



Tips for the  
49<sup>th</sup> Annual Buffalo Bayou Partnership Regatta  
Presented by Gillman Subaru  
Saturday, October 2, 2021

The primary goal for all entrants is to **have an enjoyable and safe trip down Houston's most historic waterway!** Thank you for joining us this year and please let us know how we can improve the Regatta experience. We've put together a handy guide for optimizing your fun day at the Buffalo Bayou Regatta!

## RACE PREPARATION

**Nutrition and Hydration:** This is a long distance endurance event, which, depending on your paddling speed, may take up to 4 hours or more. Be prepared. Hydrate. Eat something for breakfast. Bring water or a sports drink for during the race.

**Recommended Clothing:** Wear comfortable clothes and closed-toe shoes with a firm sole, secure laces, and good drainage, that you do not mind getting wet and muddy. Running shoes are ideal. Lightweight tech fabrics are superior to cotton.

**Equipment:** The only things you need for this race are your boat, paddle, and PFD. Generally the less clutter in your boat, the better, and you'll be able to focus on paddling. However, if you're bringing anything else extra, tie everything to the boat with ropes or duct tape!

## RACE MORNING LOGISTICS

**Morning Schedule:** Arrive at the start area early, 7:00-7:30 am, in order to give yourself plenty of time to park, sign waivers and pick up your Regatta packet, put your race number on your boat, carry your canoe and gear down the trail to the boat launch area on the bayou, and getting staged on the beach preparing to start. Plan on spending at least an hour getting all of your pre-race activities completed, and remember there are 500 other boat crews that will be doing the same thing! Free parking is available in several locations around the area. The race will start as scheduled (first start gun at 9:00 am).

- **If bringing your own boat: you have two options:** (Option 1): drop off your boat at the main area and then find a parking spot. Be prepared to wait in line while others are dropping their boats off ahead of you. (Option 2): Many people find it faster to find a parking spot with your boat still on your vehicle, then carry your boat to the main area.
- **If you are renting from a vendor, or are picking up a boat for the Team Sponsor class,** get parked and then head over to the sign-in area in the parking garage. Get signed in and ask a volunteer to

point you in the right direction to pick up your boat and equipment. Once you pick up your boat you'll need to carry it over to the race staging area.

## **CHECK-IN PROCEDURES:**

**REGATTA PACKETS** – which include your boat number, food and drink tickets – will be distributed **alphabetically by last name**. For those with two or more paddlers, your packet will be under the last name of the person who registered as **First Attendee**. In order to receive your packet, you must present a signed waiver form. Blank waiver forms will be available at check-in. Hang on to your Regatta packet, since in addition to your race number, there are food tickets for lunch and drink tickets for St. Arnold beer at the post-race party!

**BOAT NUMBERS:** At registration, each boat will be given a number which is to be placed on the front of the canoe/kayak high (as far above the water as possible) on the **RIGHT (starboard) side of the bow (front end) of the boat**. Before placing your 2021 Regatta number on the hull, use a dry towel to clean off any dirt or moisture, since numbers don't stick well to a dirty wet boat. Otherwise, your number won't stick, and will fall off in the bayou!

If there are any old regatta race numbers on the boat, please remove them, since as stated in the rules and regulations, "all old Buffalo Bayou Regatta race numbers from previous years must be removed from boats or competitors will be subject to disqualification."

## **RACE STAGING AREA and START AREA**

**Boat launch beach and STAGING AREA:** Carry your boat along the designated path under the bridge to our boat launch area upstream of the bridge. This area of land and bayou upstream of the bridge is the "Staging Area". Please launch and then paddle up or across the bayou to one of the beaches to wait for your start time. You are allowed to paddle upstream to warm up your race paddle strokes, **BUT PLEASE REMAIN UPSTREAM OF THE BRIDGE, inside the STAGING AREA, until called to your start wave.**

**START AREA:** The area of the bayou between the bridge and the start line is the "Start Area". Do not enter this zone until called in by the race director for your class start wave. This will occur approximately 10 minutes prior to your start gun.

**START LINE "DO NOT CROSS PRIOR TO START GUN" RULE:** following the race director's instructions to enter the Start Area, competitors in the water during the few minutes prior to their start time, who wish to continue to "warm up" by paddling, may paddle back upstream of the bridge for warmup activities. Crossing the start line prior to the start gun, even if the competitor returns back before the start gun goes off, will result in disqualification from all results, no exceptions. (Observers will be at the start line to enforce this rule.)

### **START WAVE SEQUENCE**

9:00 AM: Solo Unlimited

9:10 AM: Performance Unlimited

9:20 AM: Team Sponsors Canoe and Recreational Canoe

9:30 AM: Long and Short Solo Recreational Kayaks and Tandem Recreational Kayaks

9:40 AM: "Just For Fun" non-competitive fleet

## **RACE COURSE**

You will be sharing the waterway with literally hundreds of other boats and paddlers just like you. Please be sportsmanlike and considerate.

The bayou scenery sets the stage for our technically challenging race course, featuring many sharp turns, partially submerged logs, overhanging tree limbs, bridge support columns, and various debris. If the water is high, there will be strong current eddies present, which can push you in a direction you don't want to go. Keep your eyes open and be prepared to react to changing conditions. Do your best to maintain headway in order to maneuver as needed to avoid obstacles.

**PACE YOURSELF!** You will need to paddle and make steady progress to complete this race course. In order to have a reasonable chance of making it to the finish by 2pm, you'll need to clear the Woodway Bridge by noon.

**IF YOU CAPSIZE:** first rule, do not panic! Hang on to your paddle and let your PFD float you. Swim or wade to your boat and then bring everything to shore when possible. Right your boat, dump out the water, get back in and continue the race.

**SUPPORT AND SPECTATORS:** Not including the start and finish areas, there are multiple public access locations to observe the race, including the Woodway boat launch area (just west of I-610), Bayou Bend park (located at the foot of Westcott), and anywhere along the shores of Buffalo Bayou park between Shepherd and Allen's Landing.

## **FINISH LINE AND POST RACE**

The Finish Line will be between two sighting pins located as close as possible to the upstream edge of the arch of the Main Street bridge (a banner hanging above will also identify the Regatta finish, but does not define the line). If the water is running at the normal Regatta speed (approximately 500 CFS) and you are a steady paddler, you can expect to finish in 3 to 4 hours (between 12:30 and 1:30 pm). The Regatta's fastest boat contestants generally complete the race in two hours or less. Then take your boat up to the grassy area, grab a lunch and a St. Arnold beer, and enjoy Historic Allen's Landing Park while you bask in the glory of your Buffalo Bayou Regatta accomplishment! The Awards Ceremony will take place around 2:00 pm.

## **PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION BACK TO START**

Free parking is available at the start and paid parking is available at the Finish line area at Allen's Landing (1001 Commerce Street at Main Street).

Four transportation options are available for you:

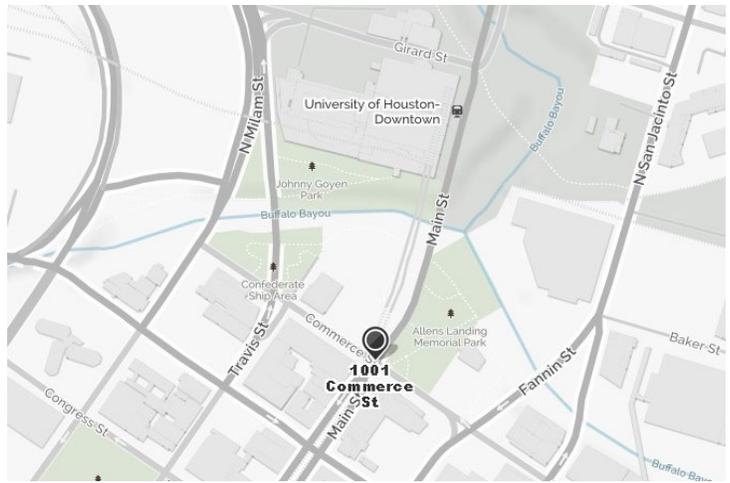
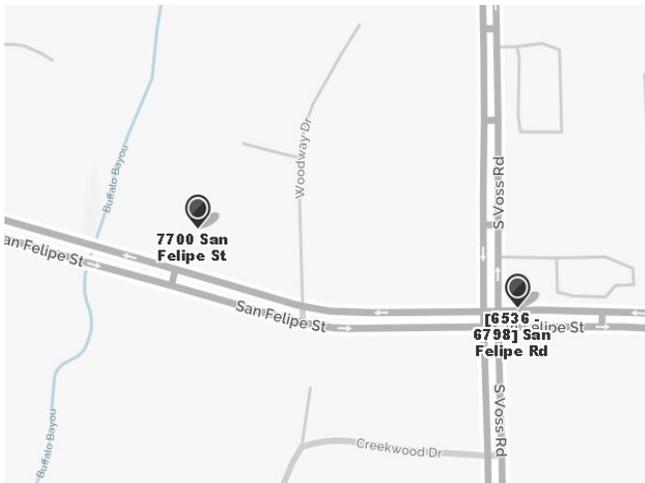
- a) Drive to the start, paddle to the finish and have someone meet you at the finish area to drive you back to the start.
- b) Drive to the finish area early in the morning and leave a second car. Then drive to the start, paddle to the finish and pick up the car you dropped off in the morning.
- c) Have a friend drop you and your boat off at the start, and then meet you at the finish.
- d) Drive to the start, paddle to the finish and let The Wave shuttle service drive you (but not boats) back to the start. **PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE WAVE AVAILABLE FROM 11:30 AM TO 3:30 PM AT ALLEN’S LANDING TO TRANSPORT PARTICIPANTS FROM THE FINISH LINE TO THE STARTING POINT.**

**MAPS**

**LEFT:** Starting Point at **7700 San Felipe**, just west of Voss.

**RIGHT:** Finish Line at Main Street Bridge at Allen’s Landing.

[Click here](#) for the race route of the Buffalo Bayou Partnership Regatta.



*Buffalo Bayou Partnership is the non-profit organization revitalizing and transforming Buffalo Bayou, Houston’s most significant natural resource.*

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