

Dear Sand Creek Swimmers and Parents,

Welcome to the Sand Creek Sea Lions Swim Team – I am happy to return for a fourth year as Board president, and we are happy to have you join us! The Sea Lions Swim Team had a great 2014 season and we look forward to another season of great competition and fun this year.

Sand Creek is known for our outstanding recreational swim program that specializes in longstanding traditions of swimming skills development, friendly competition, team spirit, personal safety, and outstanding parent volunteers - and we hope you will be pleased with your child's swimming experience this summer.

The goals of the Sand Creek Swim Team include:

- Providing a safe and enjoyable team atmosphere
- Acquiring and improving individual swimming skills
- Developing qualities of good sportsmanship and teamwork
- Blending the qualities of individual improvement with team spirit
- Having lots of fun

We are pleased to provide a staff of excellent coaches that are former Sea Lion swimmers and volunteers. They are a dedicated and energetic group of experienced swimmers committed to improving the skills of all Sea Lion swimmers. We are also proud to announce we have again hired Kim Kelley to run this year's Stroke Camp, along with the first week of practice until the college age coaches' return.

It is important to remember that swimming, although a team sport is also an individual form of athletic competition. We encourage all swimmers to keep track of their times and as the season progresses, with regular attendance at practices and hard work, they should see improvement in their times.

We believe communication between coaches, swimmers, parents and our swim team Board is the key to a smooth swim season. To help with that process, we encourage you to read all the information contained in the Redbook Handbook which is available on the Sand Creek Sea Lions website at [www.sandcreeksealions.com](http://www.sandcreeksealions.com). The team website, along with team e-mail blasts and social media outlets, will be our main sources of communication. We will do our best to keep information on practices, functions and meets as accurate and up to date as possible.

Another key to the success of our team is the involvement of parent volunteers. **We absolutely count on every family to help out in some way.** With the variety of volunteer options available, most of us can truly find an enjoyable volunteer assignment. If you need help finding a good fit, please contact any Board member. **We are proud to be the only team in the NWAL East division that does not charge a volunteer deposit (most teams charge \$150-\$300) - but it was noted several times in our parent survey last year that not everyone is volunteering. The board has voted to defer implementing a deposit system for another year, choosing first to comment on it in this letter and in the weekly Team Manager Minutes to ensure awareness and openness.**

In addition, I wish to thank our team sponsors (you can find a list on our website). Their support helps us defray costs and maintain affordable registration fees. I encourage you to visit the team website for information on becoming a family or corporate sponsor.

Lastly, each year the team holds a fundraiser to further help with team costs and to benefit various charities such as Juvenile Diabetes, MD Anderson, and Team Joseph - last year we raised \$2,137 and sent \$1,069 to MD Anderson! This year we have two women currently fighting breast cancer and have again chosen MD Anderson for this year's donation.

Again, we welcome all new and returning swimmers to the 2015 Sand Creek Sea Lion team. We look forward to meeting and working with each of you!

Sincerely,

Matt Brown  
Board President