



2023 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
6:30 am: Registration Opens (Closes at 7:30 am SHARP)
7:30 am: Opening Remarks
7:45 am: Awards Presentation
7:50 am: Mandatory Safety Talk
7:55 am: Group Photo & National Anthem
8:05 am: River Stone Ceremony
8:20 am: 2 Mile Swim Start
8:35 am: 1 Mile Swim Start
8:40 am: .5 Mile Swim Start
10:15 am: Swimmers out of water
10:15 am: Lunch Provided Post-Swim
10:45 am: Breakdown

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.

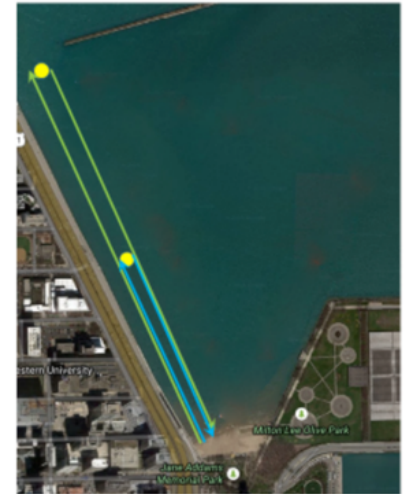
Course Map



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 channels 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.
ONLINE: [KIT LENDER](#) is offering a 10% discount on any Wetsuit or Kit rental. Round-trip shipping costs are included. Wetsuits start at just \$42.60 for the event. Enter coupon code SAACHI0812 at checkout. Orders must be placed by **8/9** to ensure delivery on time for the event.
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:
Chicago 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 **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 bring a signed [waiver](#) to Registration Check-in. **Please print ahead of time, sign and bring with you on Saturday.**
- 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.**
- **All swimmers are required to wear the safety chip distributed at check-in.**
- All swimmers must wear the correct cap color assigned at registration.
- All swimmers must be body marked.
- **Wetsuits are recommended but not required.**
- All swim distances will begin at the direction of the Swim Director. For the safety of ALL, swimmers should only enter the water when specifically instructed to do so by SAA personnel.
- **Headphones and Mp3 players are not allowed on the course.** Snorkels are **not allowed** on the course unless approved by SAA safety personnel*.
- If a swimmer decides to exit the water onto a boat on his/her own accord, or if a swimmer is removed from the water by Swim Across America personnel for any reason; that swimmer will not be allowed to re-enter the water. 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 and 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.

*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 and Safety Directors, 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.

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 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.

SAA Fundraising Mobile App

Fundraising gets easier with the [SAA Mobile 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 and Win with @SwimOutlet

Contest Details: Want to show your love for Swim Across America and win a \$100 SwimOutlet.com gift card? It's as easy as taking an awesome SAA-spirited photo and tagging [@saaswim](#) and [@swimoutlet](#) when you post on Instagram. Show us the best the SAA community has to offer and we'll select the best [Instagram](#) photo that's posted from the swim.

Top Fundraiser Wins an SAA x Gill Aqua Parka

This year, the top individual fundraiser will receive an SAA-branded [Gill Aqua Parka](#). Get to the top of the leaderboard to win yours!

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](#).

