



2024 SAA-FAIRFIELD COUNTY PARTICIPANT & VOLUNTEER PACKET

EVENT TIMELINE

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

Event Day Timeline
6:00 am: Land Volunteers Arrive
6:30 am: Kayak & SUP Volunteers Arrive
6:30 - 7:30am: Mandatory Swimmer & Kids' Splash Registration
7:30 am: Group Photograph at the Patio
7:45 am: Welcome & National Anthem
7:55 am: Honored Speakers
8:15 am: Rolling Swim Start beginning with Kids' Splash
3-mile, 1.5 mile and 1/2 mile swims to follow
10:00 am: Awards Ceremony
10:30 am: 2024 Open Water Swim Ends!

VENUE & COURSE MAPS

Swim Location

[Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy \(ACGT\)](#)

96 Cummings Point Road
Stamford, Connecticut 06902

Directions:

From Connecticut Turnpike (I-95) North - Exit 5

At the traffic light at the end of the ramp, take a right onto East Putnam Avenue (U.S. Route 1).

At the first light, take a right onto Sound Beach Avenue. Bear right at the rotary and continue on Sound Beach Avenue to end (approximately 1.9 miles).

Turn left onto Shore Road. Proceed to the third stop sign (approximately .8 miles), turn right onto Cummings Point Road.

Follow Cummings Point Road and look for event parking signs and volunteers.

From Connecticut Turnpike (I-95) South - Exit 6

At the traffic light, take a left onto West Ave. Turn left onto Selleck St. In 0.4 miles, turn right onto Fairfield Ave. Continue to end and turn right to stay on Fairfield Ave. At the end, turn left to stay on Fairfield Ave again. Continue straight onto Cummings Point Rd.

Follow Cummings Point Road and look for event parking signs and volunteers.

Course Map



SWIMMERS

Thank you for helping us Make Waves to Fight Cancer!

Please park and proceed directly to the Registration Area, which will be clearly marked. **Mandatory registration for all swimmers begins at 6:30 am and closes promptly 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 your body marked. **All swimmers and volunteers must check in** and sign a [waiver](#). **Please print ahead of time, sign and bring with you on Saturday.**

Once checked in, continue around the registration tent to write your own special tribute on a river stone and pick up your swag. Visit the Tattoo tent to show your SAA pride. WaveMakers - be sure to stop by the WaveMaker tent for your special gift.

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 - optional this year - water temperature is currently estimated at 71 degrees**
4. **Reusable Water Bottle** – For all the right reasons, we are not providing single-use plastic water bottles. Bring your own *full* refillable water bottle. You will be able to refill at filling stations.
5. **Other items** - Directions, swimsuit, 2 pair of goggles, Vaseline or BodyGlide (for under the arms, neck area), sunscreen, folding chair or blanket if desired, and money for SAA merchandise.

Bring your river stone with you to the beach and toss it into the water to send your tribute with you. Each swimmer will receive an SAA-FC beach towel when they come out of the water.

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 - Fairfield County [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.

KIDS' SPLASH

Thank you for helping us Make Waves to Fight Cancer at the first SAA-Fairfield County Kids' Splash!

Please park and proceed directly to the Kids' Splash Registration Area, which will be clearly marked. **Mandatory registration for all participants begins at 6:30 am and closes promptly at 7:30 am.**

Be sure to follow the signs and check in *as soon as you arrive* to receive your SAA cap and t-shirt and get your hand marked. **All participants and volunteers must check in** and sign a [waiver](#). **Please print ahead of time, sign and bring with you on Saturday.**

Once checked in, visit the Tattoo tent to show your SAA pride. WaveMakers - be sure to stop by the WaveMaker tent for your special gift.

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 participate. The waiver must be signed by a legal guardian. [Click here for waiver form](#).
3. **Water Shoes** – The sand may be hot or rocky.
4. **Reusable Water Bottle** – For all the right reasons, we are not providing single-use plastic water bottles. Bring your own *full* refillable water bottle. You will be able to refill at the filling station.
5. **Other items** - Directions, swimsuit, goggles, sunscreen, folding chair or blanket if desired, and money for SAA merchandise.

Each participant will receive an SAA-FC **beach towel** when they come out of the water.

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

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VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for helping us Make Waves to Fight Cancer!

Please park and proceed directly to Check-in. Land Volunteers head to the dedicated Volunteer Check-in table. Water Volunteers head to the dock. **All volunteers must bring their signed [waiver](#) and check in. Please print ahead of time, sign and bring with you on Saturday.**

Land Volunteers: You should have already received an email with your expected time of arrival from our Volunteer Coordinator, Julie Colligan. Should you have any questions or need to update us on your status for Saturday, please email [Julie](#) immediately.

For all the right reasons, we are not providing single-use plastic water bottles. **Bring your own *full* refillable water bottle.** You will be able to refill at filling stations.

Water Volunteers: Suggested arrival time on Saturday, June 29, is **6:30 am**, for enough time to check in at Registration, sign waiver, and prepare your vessel. There is a **mandatory water safety meeting at 7:00 am**. You will also receive 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 [Sean Brady](#) or [Jim Gibian](#) for boats and [Dana Lee](#) for kayaks and paddle boards immediately.

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.**
- **New for 2024 - Kids' Splash policies:** Children up to age 11 can participate by splashing a short distance along the beach. Parents are welcome to join in and must accompany non-swimmers or those under age 6.
- All swimmers must wear the correct cap color assigned at registration.
- All swimmers must be body marked.
- **Wetsuit - optional this year - water temperature is currently estimated at 71 degrees**
- 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 and flippers 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 [Matt Vossler](#) or [Nancy Carr](#).

*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 71 degrees. Wetsuits are **optional this year**. 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.

In the event we need to move from our outdoor swim to an indoor pool, you will be alerted via email and social media. In that case, the event will take place at the SAME time at:

**Chelsea Piers Athletic Club
One Blachley Road
Stamford, CT 06902**

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 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 Good Move Fundraising [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

We pull 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 - Fairfield County has granted more than \$5 million to [Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy](#) since 2007. Based in Stamford, CT, ACGT is the only charitable organization in the nation dedicated exclusively to funding and fostering research into cell and gene therapies for cancer.

In 2024, there are **three** Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy Research Fellows Funded by Swim Across America - Fairfield County. Learn more about the fellows and their research in the impact report [here](#).

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

