



2023 SAA-CHARLESTON-KIAWAH 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)
7:00 am: Olympian Photos
7:15 am: Meditation in Park
7:30 am: Speeches and Ceremony at Stage
8:00 am: Mandatory Swimmer Safety Talk at Stage
8:10 am: 1.5 Mile Swimmers Catch Shuttle from Night Heron Park
8:30 am: 1.5 Mile Swim Start
8:45 am: 0.5 Mile Swimmers Walk to Start / Pool Swimmers to pool
9:00 am: 0.5 Mile Swim Start
9:30 - 10:00 am: Swim Concludes
10:00 am: Enjoy Post-Swim Festivities with Friends and Family

VENUE & COURSE MAPS

Registration Location

[Night Heron Park](#)

Kiawah Island Parkway
Kiawah Island, SC 29455

Parking

Download the Digital Gate Pass for parking on the Island [here](#). **You must have a gate pass to enter Kiawah Island Golf Resort.**

Course

The direction of the course is dependent on the current the morning of the swim. The course will follow either one of these maps to the left on event day. Both courses will end at Boardwalk 18 that is closest to Night Heron Park.

Course cut off time is 10:00 am.



SWIM ROUTE OPTION #1



SWIM ROUTE OPTION #2

CHECK-IN & WHAT TO BRING

Upon arrival at Night Heron Park, please park and proceed directly to the grass area in front of the Stage in Night Heron Park. Here you will find the Registration Area, which will be clearly marked. **Registration opens at 6:30 am and closes at 7:30 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 checked in, we invite you to visit our Tattoo Table, sign our Why I Swim banner, and meet and greet Olympic medalists Jenny Thompson (1992, 1996, 2000, 2004) and Janel Jorgensen McArdle (1988).

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** - Directions, Parking Pass, swimsuit, 2 pairs of goggles, sunscreen and a smile! **All 1.5 mile swimmers need to bring a bag for the items on the shuttle you'll want at the finish line. Please do not leave these items on the shuttle, bring them to the swim start. We will transport them from the swim start to a designated and secure area at the finish.**

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

Same-day Pool Swim Participants: Registration opens at 6:30 am and closes at 7:30 am. Check in at the same location as open water swimmers, then make your way to the pool. Pool lanes open at 8 am and close at 10 am.

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 - Charleston-Kiawah [website](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook 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.

Swimmer Course and Safety Information Meeting:

Please join us for a Zoom with our Safety and Event Director team to review safety tips and ask any questions you might have.

Thursday, June 8 at 6pm: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81666128398?pwd=MVgrclRENUhQRVBtYmRIUXJOZVZRZz09>

Friday, June 9 at 9am: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81871404488?pwd=ODhhajFPVGlwZERTdHAwNWR2Yks3Zz09>

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for helping us Make Waves to Fight Cancer!

Upon arrival, please park and proceed directly to the SAA Village in Night Heron Pavilion, 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: If you are assisting with swimmer check-in and registration, your requested arrival time is **6:00-6:30 am** for enough time to check-in and be briefed on your station. Should you have any questions or need to update us on your status for Saturday, please email [Jana Chanthabane](#) immediately.

If you are assisting with land safety or the finish line, the requested arrival time on Saturday, June 10, is **6:15-6:45 am**, for enough time to check in at Registration, sign a waiver, and attend the safety briefing. There is a **mandatory course safety meeting at 7:15 am in the pavilion at Night Heron Park**. Should you have any questions or have any changes to your schedule of availability for Saturday, please email [Jana Chanthabane](#) or [John Rhodes](#) immediately.

Water Volunteers: Suggested arrival time on Saturday, June 10, is **6:15-6:45 am**, for enough time to check in at Registration, sign a waiver, and prepare your vessel. There is a **mandatory water safety meeting at 7:15 am** in the pavilion at Night Heron Park. 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 [Jana Chanthabane](#) immediately.

All Volunteers (Land and Water): There will be two Safety Briefings via Zoom prior to the event. We ask that you please attend one of these if you are available. This is particularly important if you are fulfilling a safety role but will also address general volunteer information.

- **Thursday, June 8 at noon:**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88684529897?pwd=RVVYaYxOHh6aEZnbXJHN1RQS21WUT09>
- **Thursday, June 8, 7:00pm:**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84347282620?pwd=WjczeFUrYWWhYVWxVWDU5L0VRU0Vndz09>

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.
- **Headphones or Mp3 players are not allowed on the course.** Snorkels and flippers are not allowed on the course unless approved by SAA safety personnel*.
- 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 email [Jana Chanthabane](mailto:Jana.Chanthabane@saa.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 around **72°**. Wetsuits are **allowed** for ALL swimmers. Swim skins are 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](#).

EXCITING SAA EVENTS THIS WEEKEND

JOIN SAA FAMILY AT MUSIC ON THE GREEN AT FRESHFIELDS VILLAGE

FRIDAY NIGHT at 6PM

Freshfields Village is a proud sponsor of Swim Across America - Charleston-Kiawah swim. The Swim Across America team will be sharing our mission at the Freshfields Village Music on the Green concert series from 6-9PM. Come and join us!

SAA OLYMPIAN POOL PARTY AT NIGHT HERON PARK

SATURDAY AFTERNOON at 2PM

Stick around after the swim and join us at Night Heron Park for an Olympian Pool Party! Every year, Swim Across America hosts a fun pool swim with contests, relays and instruction from Olympians and the Swim Across America team. All participants will receive a swim cap, tattoo and opportunities to get SAA swag - bring friends and family! 1988 Olympian Janel Jorgensen McArdle and 12x Olympic Medalist Jenny Thompson will be joining us in 2023.

PARTICIPATING GIVING DAY SHOPS AT FRESHFIELDS VILLAGE

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, JUNE 9th

[Peyton William Jewelry](#) will be donating 20% back on any purchases made when mentioning Swim Across America

SATURDAY, JUNE 10th

The following stores will be donating 10% of sales back to Swim Across America on Saturday:

[SeaCoast Sports and Outfitters](#)

[Coastal Footwear](#)

[Southern Tide](#)

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)

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? Take an awesome SAA-spirited photo and tag [@saaswim](#) and [@swimoutlet](#) when you post it on Instagram. Winner will be contacted after the event.

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 - Charleston-Kiawah funds benefit MUSC Hollings Cancer Center. Established in 2018, SAA - Charleston-Kiawah has raised over \$300,000 for our beneficiary.

In late 2021, SAA - Charleston-Kiawah grant recipient Dr. Haizhen Wang was [awarded a five-year, \\$344,000 per year grant](#) by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to pursue her early investigator studies in leukemia. Prior to receiving NCI funding, Wang's research was supported by \$65,000 in grants from Swim Across America.

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



Hollings Cancer Center
An NCI-Designated Cancer Center