maddie Medei
Jonthan Morgan
Kate Northcraft
Cerys O’Sullivan
Amelie Riener
Lucy Smith
Lucas Swager
Thomas Sweeney

High School

Patrick Henry/J. Sargeant Reynolds
Patrick Henry
Hanover
Patrick Henry
Patrick Henry
Patrick Henry
St. Gertrude’s
Patrick Henry/J. Sargeant Reynolds
Hanover
Patrick Henry/J. Sargeant Reynolds
Mechanicsville
Patrick Henry
Trinity
Patrick Henry
Patrick Henry