

2026

ATHLETE GUIDE



**GREAT CHESAPEAKE  
BAY SWIM:**

4.4 & 1 MILE  
JUNE 14 2026



# WELCOME

Welcome everyone to the 2026 Great Chesapeake Swim non-profit! This year we are happy to celebrate the 31st Anniversary. Though our swim began in 1982, the non-profit started a few years later. With your help, we have been able to give over \$3,000,000 in donations to our charity partners! We continue that tradition today, and want to celebrate with you, and give YOU the gifts this year!

We are excited to be your host on Sunday, June 14th.

We hope that this helps you with any questions you may have. Should there be any information that you do not find in this guide, please be sure to check the [WEBSITE](#) for updates.

# LOCATION

**FINISH LINE (4.4 AND 1 MILE)**

**LIBBEY'S COASTAL KITCHEN**

357 Pier One Road

Stevensville, MD US 21666

# SHUTTLES & PARKING

**1 Mile Swimmers: 6:00am - 7:00am**

**4.4 Mile Swimmers 4:15am - 5:45am**

**(DON'T FORGET YOUR ID FOR CHECK IN!!!)**

ALL parking will be at the Kent Island High School (900 Love Point Road, Stevensville, MD). This will be the main parking for all spectators, 1 Mile Swimmers, and should be the primary parking for the 4.4 Mile Swimmers.

Starting at 4:15am, there will be designated buses to take 4.4 mile swimmers over. There will be additional buses for taking SPECTATORS TO THE FINISH AREA. Event signs will be posted in the windows of the buses. Only registered 4.4 swimmers may utilize the buses with 4.4 signs on front windows. **NO SPECTATORS ON 4.4 BUSES.**

**If a spectator wishes to go to Sandy Point State Park in their own vehicle, they will need to pay for their own parking. Please note, no pets are permitted on the Sandy Point State Park Grounds. The park will not permit them through the entrance.**

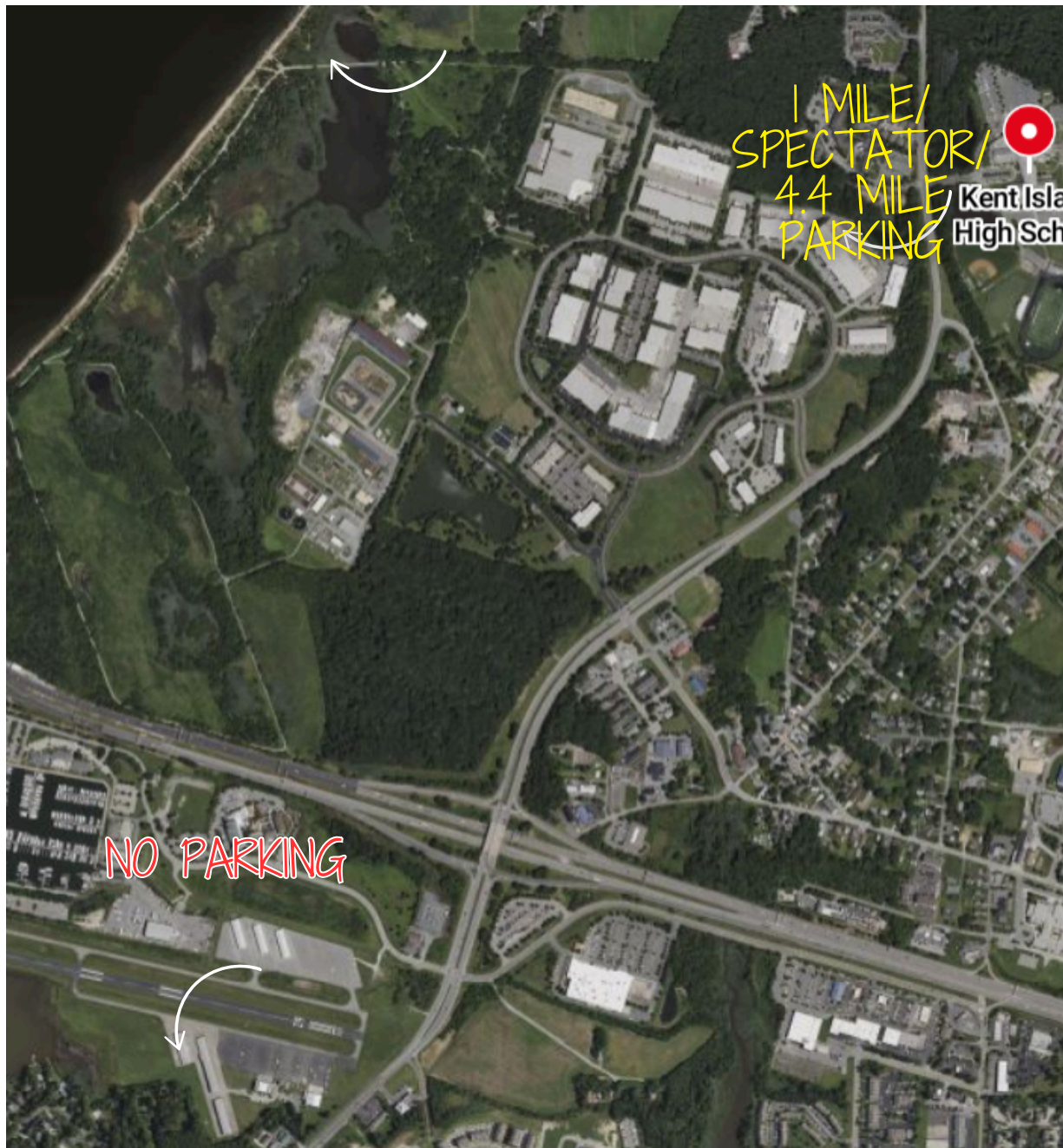
**There will be a new reservation system in place by the time we have our swim, for Sandy Point State Park. We will send out information as we get it, BUT ALL SWIMMERS SHOULD PLAN TO TAKE THE BUS.**

Shuttle Buses will provide transportation throughout the day and will continuously loop from the spectator, 1 Milers & 4.4 parking areas to the Park and Ride and then to the drop off point at Bay Bridge Marina. Next to Libbey's Coastal Kitchen + Cocktails 357 Pier One Rd, Stevensville, MD.

**THERE WILL BE NO ATHLETE OR SPECTATOR PARKING AT BAY BRIDGE MARINA. ATHLETE AND SPECTATOR VEHICLES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM DRIVING DOWN PIER ONE ROAD TO THE MARINA.**

Athletes for the 1 Mile Great Chesapeake Bay Challenge are to use your designated parking area at Kent Island High School (900 Love Point Road)

There are Signed Buses for 1 Mile Swimmers and Spectators.



# RACE DAY - 1 MILE SWIMMERS

## SCHEDULE

**6:00am-7:00am** Shuttles and Pre-Race Checkin - 1 Mile Swimmers

**7:15am** 1 Mile MANDATORY Swimmer Pre-Race Meeting

**7:30am** - 1 Mile Swim Starts (Each subsequent wave every 5 minutes)

**9:00am** - Final 1 Mile Swimmer

**9:00am** - 1 Mile Awards (subject to change)

## PACKET PICKUP

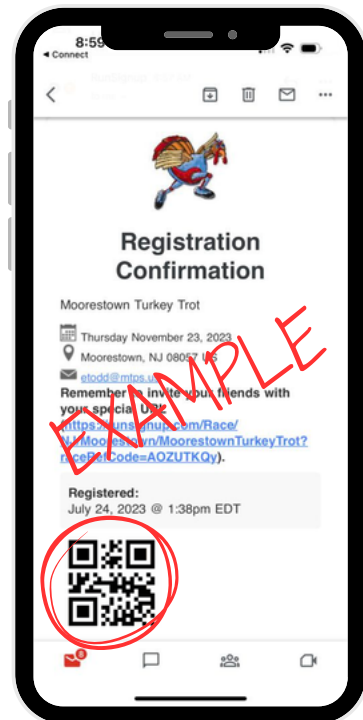
**\*\*PLEASE HAVE YOUR QR CODE READY AT PACKET PICKUP\*\***

Your QR code can be found at the bottom of your Registration Confirmation email. Please come to packet pickup with your QR code ready to be scanned, this ensures a smooth process.

## CHECK IN:

When you arrive you will PRESENT YOUR ID to check in with one of our amazing March of Dimes volunteers, who will ask your name and give you the appropriately colored swim cap (Blue for the 1 Mile Challenge, and a Red cap if you have any concern and want our safety staff to keep a "close" eye on you). You MUST wear the appropriately colored swim cap. If you are allergic to latex, please bring your own appropriately colored swim cap).

Volunteers will also give you a timing chip. PLEASE PUT THAT ON IMMEDIATELY. Finally, you will be given a clear bag to place your belongings in, which you will also put your bib number on. Please place all of your belongings in there (described below).



# RACE DAY 4.4 MILE SWIMMERS

## SCHEDULE

**4:15am to 5:45am** - Shuttle and Pre-Race Checkin - 4.4 Mile

**6:15am** 4.4 MANDATORY Swimmer Pre-Race Meeting

**6:45am** 4.4 Start of Self Seeded Swim Waves:  
Swimmers will enter in groups of 10, every 10 sec.

**7:00am** Final Swimmer in the Water

**8:00am - Mile 1 Cutoff**

**8:45am - Mile 2 Cutoff**

**9:30am - Mile 3 Cutoff**

**10:15am - Mile 4 Cutoff**

**10:45am - Final Race Cutoff**

**11:00am** 4.4 Mile Awards

## PACKET PICKUP

**\*\*PLEASE HAVE YOUR QR CODE**

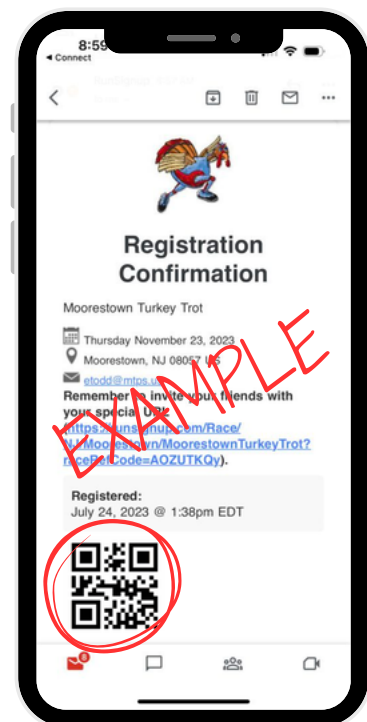
**READY AT PACKET PICKUP\*\***

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## CHECK IN:

When you arrive you will PRESENT YOUR ID to check in with one of our amazing March of Dimes volunteers, who will ask your name and give you the appropriately colored swim cap (Green for the 4.4 Mile, and a Red cap if you have any concern and want our safety staff to keep a "close" eye on you). You MUST wear the appropriately colored swim cap. If you are allergic to latex, please bring your own appropriately colored swim cap).

Volunteers will also give you a timing chip. PLEASE PUT THAT ON IMMEDIATELY. Finally, you will be given a clear bag to place your belongings in, which you will also put your bib number on. Please place all of your belongings in there (described below).



# ALL SWIMMERS

This year we are doing a process called DYNAMIC BIB ASSIGNMENT. This means that you will not know your bib number (nor will we) until you check in. When you check in, you are assigned the next number in the batch. If you have folks who would like to see when you finish, using the [www.BaySwim.com](http://www.BaySwim.com) site, they can sign up for notifications.

Minors may use a School ID or Copy of Birth Certificate. Adult with Minor Swimmers must also present their ID or Minor Swimmer may not be able to swim.

## BAG DROP

The 1 Mile Challenge swim will give swimmers the opportunity to use a morning clothes bag as well. You, though, will put your bib number on the bag and you will personally place it in the appropriate area, on the ground, near your check in.

4.4 Shuttle buses will drop-off 4.4 swimmers at the bottom of the Sandy Point State Park field, next to the public restroom buildings. MARCH OF DIMES VOLUNTEERS will have tables behind restroom building. Each athlete will receive a large canvas bag (22in by 28in), supplied by our friends at the Chesapeake Bay Trust, to place their belongings in. PLEASE PACK APPROPRIATELY. You MAY place your keys, phone, etc in these bags, as we will maintain control of these bags the entire time.

These bags will then be placed into the large white canvas bags, to be transported to the finish line area, and set outside of the fenced in area, over by the 1 Mile Packet Pickup. If you are able to find the appropriately numbered bag to place your items in, that would be AMAZING, and appreciated by our volunteers.

Please note that it is about 500 feet from the beach to the area where the bags will be placed, so don't wait until the last minute to drop your bag! Any items of clothing NOT placed in the bag provided will be discarded.

## **GETTING READY**

As you get ready, be sure to stop at one of our many water tables, to get a cup of water. With the early morning start this year, we are hoping for good weather and cooler temps.

We will have boards with Water Temperature, Winds, and hopefully some tips on the best line to pick for the swim.

## **SWIMMER BRIEFING**

We will have our 1 Mile Swimmer briefing at 7:15 on the grassy area at Libbey's Coastal Kitchen. 1 Mile Swimmers, make sure that your bags are secured and then work down towards the starting area. From there, swimmers will self seed themselves in to groups of 100, and make their way down the stairs to the beach. YOUR Start will be an IN WATER start (1 Mile ONLY).

4.4 Mile swimmer briefing at 6:15am, and we will keep it brief. We will have speakers along the yard area, and the beach, so that everyone can hear our last minute instructions. After the Swimmer Briefing, we suggest that you secure your Morning Clothes bags and start to work your way down to the Beach to the Start Area.

# SELF SEEDING

The swim start changed for the 4.4 Mile Swim two years ago. We have moved to a new protocol called SWIM SAFE, and the concept is that we will have swimmers line themselves up, based on their 100 yard swim times. We will have signs starting at a 1:15 or faster 100 yard pace, and go all the way to a 3:00 per 100 yard pace signs. Please line up in the appropriate corral.

There will be TWO start lines, one for wetsuits, and one for non-wetsuits. Please make sure that you are in the appropriate start line. If you have a question as to whether or not you are in the right corral, please ask a staff member, or the RD Jason Chance, and he will let you know.

When it is time to start, we will count down to the beginning of the event and the first 10 non-wetsuit and the first 10-wetsuit swimmers will start. Approximately 10 seconds later, the next batch of 10 will enter the water. We made a YouTube explanation, with a video from the Maryland Freedom Swim, with exactly how this will work. You can find that video [HERE](#)

1 Mile Swimmers – You will be in waves of approximately 100 at your start line. We will direct you on where to go, and which wave you may be in, based on the use of wetsuits or not.

# CUTOFFS

For our 4.4 Mile Swimmers, your first cutoff will start 1 hour after the last person enters the water. We expect the last person in the water by 7:00am, so that would put the cutoffs as follows (please note, the first mile is 1 hour, each subsequent is 45 minutes)

Mile 1 : 8:00am (60 min after last swimmer)

Mile 2: 8:45am (45 min)

Mile 3: 9:30am (45 min)

Mile 4 10:15am (45 min)

FINISH 10:45am (30 min)

Should you not make one of these cutoffs, you will be removed from the course.

Please go with the kayakers/jetskis, and you will be escorted to a power boat for removal from the course. At that time, you will give the power boater your timing chip and will be given a ride to the finish line.

Please understand that you may be removed for violating rules (swimming outside the bridge, touching the bridge, or climbing up on the small island in the middle WHICH IS A GIANT NO-NO), in addition to not making the cutoffs. Should you refuse to leave the course, you will have the pleasure of meeting our friends from the Maryland Natural Resource Police and/or US Coast Guard, who will politely ask you to get out of the water again. It is in your best interest to do what they ask.

# AWARDS

## WETSUITS AND NON-WETSUITS

Please note that there ARE separate awards categories between wetsuit and non-wetsuit. Your choice of use will not make a difference in your placing.

In 2026, we will be continuing our 5 year Age Group Awards. Awards will be based on overall times and given to:

- Overall Male (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
- Overall Female (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
- Age Group Male & Female (1st, 2nd, 3rd): 14 & Under, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70 & Over

**\*Please note for overall times, someone in a later wave may have a faster gun time so awards will be determined at the conclusion of all swimmers.**

We will also be continuing our **change tents** over on the finish line side. We will have three tents, one for males, one for females, and a non-binary tent, to get out of your wet clothes and get changed in to the garments in your morning clothes bags. We ask that you get changed and then step out to meet up with your friends/family outside of the tent, as there will be limited space. We ask that you NOT use the facilities at Libbey's Coastal Kitchen

# BENEFICIARY

The Mission of the March of Dimes is to lead the fight for the health of all Moms and Babies. Our goals are to end the preventable maternal health risks and deaths, end preventable preterm birth and infant death, and close the health equity gap.



The Chesapeake Bay Trust awards \$20-30 million in grant funding each year to hundreds of nonprofits and community organizations throughout the region for hands-on projects that are ensuring cleaner, greener, healthier Chesapeake, Coastal Bays, and Youghiogheny watersheds for years to come.



# OUR PROMISE TO YOU

- Support the healthy lifestyle choices of swimmers!
- To help provide smooth events for organizers and athletes alike. By taking care of the details, events are enjoyable and athletes continue to come back to support the organizations that host them.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Jason with Revolution3 directly at [info@Bayswim.com](mailto:info@Bayswim.com) with any questions.



**REVOLUTION3**<sup>TM</sup>

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