

Point to La Pointe Open Water Swim

Washington Avenue Beach

Bayfield, WI

Saturday, August 1, 2026

<https://www.bayfieldrec.org/point-to-la-pointe.html>

Swimmer Companion Information

Thank you for supporting our swimmers during the 20th Anniversary of the Point to La Pointe Open Water Swim. Race day is exciting, busy, and spread across two communities, so please review the information below before arriving.

FINDING YOUR SWIMMER

Swimmers finish on Madeline Island near Sunny Slope Rd. Because this is a point-to-point swim across Lake Superior, swimmers and spectators can easily become separated throughout the morning.

If your swimmer is pulled from the water:

- They will be transported safely by a race support boat.
- Pulled swimmers are typically returned to the Bayfield Pavilion where they will be provided with dry clothing and flip flops.
- If they are pulled early enough in the race, they may receive a ferry ticket to return to Madeline Island. If they are pulled later in the race, they will remain in Bayfield and you should return there to reunite with them.
- We strongly recommend making a plan with your swimmer ahead of time so you do not accidentally cross paths on different ferries.
- Swimmer gear bags remain on Madeline Island and should still be retrieved there.
- Shuttle buses will run between the Madeline Island ferry dock and finish area.

IMPORTANT:

Please do not panic if you cannot immediately locate your swimmer. Communication on the water can take time, and support boats may be assisting multiple swimmers at once. All swimmer removals are coordinated through our Coast Guard-approved safety plan.

LIVE RESULTS & SWIMMER STATUS

Live results will be available online throughout the event via QR codes posted around Bayfield and the finish area.

At the finish area, ankle monitor tents will display timing chips for swimmers who have completed the race. If a swimmer has been pulled from the water, signs such as “Withdrawn” or “Disqualified” may be posted in place of their timing chip.

TRANSPORTATION & FERRIES

- Ferry lines become extremely busy after the race. Please allow extra time.
- Shuttle buses will operate between the Madeline Island ferry dock and finish area.
- Some swimmers may choose to stay on the island for a period after finishing before returning to Bayfield.
- We strongly discourage bringing vehicles to Madeline Island on race morning. Event vehicles, buses, emergency vehicles, volunteers, and U-Hauls receive priority boarding, and personal vehicles may not make the early ferry.

WHERE TO WATCH

Popular viewing areas include:

- Washington Avenue Beach in Bayfield for the start
- The Bayfield waterfront
- The Madeline Island finish area

Please note:

- Spectators are not allowed on the finish dock or stairways.
- Volunteers may ask spectators to move to maintain safe swimmer flow.

FOOD, LODGING & PLANNING AHEAD

Race weekend is one of the busiest weekends of the summer in Bayfield and La Pointe.

We recommend:

- Bringing water, snacks, sunscreen, and layers for changing weather
- Booking lodging well in advance
- Checking nearby communities such as Washburn, Ashland, Cornucopia, or Iron River if local lodging is full

PETS

Dogs and pets are not allowed at the finish area.

WEATHER & SAFETY

Lake Superior conditions can change rapidly. In coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard, race organizers may delay, alter, or cancel the event if conditions become unsafe.

Most importantly, enjoy the day. Point to La Pointe is more than a race, it is a community tradition made possible by swimmers, volunteers, safety crews, sponsors, and supporters like you.