



2024 SAA-FLORIDA KEYS SWIMMER & VOLUNTEER PACKET

EVENT TIMELINE

*Event Day Schedule is subject to change. Please arrive before **check In closes at 8:45 AM.**

Event Day Timeline
7:15 am: Volunteers Arrive (core team to arrive earlier)
8:00 - 8:45 am: Registration/Check in
8:50 am: Mandatory Safety Speech
9:00 am: Welcome Program & Guest Speakers
9:20 am: National Anthem/Prayer
9:30 am: Kids Splash
9:45 am: 2 Mile Start
10:00 am: 1 Mile Start
10:15 am: 1/2 Mile Start
11:20 am: Post Event Celebration Begins
Noon: Event Ends

****Course cutoff is 11:15 am.**

VENUE & COURSE MAPS

Registration Location

FOUNDERS PARK

87000 Overseas Highway,
Islamorada, FL 33036

Parking

Parking for drop off is available along the beach area and general parking is in the central grass lawn north of the beach. Venue map below for reference.



Course Map



CHECK-IN & WHAT TO BRING

Upon arrival at 8:00 am, please park and proceed directly to the SAA Village, where you will find the Registration Area, which will be clearly marked. **Registration opens at 8:00 am and closes at 8:45 am.**

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](#).

Once positively checked in, we invite you to visit our tattoo table, sign our Why I Swim banner and check out the Wavemaker table (for our Wavemakers!). Help yourself to coffee, fruit and a bagel at the food table. Be sure to tag **@saafloridakeys** on any photos you take!

What to Bring

1. **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](#).
2. **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.
3. **Additional items** - Swimsuit, 2 pairs of goggles, sunscreen, water and a smile.

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

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 - Florida Keys [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 unexpected circumstances, 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

Thank you for helping us Make Waves to Fight Cancer!

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

Land Volunteers: Requested arrival time on Saturday, April 20th is **7:15 am**, for enough time to check in at Registration, sign waiver, and prepare your station. You should have received an email with your job assignment and arrival time this week. Should you have any questions or need to update us on your status for Saturday, please email susan@swimacrossamerica.org.

Water Volunteers: Suggested arrival time on Saturday, April 20th, is **7:15 am**, for enough time to check in at Registration, sign waiver, and prepare your vessel. Kayaks and SUPS may launch from the beach. Wave runners must be brought in from the water as there is no launching of wave runners from the marina ramp. There is a **mandatory water safety meeting on Friday at 5:30 pm**. You should have received an email with specific information in regards to your role and where to deploy your vessel. Should you have any questions or need to update us on your status for Saturday, please email Glenn Latham glenn@swimacrossamerica.org.

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.
- Mp3 players are **not allowed** on the course.
- Participants are **not permitted** to use fins, paddles, buoys, and/or kickboards at Swim Across America open water events.
- Snorkels may be used **with approval** from the National Safety Director or local safety director.
- 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 who feel less comfortable in open water. If you are concerned about your ability to swim in open water, please contact glenn@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 approximately 80° F. Wetsuits are permitted if the temperature is between 78.1° F - 83.8° F.

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: \$200; Kids Splash: No Minimum Requirement)

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.

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 and Win with @Block.Cancer and Elizabeth Beisel

Contest Details: 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 showing your SAA spirit from the event on Instagram and tag [@saaswim](#) and [@block.cancer](#). One winner will receive a Block Cancer Ted hoodie and Army Green beanie.