



The primary goal for all entrants is to **have an enjoyable and safe trip down Houston’s most historic waterway!** We’ve put together a handy guide for optimizing your fun day at the Buffalo Bayou Partnership Regatta.

RACE PREPARATION

Nutrition and Hydration: This is a long-distance endurance event, which, depending on your paddling speed, may take up to 3 hours or more. Be prepared. Hydrate. Eat something for breakfast. Bring a snack or energy bar to eat before the race start. Bring water or a sports drink during the race.

Recommended Clothing: Wear comfortable clothes and closed-toe shoes with firm soles, secure laces, and good drainage, so that you do not mind getting wet and muddy. Running shoes are ideal. Lightweight tech fabric clothing is 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, 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 preparing to start. Plan on spending at least an hour getting all your pre-race activities completed and remember there are 500 other boat crews that will be doing the same thing! 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. 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 boat launch area.

CHECK-IN PROCEDURES:

REGATTA PACKETS – which include your boat number and wristband, which includes your 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. 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 **LEFT (port) side of the bow (front end) of the boat.** Before placing your 2023 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 docks and STAGING AREA: Carry your boat down the hill to our boat launch docks. The area of land and bayou near the Main Street bridge is the "Staging Area". Please launch your boat and then paddle up or across the bayou to wait for your start time. You are allowed to paddle upstream to warm up your race paddle strokes, **BUT PLEASE REMAIN NEAR THE MAIN STREET BRIDGE, inside the STAGING AREA, until called to your start wave.**

START AREA: The area of the bayou between the launch area 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 Main Street bridge, or up White Oak bayou, for warmup activities. Crossing the start line prior to the start gun, even if the competitor returns before the start gun goes off, will result in disqualification from all results, with no exceptions. (Observers will be at the start line to enforce this rule.)

START WAVE SEQUENCE

9:00 AM: "Just for Fun" non-competitive fleet

9:10 AM: Solo and Tandem Kayaks

9:20 AM: Team Sponsors and Tandem Canoe

9:30 AM: Performance Unlimited and Solo Unlimited

RACE COURSE (new for 2023)

You will be sharing the waterway with hundreds of other boats and paddlers just like you. Please be sportsmanlike and considerate. Since this is an out-and-back course, please keep to the right when encountering other boats head-on. At the turn around point, stay to the right, and leave all buoys and the pontoon boat on your left side.

The downtown scenery sets the stage for our east side course, featuring historic bridges and remnants of old docks and wharves from the early days of Houston, along with modern industrial facilities. The view of the downtown skyline on your way back to the finish is particularly striking. There is often a wind

blowing from the east, so there may be a headwind on the outbound leg. Current is generally not a factor in this part of the bayou but keep your eyes open and be prepared to react to changing conditions. Do your best to maintain headway to maneuver as needed to avoid obstacles.

PACE YOURSELF! You will need to paddle and make steady progress to complete this event. To have a reasonable chance of making it to the finish by 2pm, you'll need to clear the turnaround point by noon.

IF YOU CAPSIZE: the first rule, is 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.

FINISH LINE AND POST-RACE

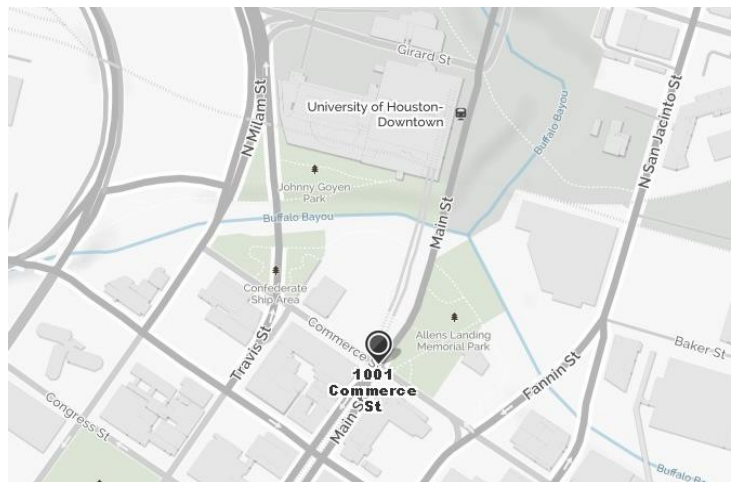
The Finish Line will be between two sighting pins located about 100 feet upstream of the Fannin Street bridge. If you are a steady paddler and maintain a pace of 2.5 mph or better, you can expect to finish in 3 to 4 hours (between 12:30 and 1:30 pm). The Regatta's fastest boat contestants generally complete the race in less than 2 hours. 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 begin at 2:00 pm.

MAPS

RIGHT: Finish Line at Main Street Bridge at Allen's Landing (**1001 Commerce St. at Main Street**)
[Click here](#) for the race route of the Buffalo Bayou Partnership Regatta.



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

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