



Volunteer Kayaker & Swimmer Instructions

These instructions are for if you 1) requested a volunteer kayaker for your swim or 2) have signed up to BE a volunteer kayaker at the Buzzards Bay Swim **on Saturday, June 22.**

We highly recommend that you reach out to each other to create a plan for meeting up on the morning of the event and finding each other in the water.

KAYAK DROP OFF

Kayakers, when you drive up to the Swim start line area, look for the **Kayak Drop Off Area** sign. Once volunteers have helped you unload your kayak, please park your car (free street parking in the neighborhood) and return to have your kayak inspected.

On the day of the Swim, all kayaks must pass a safety inspection. Inspectors will be making sure your kayak is seaworthy and equipped with a **whistle** and **two adult U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices** (one for you, one for the swimmer should it be needed), and a vessel ID sticker (which they will provide to you) should you become separated from your kayak.

Once your kayak has been inspected and approved, find your swimmer and hand them your completed inspection form. **Escorted swimmers will NOT be allowed to check in until their kayaker has been inspected/approved and hands off the completed inspection form.**

MEETING UP

We suggest that all escorted swimmers meet their kayakers at the **Kayak Inspection Station**, located on the beach at the New Bedford Start Line. Kayak Inspection and swimmer check-in both start at **5:30am**. Swimmer warm up is at **6:30am**, and the mandatory safety briefing on land for **ALL** Participants at **7am**. Swimmer waves begin to depart immediately after the safety briefing. More here at [Schedules & Directions](#).

SAFETY

See the separate instructional sheet for Kayak Escort Safety Protocols. Please review these protocols with your swimmer on the day of the Swim, if not before.

FINDING EACH OTHER IN THE WATER

Each team should work out an advance plan for finding each other in the water. Our recommendation is for the kayakers to fan out after the start, and for the swimmer to find the kayaker. Note anything about your kayaker that is unique – a kayak color, shirt color, hat color, some people use flags – work that out ahead of time so there is no confusion on the day.

Kayakers, you do not need to be on top of your swimmer, just nearby and within sight. **There will be swimmers all around you, remember to yield to ALL other swimmers at all times.** It is your job to get out of the way of passing swimmers. Try to leave a central lane for swimmers open along the course, keeping your kayak to one side of the course.

THANK YOU for supporting clean water with a safe and fun Buzzards Bay Swim!