



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 24](#). Your assignments for the event have been emailed out. We highly recommend that you reach out to each other to touch base and come up with a plan for meeting up and for 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 – volunteers will be there to help you unload your kayak, and then you can go park (free street parking in the neighborhood) and come back to have your kayak inspected. Escorted swimmers will NOT be allowed to check in until their kayaker has been inspected and gives them the completed inspection form.

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.

MEETING UP

We suggest that all escorted swimmers meet their kayakers at the **Kayak Inspection Station** on the beach at the Start Line in New Bedford. Kayakers will have your kayak inspected and approved on the google doc, so they can then proceed to check in. Kayak Inspection and swimmer check in both start at **5:30am**. Swimmer warm up is at 6:30am, with the mandatory safety briefing on land for ALL Participants at 7am, with the waves departing shortly thereafter. More here at [Schedules & Directions](#).

SAFETY

See attached for Kayak Escort Safety Instructions. Please review this protocol with your swimmer on the day of the Swim.

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. If possible, try to leave a central lane for swimmers open along the course, keeping your kayak to one side of the course.

GRATITUDE

Our Kayak Escort Volunteers are a special breed – they have responded to the call for help because they believe in clean water and love to kayak! They are supporting you during the event, so you can better support us. Show them your gratitude by continuing to advance your fundraising. We all believe in a

future with clean water for future generations to enjoy. Volunteers and Swimmers – thank you for your support!

CANCELLATIONS

If you need to withdraw from the Swim for any reason, please email us ASAP at events@savebuzzardsbay.org and also let your partner know ASAP, so we can make re-assignments as necessary. Thank you.