

RIVER RATS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND SWIM/FUNDRAISER SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022

ELIGIBILITY

- All participants (swimmers and paddlers) must be registered with [U.S. Masters Swimming](#) or have completed a [paper](#) or [online 30-day trial form](#) with proof of submission to the Safety Coordinator (tothedocks@gmail.com or via kylmsc.org/rats) **prior to the day of the swim.**
- All participants (swimmers and paddlers) must also complete the River Rats member information form on kylmsc.org/rats. **It is absolutely imperative that we have updated medical and emergency contact information for every individual participating in our events!**

SWIMMER REGISTRATION

- Register to swim for this event using the form available at kylmsc.org/rats.
- Please indicate which distance you plan to swim and provide any additional information in the comments field.
- Please indicate your USMS membership status by providing your USMS registration number or by requesting 30-day trial instructions from the Safety Coordinator.

PADDLER REGISTRATION

- Register to provide supervision from a paddle craft for this event using the form available at kylmsc.org/rats.
- Please indicate which distance you plan to support and provide any additional information in the comments field.
- Please indicate your USMS membership status by providing your USMS registration number or by requesting 30-day trial instructions from the Safety Coordinator.

USMS REGISTRATION AND WAIVER

All participants in any official River Rats swim must have an active membership with U.S. Masters Swimming or have completed and signed a physical or digital USMS 30-Day Tryout/30-Day Trial/Guest Membership Application form that is on file with the USMS national office.

All participants in any official River Rats swim acknowledge they have read, understood, and signed the USMS Participation Waiver and Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement upon registration with U.S. Masters Swimming.

Swimmers wishing to participate in any River Rats swim who arrive without proof of a USMS membership or signature and submission of a 30-day trial form will not be permitted to participate. THIS IS A VIOLATION OF THE ENTIRE EVENT'S INSURANCE COVERAGE AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

The River Rats, Inc. board of directors reserves the right to edit any of the above information or its Guide to Operations at any time by a majority vote. Members of the River Rats open water swim team will be served ample notice of changes to the above information via email, Messenger, and the team website, kylmsc.org/rats.

UNOFFICIAL ROUTES AND SWIMMERS

Swimmers who are not planning to complete the entire course of any official swim as described in this document will not be recognized as participating in the official River Rats swim and are responsible for their own transportation, paddle support, and related equipment and logistics.

That is to say, these individuals must acknowledge they will not be affiliated with the River Rats on Saturday, May 29, 2021.

TIMELINE - 3-MILE DISTANCE (BIG DIPPER)

- A map of this course is available [here](#).
- All swimmers and paddlers will meet at the Louisville Community Boathouse at 1325 River Road, Louisville, KY 40206 at 7:00 a.m.
- A safety briefing and group photo will begin at 7:15 a.m. on the Louisville Community Boathouse dock.
- The swim will officially begin by 7:30 a.m. This will only happen after:
 - (1) a proper headcount has been taken by the group's Safety Coordinator
 - (2) all participants have been recorded on an IN/OUT form by the group's Safety Coordinator
 - (3) swimmer and kayak groups have been identified by the group's Safety Coordinator
 - (4) a safety and weather/water conditions briefing has been given by the group's Safety Coordinator
 - (5) team announcements have been made

TIMELINE - 2K+/- DISTANCE (CHANNEL/AROUND TOWHEAD/VORTEX)

- A map of this course is available [here](#).
 - Dock → Linda Kay & back = ~800m
 - Dock → top of Towhead Island = ~1,000m
 - Dock → around Towhead Island = ~2,000m (stronger current upon return)
 - Dock → around Towhead Island + Big Four Bridge (Vortex) = ~2500m (stronger current upon return)
- All swimmers and paddlers will meet at the Louisville Community Boathouse at 1325 River Road, Louisville, KY 40206 at 7:00 a.m.
- A safety briefing and group photo will begin at 7:15 a.m. on the Louisville Community Boathouse dock.
- The swim will officially begin at 7:30 a.m. This will only happen after:
 - (1) a proper headcount has been taken by the group's Safety Coordinator
 - (2) all participants have been recorded on an IN/OUT form by the group's Safety Coordinator
 - (3) swimmer and kayak groups have been identified by the group's Safety Coordinator
 - (4) a safety and weather/water conditions briefing has been given by the group's Safety Coordinator
 - (5) team announcements have been made

SAFETY

- All swimmers must be present for the safety briefing before participating in the swim.
- All swimmers must be present for the official headcount before participating in the swim.
- All swimmers must be recorded on the official IN/OUT form by their group's Safety Coordinator, acknowledging both the time they entered and exited the water, ability group, and willingness to comply with the rules and regulations of River Rats, Inc.
- All swimmers must be honest in identifying their swimming abilities when determining swimmer and kayaker groups.
- All swimmers are required to use an open water buoy or similar flotation device during the swim. **The only exception to this rule is a situation where an athlete is participating in a simultaneous event sanctioned by another National or International Governing Body such as the Marathon Swimming Federation, FINA, etc. where the use of buoys is prohibited.**
- Swimmers may not enter the water until the Safety Coordinator has indicated it is safe to do so.
- All paddlers must have a life jacket or other Coast Guard-approved flotation device on their paddle craft while providing surveillance for this swim.
- No swimmer may leave the line of sight of a USMS-registered individual on a paddle craft or dock during this swim. Please note that in most scenarios on the Ohio River there is no dock available for swimmer surveillance.
- All paddlers must exchange cell phone contact information if applicable before the start of this swim. It will be noted who does not have a cell phone on their paddle craft.
- It is recommended that one paddler from each swimmer group have a first aid kit on their craft during this swim.

FEES

River Rats members who have paid their \$100 season dues do not need to pay for this event. Drop-in swimmers should remit \$20 in cash to the Treasurer or Safety Coordinator or via tothedocks@gmail.com

TEAM FUNDRAISER -- BOATHOUSE DOCK REPAIR FUND

As with every holiday swim, River Rats, Inc. will be raising money for a local charitable cause. River Rats, Inc. is proud to solicit donations for River City Paddlesports. We are seeking to raise **\$500** again for River City Paddlesports for the purpose of repairing the docks at the Louisville Community Boathouse. Please join us in supporting the fantastic organization that keeps our home base in tip-top shape and accessible for all!

Team members are asked to make contributions via our PayPal (tothedocks@gmail.com), in cash, or by checks made payable to "River Rats, Inc." Cash and checks can be collected by Safety Coordinators or by Treasurer Krista Belanger or the designated Safety Coordinator on the day of the swim.

QUESTIONS? -- Safety Coordinator William Kolb -- 502-553-5154 or tothedocks@gmail.com.

The River Rats, Inc. board of directors reserves the right to edit any of the above information or its Guide to Operations at any time by a majority vote. Members of the River Rats open water swim team will be served ample notice of changes to the above information via email, Messenger, and the team website, kylmsc.org/rats.