



# 2024 SAA-CHICAGO SWIMMER & VOLUNTEER PACKET

# EVENT TIMELINE

\*Event Day Schedule is subject to change. Please arrive before Check In closes at 7:30 am.

Event Day Timeline
<b>6:30 am: Registration Opens (Closes at 7:30 am SHARP)</b>
<b>7:30 am: Opening Remarks</b>
<b>7:45 am: Awards Presentation</b>
<b>7:50 am: Mandatory Safety Talk</b>
<b>7:55 am: Group Photo &amp; National Anthem</b>
<b>8:05 am: River Stone Ceremony</b>
<b>8:20 am: 2 Mile Swim Start</b>
<b>8:35 am: 1 Mile Swim Start</b>
<b>8:40 am: .5 Mile Swim Start</b>
<b>10:15 am: Swimmers out of water</b>
<b>10:15 am: Lunch Provided Post-Swim</b>
<b>10:45 am: Breakdown</b>

# VENUE & COURSE MAPS

## Registration Location

[Ohio Street Beach](#)

600 N. Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL 60611

## Parking

**321 E. Erie - \$11.00**

Participants will need to pick up a discount validation ticket at packet pickup to use when exiting the garage to receive the discounted rate.

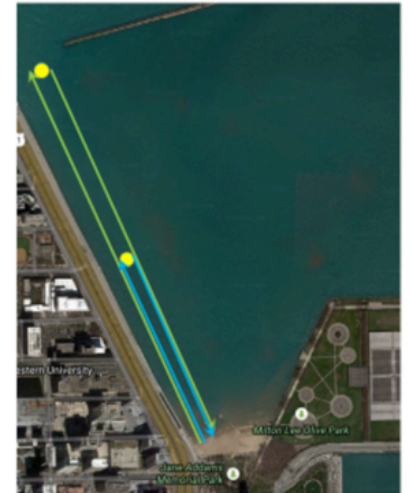
## Course Map



2 Mile - Two Loops Green Course

1 Mile - One Loop Green Course

1/2 Mile - One Loop Blue Course



# CHECK-IN & WHAT TO BRING

Upon arrival, please park and proceed directly to the beach, where you will find the Registration Area, which will be clearly marked. **Registration opens at 6:30am and closes at 7:30 am sharp.**

Be sure to follow the signs and check in *as soon as you arrive* to receive your cap, safety chip, t-shirt and get body marked.

**All swimmers and volunteers must check in and sign a [waiver](#). \*\*\*\*To speed up check-in, we encourage you to print/sign and bring a completed waiver to the beach event morning.**

## What to Bring

1. **DONATIONS**- Please bring any additional donations you have in a sealed envelope labeled with your name clearly written on it, as well as the total amount, to present at Registration check in. We also accept credit card donations
2. **WAIVER** - Please print, fill out LEGIBLY and COMPLETELY and bring with you in order to swim. If you are under 18, your legal guardian must sign your waiver. [Click here for waiver form](#).
3. **WETSUIT - Wetsuits are recommended but not required.** If you do not own a wetsuit, rentals are available through the channel below (NO RENTALS ON THE BEACH EVENT DAY):  
**LOCAL:** Urban Tri Gear, located at 804 E. Ogden Avenue in Westmont, offers 5 day and 7 day rentals. Call 630-230-9386 or visit the store for rental information and reservations.
4. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS** - Directions, swimsuit, wetsuit (appropriate for swimming), 2 pair of goggles, Vaseline or BodyGlide (for under the arms, neck area), sunscreen, folding chair or blanket (if desired), and a smile!

Each finisher will receive a **beach towel** when they come out of the water, compliments of our beneficiary:  
**Rush University Cancer Center!**

**Communication - Important!** Please follow us on social media to get weather-related event changes.

Any updates leading up to the event will be posted on the SAA - Chicago [website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [Instagram page](#). Be sure to follow us if you are not doing so already! Additionally, in the event of a cancellation due to extreme weather or an emergency, an email will be sent out to all participants as quickly as possible. Additional event information is available on our website but is not updated as rapidly as on our social media feeds.

# VOLUNTEERS

## Volunteers

Thank you for helping us Make Waves to Fight Cancer!

Upon arrival, please proceed directly to the SAA Village on Ohio Street Beach, where you will find the Registration Area and a dedicated Volunteer Check-in table. **All volunteers must check in** and sign a [waiver](#).

**\*\*To speed up check-in, we encourage you to print/sign and bring a completed waiver to the beach event morning.**

Land Volunteers: Unless otherwise advised, all land volunteers should plan to arrive at Ohio Street Beach at **6:00 am**. Please come to the volunteer tent to check-in and receive your event t-shirt. If you are with a group of friends and wish to be placed together, please email [saachicagoswim@gmail.com](mailto:saachicagoswim@gmail.com) by **Wednesday at 5 pm** and we will do our best to assign you to the same area.

# SAFETY

**Safety** is our top priority at all SAA events and we ask that you comply with all SAA safety personnel and procedures\*.

- **All swimmers are required to sign a waiver at Registration Check-in.**
- 18 & under swimmers -- You must have a parent/guardian sign your [waiver](#). We recommend that you print the waiver IN ADVANCE, have a parent/guardian fill out, sign the waiver and bring the completed waiver with you to Registration check-in.
- **All swimmers are required to attend the Mandatory Safety Talk just prior to the swim.**
- **All swimmers are required to wear the safety chip distributed at check-in.**
- All swimmers must wear the correct cap color assigned at registration. (Cap colors coordinate with distance and pace groupings.)
- All swimmers must be body marked on each shoulder and hand.
- All swim distance groups will begin at the direction of the Event Safety Liaison. For the safety of ALL, swimmers should only enter the water when specifically instructed to do so by SAA personnel.
- Participants are **not permitted** to use Mp3 players, headphones, or any device that could impede hearing while swimming or on the course at any time.
- Participants are **not permitted** to use fins, paddles, buoys, and/or kickboards at Swim Across America open water events. Equipment may be used with approval from the [National Safety Director](#), local safety director, or event director.
- Snorkels may be used with approval from the National Safety Director or local safety director.
- Swim Across America-provided safe swimming buoys are recommended for certain distances, however, are not considered life saving devices.
- All swimmers must adhere to the discretion of SAA safety personnel\*.
- **All swimmers are required to visit the check-out table after swimming** to ensure proper sign out and return of safety chip to ensure that ALL Swimmers are properly accounted for after the event. Spectators are not permitted inside the start/finish chute unless otherwise approved.
- Angel Swimmers will be present to help support swimmers less comfortable in open water. If you are concerned about your ability to swim in open water, please contact Alyse Mason: [alyse@swimacrossamerica.org](mailto:alyse@swimacrossamerica.org).

\*Swim Across America reserves the right to remove or move a swimmer's position along the course via approved safety methods and personnel as determined appropriate, or make any other operational changes thereof. All swimmers must follow the directions of SAA personnel. Noncompliance may endanger the participant or others, and may make the participant ineligible to participate in future Swim Across America events.

# POLICIES

## Water Temperature and Wetsuit Policy

**Expected water temperature is low 70s. Wetsuits are recommended but not required for all swimmers.** Swim skins are permitted.

SAA Event guidelines for wetsuits are as follows:

Below 67° F ----- Required

67.1° F - 83.7° F ----- Permitted

83.8° F and above ----- Not Permitted

## Inclement Weather Policy

The safety of our events is our top priority. Due to the nature of open water swimming events taking place outdoors, safety concerns, including inclement weather, can necessitate a change to the original event plan. In the event of adverse weather conditions, the Event Director and Safety Coordinator, in conjunction with SAA National, local safety entities and/or law enforcement, may delay the event, modify the course, cancel the event, or move venue location. If safety concerns necessitate a change to the original event plan, Swim Across America will promptly notify participants via the event website, email and social media.

## Course Compliance and Procedures

Swim Across America reserves the right to remove or move a swimmer's position along the course via approved safety methods and as personnel deems appropriate, or make other operational changes, as needed. All swimmers must follow the direction of both National and local Swim Across America personnel. Noncompliance that endangers the participant or others may make the participant ineligible to participate in future Swim Across America events.

If you have questions about our policies regarding inclement weather, swim equipment or wetsuits, please consult our [Policies page](#).

# FUNDRAISING REMINDERS & TOOLS

## Fundraising Reminders

Thanks to all of you for your fabulous fundraising efforts so far! Please remember that this event is about 'Making Waves to Fight Cancer' and the commitment you made to meet the **fundraising minimum** when you registered for the event. (Swimmers 18 years of age and over: \$500; Swimmers under 18: \$300)

Please bring any donated checks delivered directly to you or cash in a secure envelope with your name, amount, and donor details to the swim on Saturday. We also accept Apple Pay, check(s), cash or credit cards on event day.

## Fundraising Made Easy

Here are some [great ideas](#) and [fundraising resources](#) any participant can use to improve their fundraising. Did you know most employers have a matching gifts program? Ask donors to check our [matching gifts](#) portal to see if they qualify.

## New! SAA Good Move Fundraising App

Fundraising gets easier with the new [Good Move App](#). With a few clicks, you can reach out to your donor contacts via text message, email or social networks and have a larger impact. Don't wait - [download](#) today!

## Be A WaveMaker at Your Swim

This year we are pulling out all the stops for our \$1,000+ fundraisers known as our WAVEMAKERS! If you have raised \$1,000 by Saturday, you are a WAVEMAKER! Make sure to stop by our **WaveMaker table** to get your [special SAA WaveMaker prize](#).

## Get Social on Event Day and Win with @Block.Cancer and Elizabeth Beisel

Swim Across America and Block Cancer are proud to [partner](#) to offer an amazing giveaway to one lucky participant from each of our community charity swims in 2024. The rules are simple: post your best photos from the event on Instagram and tag **@saaswim** and **@block.cancer**. One winner will receive a Block Cancer Ted hoodie and Army Green beanie.



# YOUR IMPACT

SAA - Chicago funds benefit [Rush University Cancer Center](#). SAA - Chicago partnered with Rush University Cancer Center in 2012 and has since donated over \$2 million to support cancer research and clinical trials there. [Read here](#) to learn more about the projects and investigators that your fundraising supports.

Learn more about our beneficiary and your impact [here](#) or on the SAA-Chicago [homepage](#).

