



## **River Pool at Beacon**

### **19th Annual Great Newburgh to Beacon Hudson River Swim**

#### **Kayak Escort Fact Sheet for Saturday August 5, 2023**

Your primary responsibility is to ensure safety and well being for ALL swimmers. Your assistance helps keep swimmers and kayakers “on-course.” The key to a successful, safe swim is communication.

During the swim, circumstances may change according to: The weather, the water conditions, and the needs of the swimmers.

There will be a Kayaker Safety/Instruction Meeting on Wednesday, August 2. Details to follow on [riverpool.org](http://riverpool.org).



### **ALL KAYAKERS MUST WEAR LIFE VESTS DURING THE SWIM**

#### **Please read the following important guidelines.**

- If you own a marine radio, please bring it (fully charged).
- We provide whistles and foam noodles to use during the swim. Please return these items at the end of the swim.
- Check [riverpool.org](http://riverpool.org) the night before the swim for:
  - Event status and updates.
- Kayak check in is at LONG DOCK Park/Scenic Hudson (Beacon) between 8:15 am and 9:30 am
- Kayak escorts assigned to a specific swimmer are marked with a ribbon. Tell us when you register if you are with a particular swimmer.
- Do not leave kayaks on docks in Newburgh before the swim.
- We will paddle to Newburgh, in “pods” of 10-15, as kayakers arrive. Wait for directions and the go-ahead before paddling to Newburgh. Do not travel across the river on your own.



- Please guide the swimmer. Do not let the swimmer guide you! Keeping eye and verbal contact with swimmers is necessary if any reason occurs for redirection or assistance.
  - Kayaks not escorting/assigned to a swimmer receive a number. The number correlates to a group of swimmers (1, 2, 3...).
  - Kayaks form an “alley” on the north and south side of where the swimmers enter the water, and then head across the river with the swimmers in their designated groups.
  - Kayaks partnered with a swimmer will depart with the group that swimmer is in. Swimmers with arranged kayak escorts may all be in the same splash-in group.
  - The swim finish is at the floating dock (not the ferry dock or dock where kayaks entered the river). There will be kayaks stationed to help differentiate.
  - After the midway point, kayaks should start to key into the finish area.
  - Kayakers escorting/assigned to a swimmer, please keep an eye on other swimmers in your vicinity and help/advise other kayakers of any issues.
  - Some swimmers will need a break; they may rest on your bow or stern. This is a swim not a race. A demonstration of the technique will happen before the swim on the Newburgh side.
  - Swimmers in need of assistance should hang on the bow of your kayak. The stern is the second choice. Always avoid port or starboard.
  - To alert boaters that a swimmer is in need of emergency assistance: Raise your paddle (straight up) and blow your whistle loudly three times at the nearest boater until acknowledged. Each kayak will have a swim noodle to use for reaching out to a swimmer in need of assistance. This gives the swimmer something to hold on to and rest until help arrives. Stay as close to a swimmer in trouble as possible.
  - If you cannot get the attention of a swimmer, blow your whistle one time loudly.
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- There will be “lead” kayaks on the river that may ask for your assistance in a specific area or with a specific swimmer. Please, follow the direction of “lead” kayakers to help ensure safety for everyone.
  - When your swimmer or group of swimmers reaches the floating dock in Beacon, double back to support other swimmers; the back of the pack needs the most kayak support at this time.
  - Predicted swimmer Splash-in time: approximately 11:01 am - 11:11 am. Swim to Beacon approximately: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
    - Rain date, August 6, Splash-in: approximately 11:50 am - 12:00 pm (noon)
    - Swim to Beacon-approximately: 11:45 am - 1:45 pm.

**Thank you for your assistance and support  
This swim could not happen without you!**