



Hi ,

The **33rd Annual Buzzards Bay Swim** is almost here! Next Saturday, you'll be swimming from New Bedford to Fairhaven alongside hundreds of fellow swimmers, all in support of clean water.

Whether this is your first Swim or your 25th, we're thrilled you'll be part of it. Please take a few minutes to review the important information below to help ensure a smooth check-in, a safe swim, and a great finish-line celebration.

## Swim Logistics

### Advanced Pickups for Caps

Want to save time on Swim morning? We highly encourage you to take advantage of early cap pickup.

#### **Thursday, June 18**

4:00 - 7:00 pm

BBC Science & Field Operations Center  
173 Spring Street, Marion MA 02738

#### **Friday, June 19**

4:00 - 7:00 pm

BBC New Bedford Headquarters

You'll get your swim cap, swimmer number, and we can collect any donations you'd like to bring in person.

Please note: Even if you pick up your cap early, you must still visit the Body Marking Station on Swim morning.

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## Swim Schedule

- **5:30 - 6:55 am** Check in at Cisco Brewers Kitchen & Bar in New Bedford
- **5:30 - 6:55 am** Light snacks available and warm-up swimming
- **7:00 am** Mandatory Safety briefing
- **7:10 am** First wave enters the water
- **7:15 am** First wave starts their swim
- **7:20 - 7:40 am** Waves two–six start at five-minute intervals
- **7:30 - 10:30 am** Finish Line party
- **9:00 am** Group Photo on the beach
- **9:15 am** Awards Ceremony

For more details, please visit our [Schedule & Directions](#) page.

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## Arrival and Check-In Details

### Start Line & Check-in

The start line is at Cisco Brewers Kitchen & Bar, 1482 East Rodney French Blvd, New Bedford. Please plan on being at the start between 5:30 and 6:45 am for check in and warm-up. Late arrivals cannot be accommodated.

### Mandatory Safety Briefing

A mandatory safety briefing will be held at 7:00 am. All swimmers must be present and checked-in by then. Swimming waves will begin shortly thereafter. Swimmers will be assigned to one of six waves based on their qualification times and if they have a kayak escort.

### Shuttles

An early-morning shuttle will leave Fort Phoenix at 5:45 am and transport swimmers to the Start Line. If you want a seat on the shuttle and did not sign up during registration, [please email us](#). Advance registration is required.

After the Swim, free shuttles will run from Fort Phoenix back to the Start Line beginning at 8:00 am and continuing until 11:00 am. No sign-up is needed for return shuttles.

### Parking

Free parking is available at both the Start and Finish Lines.

### Bathrooms

Bathrooms and changing areas will be available at both the Start and Finish Lines.

### Bag Check

Be sure to make use of the “Bag Check/Swimmer Belongings” vehicles at the start line that will shuttle your swim bags, towels, and dry clothes to the finish line for you. Bags can be picked up at the Bag Check Tent at the finish line.

### **Food**

Water, Gatorade, coffee, fruit, and energy bars will be available for all swimmers to power up before the Swim.

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## **Swim Course**

The course map below shows the swim channel, course markers, and the giant paddleboard located near the middle (feel free to take a rest at the paddleboard).

While swimming, keep the yellow markers on your left and the giant American flag in sight ahead of you.



## Kayak Escort Instructions

If you are a kayak escort or escorted swimmer, please review the [Kayak Escort Instructions](#) prior to the event.

All kayak escorts must:

- Have their kayak inspected **before** the swimmer can check-in
- Bring two USCG-approved life jackets (one for themselves and one for their swimmer)
- Bring a whistle
- Please arrive early to allow time for the kayak inspection

Please note that paddleboards are not permitted.

If you need access to a kayak, **please email us**, we have limited availability.

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## Your Safety is our Top Priority

- There will be over 30 first responders and several safety agencies out on the water keeping you safe, including the Massachusetts Environmental Police, the Marine and Harbor Patrol Units from New Bedford and Fairhaven, and the US Coast Guard.
  - If you need assistance during the Swim, signal one of the Safety Squad kayakers positioned along the course (identified by yellow volunteer shirts). They will contact a safety boat and assist you.
  - A giant paddleboard staffed by a lifeguard will be stationed approximately halfway through the course if you need a brief rest.
  - EMTs will be available at both the Start Line and Finish Line.
  - In the highly unlikely event that we need to abandon the swim and remove all swimmers from the water, kayakers will signal you to swim either to the nearest buoy or to the start/finish line. Our safety boats will then pick you up and bring you to shore.
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## Water Temperature & Wetsuits

Typical water temperatures range from 68-70 degrees for the Swim. Today's water temperature in New Bedford Harbor was 63.5°F. We will send an updated water temperature report next week.

The **U.S. Masters Swimming** website states "When the water temperature measures between 50 and 65 degrees, wetsuits are strongly encouraged. Between 65 and 78 degrees, it's typically the athlete's choice of whether to wear a wetsuit."

Roughly 80% of swimmers wear wetsuits, while others swim in bathing suits or bathing suits and a swim shirt. You should train in open water before the Swim to ensure you're comfortable wearing your wetsuit or other chosen swim attire.

Need a wetsuit to rent or buy? Contact:

- **Open Soul Swimming**
- **Bob's Sea and Ski**
- **triwetsuitrentals.com**

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## Finish Line Celebration

You've earned it!

After your swim, enjoy some freshly made pancakes, sip some delicious Jim's Organic Coffee, or grab an ice cold Sow & Pigs and celebrate!

### Results

The Swim is professionally chip-timed by All Sports Events.

Results will be available:

- **Online here**
- At the Results Tent on the beach (printed results available)
- On screens located near the All Sports Events trailer

Please note that your official time stops when you exit the water and cross the timing strip. There's no need to sprint through the finish chute. Take your time, proceed under the arch, and remove your timing chip.

### Swimmer Prize Tent

Be sure to stop here to pick up your t-shirt and any fundraising prizes you have earned.

### Complimentary Beer

All swimmers age 21+ are invited to enjoy a complimentary beer courtesy of Buzzards Bay Brewing.

### Massage Tent

Enjoy a free post-swim massage from a licensed massage therapist.

### Sauna

New this year! Warm up and recover with a complimentary sauna session from **Tranquil Tides** located by the Fort Phoenix Building.

### Merchandise Tent

Take home a piece of Swim Day with exclusive 2026 Buzzards Bay Swim merchandise, a hat with your favorite Bay location, or a Buzzards Bay Coalition t-shirt!

### Awards Ceremony

Awards begin around 9:15 am and include:

- Top Fundraisers
- Fastest Overall Swimmers
- Fastest Teams
- Age Group Winners

### Guests

Guests are encouraged to join the Finish Line Party! The more the merrier. If they'd like breakfast, we just ask them to wait until swimmers have been served, typically around 9:15 am. A suggested donation of \$5 per guest can be made at the Merchandise Tent.

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## Onset Backup Location & Cancellation Information

The Swim is a rain or shine event and we have a backup plan in place.

If rain occurs prior to the event which affects New Bedford Harbor's water quality, we have secured an equally scenic back-up location in Onset Bay. If we need to move the **Swim to our backup location**, we will email all Swimmers and Kayakers 48 hours before the event.

Cancellation could occur day of if unsafe conditions exist such as storms, heavy fog, or choppy water. Any decision relative to safety is made on the morning of the Swim in consultation with the Massachusetts Environmental Police and the US Coast Guard. Cancellation notification would be announced live at the event, and also provided by email to all participants and volunteers, and also posted on the event homepage ([savebuzzardsbay.org/swim](http://savebuzzardsbay.org/swim)) and on the **Coalition's Facebook page**..

For more FAQs, [please visit our website here](#).

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### You made it to the end of the email!

To those who have made it through the email, we have a game for you. The 33rd person to email [events@savebuzzardsbay.org](mailto:events@savebuzzardsbay.org) with subject line "Swim for Clean Water" will win an exclusive 2026 Buzzards Bay Swim towel!

We hope this information was helpful, but if you still have questions, please **reach out to us**.

Thank you for being part of the 33rd Annual Buzzards Bay Swim and for helping protect clean water.

We're looking forward to cheering you across the finish line on June 20!

See you at the Swim!  
Kate

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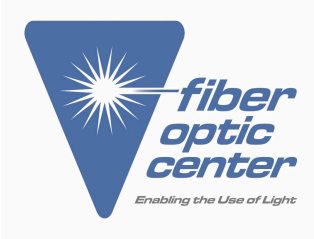
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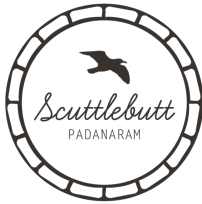


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