



# 2021 SWIMMER & VOLUNTEER PACKET

# EVENT TIMELINE

\*Event Day Schedule is subject to change. Please arrive before Check In closes at 7:45 am.

<b>Event Day Timeline</b>
<b>6:45 am:</b> Registration Opens (Closes at 7:45am)
<b>7:30 am:</b> Welcome Program & Guest Speakers
<b>8:05 am:</b> National Anthem
<b>8:08 am:</b> Safety Speech
<b>8:20 am:</b> 2 Mile Swim Start
<b>8:30 am:</b> 1 Mile Safety Speech
<b>8:35 am:</b> 1 Mile Swim Start
<b>8:45 am:</b> ½ Mile Safety Speech
<b>8:50 am:</b> ½ Mile Swim Start
<b>10:00 am:</b> Post Event Celebration

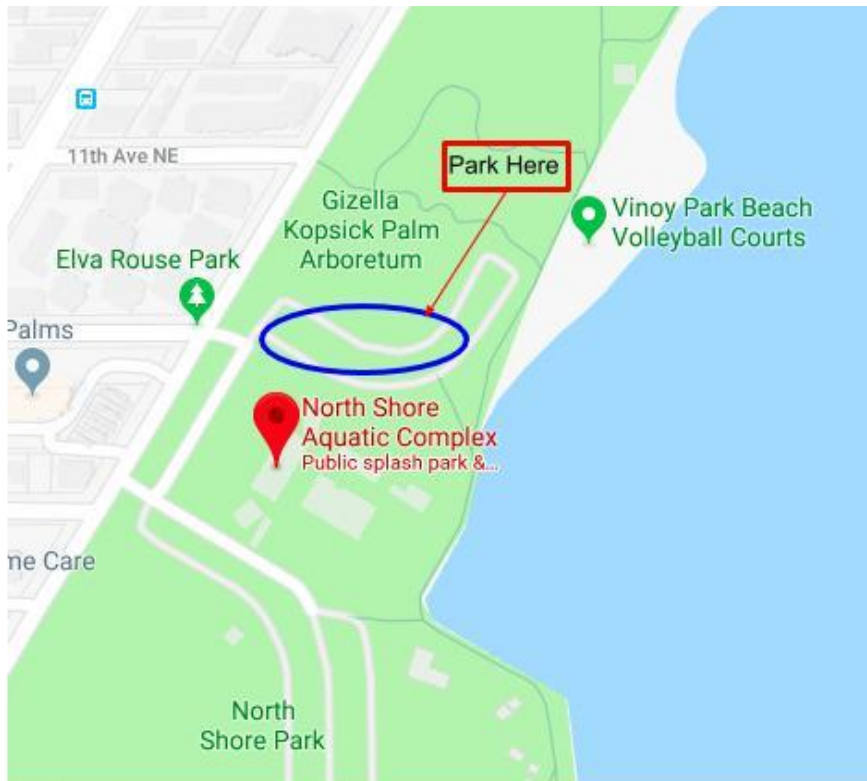
\*\*\*Course cut off is 10:00 AM.

# VENUE & COURSE MAPS

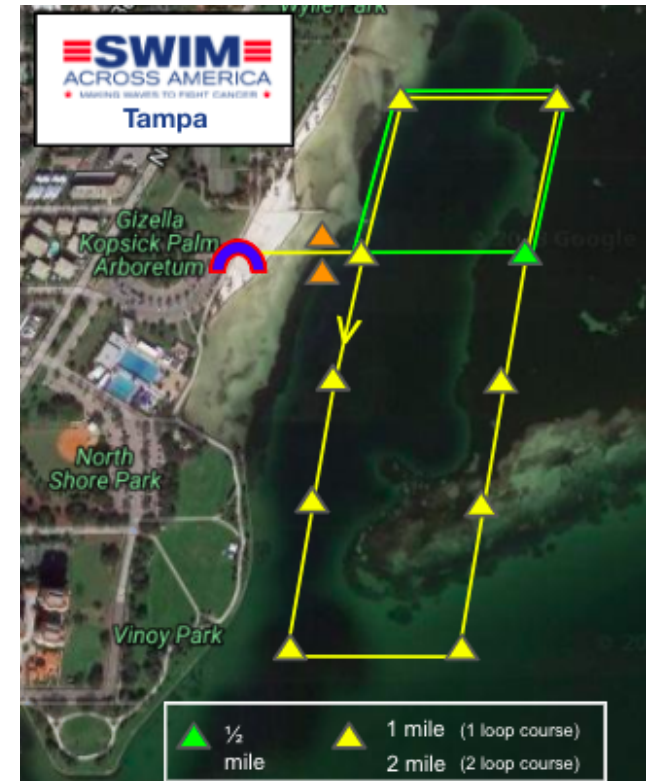
## Swim Location

### [North Shore Park](#)

901 North Shore Dr. NE.  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701



## Course Map



# COVID-19 SAFETY INFORMATION

The safety of our participants, volunteers and supporters remains our #1 priority.

To prevent the spread of COVID and reduce the potential risk of exposure to our participants and volunteers, anyone who is sick, feeling sick, or exposed to a person showing signs or symptoms of or has been diagnosed with COVID, we respectfully and cautiously ask that you do NOT attend the event.

Upon arrival, we will be conducting a simple screening process. A questionnaire, found on the back of the SAA [waiver](#), should be completed, dated, and signed the morning of the event. (Parents / Guardians accompanying minors must also fill out a waiver and pre-screening questions for both themselves and the minor before entering the SAA Village.)

Masks are mandatory inside the SAA Village and in designated SAA areas. Swimmers will be given a disposable mask in their event package distributed at registration, which must be worn until the water's edge where swimmers will then have the opportunity to dispose of the mask in a designated trash receptacle before swimming. Upon exiting the water, swimmers will be provided with a new mask, along with hydration and a Swim Across America towel. We ask that you maintain 6 feet of social distance in all SAA areas.

Swim Across America is committed to providing a safe experience with these [policies](#) highlighting what to expect on event day. Modifications subject to change. Your participation, support, and adherence to these precautionary measures is important to help protect you and everyone at the event.

Please note: Due to COVID-19 precautions, general spectators will **not** be permitted inside the SAA Village.



# CHECK-IN & WHAT TO BRING

Upon arrival, please park and proceed directly to the pavilion, where you will find the Registration Area, which will be clearly marked. Registration opens at 6:45am and closes at 7:45am.

Be sure to follow the signs and check in *as soon as you arrive* to receive your cap, mask, safety chip, t-shirt and get your body marked. **All swimmers and volunteers must check in** and sign a [waiver](#).

Once positively checked in, we invite you to visit our Merchandise table and purchase raffle tickets for some of our incredible giveaways!

Don't forget to check out our online silent auction and get your bids in early: <https://bit.ly/3edPxyr>

## 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. **Mask** - Please be sure to bring a mask with you as they are mandatory while in the SAA Village. If you do not have a mask, we will have disposable ones available to you onsite.
4. **Water Bottles** - Since SAA - Tampa Bay is going green this year, each participant and volunteer will be given a reusable SAA water bottle to use at water stations on site. If you would like a drink other than water, please bring it with you.
5. **Other items** - Directions, swimsuit, 2 pair of goggles, wetsuit (optional), Vaseline or BodyGlide (for under the arms, neck area), sunscreen, folding chair or blanket if desired, and money for SAA merchandise.

Each finisher will receive a **beach towel** when they come out of the water, compliments of our beneficiaries:  
Moffitt Cancer Center and Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital!

**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 - Tampa Bay [website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter 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 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: All volunteers are expected to arrive by **6:00am** on event day. Event tear down/clean up volunteers please arrive **no later than 10:00am**. Should you have any questions or need to update us on your status for Saturday, please email our Volunteer Coordinator, Nicole Porter immediately: [nicole\\_luciaporter@yahoo.com](mailto:nicole_luciaporter@yahoo.com).

Water Volunteers: Suggested arrival time on Saturday, May 8th, is **6:45am**, for enough time to check in at Registration, sign [waiver](#), and prepare your vessel. There is a **mandatory water safety meeting at 7:30am**. 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 Rebecca immediately: [Rebecca.Hansen@stpete.org](mailto:Rebecca.Hansen@stpete.org).

# SWIMMER 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. *Please complete the pre-screening questions, found on the back of the waiver, on the morning of the event.*
- **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.
- 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.
- 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 sign out, so that ALL Swimmers are properly accounted for.
- 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 Rebecca Hansen: [Rebecca.Hansen@stpete.org](mailto:Rebecca.Hansen@stpete.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.

## **Water Temperature and Wetsuit Policy**

Expected water temperature is around 80°. Wetsuits are permitted between 76.1° F - 83.7° F, thus are considered optional for Saturday's swim. 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.

# 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 meeting 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

SAA now gives you the option to link your participant center to Facebook and **automatically sync donations made to your SAA personal fundraising thermometer!** You can find this when you [log in](#) to your participant center and follow the directions to connect and reach your Facebook network. It will automatically begin fundraising for you - watch your donations add up! Here are some additional [great ideas](#) any participant can use to improve their fundraising. Have you checked if all your donors have secured potential [matching gifts](#) from their companies?

## 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 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.