



2023 SAA-CHARLOTTE SWIMMER & VOLUNTEER PACKET

EVENT TIMELINE

*Event Day Schedule is subject to change. **Please arrive before check in closes at 12:45 pm.**

Event Day Timeline
11:00 am: Volunteers Arrive
12:00 pm: Registration Opens! (Closes at 12:45 pm)
1:00 pm: Welcome Program
1:20 pm: Mandatory Safety Talk
1:30 pm: 2 Mile Swim Start
1:35 pm: 1 Mile Swim Start
1:40 pm: 1/2 Mile Swim Start
3:30 pm: Swim Finishes
3:30 pm: Post Swim Meal & Event Clean Up

**** Course cutoff time is 3:30 pm. ****

VENUE & COURSE MAPS

Registration Location

[Camp Thunderbird YMCA](#)

1 Thunderbird Lane,
Lake Wylie, SC 29710

Parking

Parking for the event will be located in the gravel lot behind the pavilion and behind the tennis courts.

Course Map



CHECK-IN & WHAT TO BRING

Upon arrival at 12:00 pm, please park and proceed directly to the SAA Village, where you will find the Registration Area, which will be clearly marked. **Swimmer registration opens at 12:00 pm and closes at 12:45 pm.**

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, sponsor partner tents, sign our Why I Swim banner & pennant flags, and check out the Wavemaker table (for our Wavemakers!). Be sure to tag **@charlottesaaswim** and **@saaswim** on social media!

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 pair of goggles, sunscreen, bug spray and a smile. Spectators: Feel free to bring a lawn or beach chair.

Each finisher will receive a **beach towel** when they come out of the water, compliments of our beneficiary: **Levine 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 - Charlotte [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 Sunday, October 8, is **11:00 am**, for enough time to check in at registration, sign [waiver](#), and prepare your station. You will receive an email this week with your job assignment and arrival time if different. Should you have any questions or need to update us on your status for Sunday, please [email](#) **Trudy Wakeman** as soon as possible.

Water Volunteers: Requested arrival time on Sunday, October 8, is **12:00 pm**, for enough time to check in at registration, sign [waiver](#), and prepare your vessel. **There is a mandatory water safety meeting at 12:45 pm.** You will be contacted 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 Sunday, please [email](#) **Mark McCullagh** as soon as possible.

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.**
- **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)
- All swimmers must be body marked.
- All swim distances will begin at the direction of the Event Director. For the safety of ALL, swimmers should only enter the water when specifically instructed to do so by SAA personnel.
- **Mp3 players and headphones are not allowed on the course.**
- 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 Patty](#).
- **Reminder: this is NOT a race.** Please be courteous/collaborative to the other swimmers.

*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 high-70s. Wetsuits are **optional**.

****2 Mile Swimmers Time Policy**

Our objective is to have everyone successfully complete the SAA-Charlotte swim. Due to time restrictions placed upon the safety provided by the EMTs, lifeguards, and other water safety support, if you are swimming the 2-mile and have not completed 3 of your ½-mile laps by the time 1 hour and 10 minutes has elapsed from the start of your swim, you will be asked to exit following the completion of your 3rd lap. All swimmers must follow directions of SAA personnel.

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.

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: \$400; Swimmers under 18: \$250)

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 Sunday. 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-Charlotte funds support cancer research and clinical trials at [Levine Cancer Institute](#) and [Levine Children's Hospital](#). Established in 2017, SAA - Charlotte has donated over \$1 million to our beneficiaries Thank you for your support of cancer care in Charlotte. Read the [2023 SAA-Charlotte impact report](#) to learn about the projects your funds are supporting.

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



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