



Hello Buzzards Bay Swimmers,

We are so excited you will be swimming this year. As a first time participant in the Buzzards Bay SWIM, we wanted to send you a few extra details for the day of.

Next week we will send a full Logistics email which will include a detailed schedule, shuttle information, finish line festivities, and more.

If you would like a sneak peek at that information, visit our [Schedules & Directions](#) page.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE

Parking

Swimmers: Parking is available in the Cisco Brewers Kitchen & Bar main and over flow parking lots. These areas will be clearly marked, and volunteers will direct you if you need help.

Kayak Escorts: Paddlers should unload their kayaks at the sidewalk along the Start Line beach, and then immediately move their vehicle to the parking lot. Volunteers will be there to direct you.

Registration

Once you arrive at Cisco, please follow the steps below for a smooth registration process.

Escorted Swimmers:

Step 1. Kayak Inspection. Your Kayak Escort will bring the kayak to the inspection station. Once the kayak inspection is complete, your Kayak Escort will receive an inspection form to hand over to you. Your Kayak Escort will also receive their number bib. You cannot check in or visit Pre-Check without this inspection form.

Step 2. Swimmer Check-In. If you have gone through Pre-Check (June 20th or 21st, Pre-Check info is below), visit the Pre-Check table and hand them your completed kayak inspection form. You will then go to body marking where a volunteer will write your swim number on your arm and hand in accordance with our body marking rules. Lastly, you will visit the ASE Timing Station and receive your timing anklet. **If you have not gone through Pre-Check, please visit the Check-In table first to hand over the kayak inspection form and receive your Swim Cap.**

Unescorted Swimmers:

Step 1. Swimmer Check-In. If you have gone through Pre-Check (June 20th or 21st, Pre-Check info is below), visit the Pre-Check table to let them know you're here. You will then go to body marking where a volunteer will write your swim number on your arm and hand in accordance with our body marking rules. Lastly, you will visit the ASE Timing Station and receive your timing anklet. **If you have not gone through Pre-Check, please visit the Check-In table first to receive your Swim Cap.**

Pre-Check

We will have two Pre-Check days for swimmers who would like to avoid the Check-In line on Swim morning. At Swim Pre-Check, you can pick up your Swim Cap and drop off any cash or checks you have towards your fundraising.

Pre-Check swimmers still need to let us know they've arrived on Swim day by signing in at the Pre-Check station. Look for the big green checkmark marked Pre-Check.

Swim Pre-Check will take place on the following dates:

Thursday, June 20, 4pm-7pm at the BBC Science & Field Operations Center (173 Spring Street, Marion MA 02738)

Friday, June 21, 4pm-7pm at the BBC New Bedford Headquarters (114 Front Street, New Bedford MA 02740)

WARM-UP

After checking in, swimmers are allowed to warm up in the water from 6:00am - 6:55am. Please enter the water using the warm-up chute at the south end of the beach. All swimmers must exit the water for the mandatory safety briefing no later than 6:55am, and further warm-up swimming is not permitted after the first start has departed the beach.

COURSE MAP

Here is a map of the course showing where the swim channel is located, where the kayak safety squad will be positioned, the location of the giant paddleboard with a lifeguard, and where the yellow markers are anchored. While swimming, keep the yellow markers to your left and the giant American flag in your line of sight.



FOR ESCORTED SWIMMERS

If you are an escorted swimmer, please review the [Kayak Escort Instructions](#) prior to the event. Be sure your Kayak Escort has an extra life jacket and whistle. On the morning of the Swim, Kayak Escorts need to have their kayak inspected, then hand the signed inspection form to their swimmer before the swimmer can check in. So please arrive early!

Swim Wild Waters has an [article that goes into great detail](#) on how to be a Kayak Escort.

We will be sending out an email to all of our registered Kayak Escorts with information for the day of as well.

FINISH LINE

Swimmers: When you approach Fort Phoenix beach, you will cross the finish line through the Finish Line chute.

Kayakers: When you approach Fort Phoenix beach, veer off to the right of the "Baykeeper" boat as soon as possible to beach your kayak. Kayakers should not cross the Finish Line through the chute.

At the finish line, there will be a pancake breakfast, live music, beer for swimmers, a table to pick up fundraising prizes, massage therapists, and Coalition merchandise for sale.

Swimmers and kayakers eat free. We suggest a donation of \$5 for guests and spectators.

FAQs

- **Is there a rain date?** – The Swim is a rain or shine event. Due to long lead time items like permits and safety resources, a rain date is not possible. Cancellation could occur if unsafe conditions exist such as storms, heavy fog, choppy water, or high bacteria levels from heavy rains. Any decision relative to safety is made on the morning of the Swim in consultation with the Massachusetts Environmental Police and the US

Coast Guard. Cancellation notification would be announced live at the event, and also provided by email to all participants and volunteers, and also posted on the event homepage (savebuzzardsbay.org/swim) and on the [Coalition's Facebook page](#).

- **Can I use fins?** – Yes, fins are permitted. However, swimmers who wear fins and other swim aids are not eligible for timing awards.
- **When is the last day for fundraising** – Swimmers have until July 6th to raise money to reach the fundraising minimum of \$300 for adults or \$150 for youth (18 and under). If, by July 6th, you still have not reached your fundraising goal, your credit card will be charged for the remaining balance, whether or not you participated in the event.
- **Do I need to wear a wetsuit?** Roughly 80% of swimmers wear wetsuits, while others swim in bathing suits or bathing suits and a swim shirt. You should [train in open water](#) before the Swim to ensure you're comfortable wearing your wetsuit or other chosen swim attire.
- **What safety measures are in place?** – We'll have over 30 first responders and several safety agencies out on the water keeping you safe, including the Massachusetts Environmental Police, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the marine and harbor patrol units from New Bedford, Fairhaven, and TowBoat US. **If you need assistance during your swim** - or need to come out of the water – alert your Kayak Escort or one of the 20 Safety Squad Kayakers lining the edges of the course (in bright green volunteer t-shirts and safety vests) and they will signal for a boat to come get you. EMTs are available at the starting line, and in the finish line chute where you surrender your timing chips.

To read all of our FAQs, [please visit our website here](#).

Please let me know if you have questions - we look forward to seeing you at the starting line!

Swim on,
Kate

Kate Reilly

Events Associate

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