

The 2025 Astoria Regatta – Crossing the Columbia Swim
Washington to Astoria, OR – Go the Distance for Build CMH!
July 19th 2025

The 2025 Astoria Regatta – Crossing the Columbia Swim is a unique opportunity to participate in a historical open water adventure swim. Our objective is to give experienced open water swimmers the opportunity of participating in the resurrected trans-Columbia River crossing, officially sanctioned for the first time in 1934 by the Annual Regatta Festival. This version of the Crossing the Columbia Swim will be a charitable event with all proceeds going to Astoria's Critical Access Hospital – Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH), as they build a new facility that will support the regions acute care needs.

This swim entails significant risk and participants will be responsible for their own safety. While the Astoria Regatta, the City of Astoria, and Clatsop County will bring multiple assets to bear to provide the safest environment possible for this swim, the safety of the swimmers must be assured by their Support Team. Each Team in addition to the swimmer, will require a paddler or kayaker, and a logistics coordinator (supporting transportation).

Open water swimming events involve a substantial amount of risk, including risk of death. Therefore, safety a primary concern. It is imperative that Teams are prepared for this arduous crossing which will more than 5-miles of open water swimming. The kayaker or paddler will be responsible for navigation.

We will limit the number of participants to enhance the safety of the event. A Water Safety Team will be assembled to give aid to the Support Team of each swimmer. As a participant of this event, you agree to assume the risks of open water swimming and agree to be responsible for your safety and the safety of your Team during the event.

The Astoria Regatta will make NO evaluation of your physical conditioning. You participate at your own risk. Participants must be able to swim and paddle swim in cold water (approximately 65-70 degrees Fahrenheit) for several hours. The Columbia River has significant maritime activity including large freighters, recreational boaters, and fisherman. We will not stop marine traffic and athletes may need to alter their course to avoid vessels large and small. In addition to boating traffic, there is often flotsam and jetsam in the river flow which will need to be avoided. Weather of the Pacific Northwest can also be unpredictable and could lead to delay or cancelation. Additionally, an event involving immersion in cold water can lead to hypothermia with subsequent drowning or other medical emergencies.

Swimmers entering this event will be asked to attest to having read this waiver which acknowledges the many risks that may be encountered. Your attestation provides explicit understanding that the responsibility of swimmer's safety lies with the swimmer and their safety team. If you do not agree with these terms and the event waiver, DO NOT participate in this event.

Participants of Crossing the Columbia open water swim MUST agree to become familiar with race information and course prior to event day. If difficulties arise during the swim event, move to your support paddler. The paddler will contact the Lead Operations Vessel (by phone) or signal one of the events Water Safety Jet Ski members or accompanying Regatta vessels by flag. The Lead Operations Vessel will assess the assets needed for response. Medical emergencies will be immediately escalated to USCG.

Mariners who are friends and family of the Astoria Regatta will create a *preferred course corridor* (PCC) that participants can navigate through. They will also hail boating traffic and encourage all vessels with props stay outside of the PCC. If freighter traffic is eminent, swimmers and their teams will be redirected or paused to assure a safe passage of the freighter.

Time Guidelines

To qualify, swimmers must show that they have completed a minimum 5000 m/5500 yd swim faster than 1:40, within 3 years of race day. (2024 Swim Across the Columbia finishers qualify.) Swimmers who cannot complete one mile in open water in 35 minutes should NOT enter.

A safe swim is our most important goal. If you are not comfortable swimming this distance, we suggest you try out other local races that provide shorter distance races.

The Course (subject to change based upon conditions and permissions):

Favorable tides during the 2025 Regatta Swim Across the Columbia

Start -----> Finish



The **Columbia River Quarantine Station**, now known as the **Knappton Cove Heritage Center**, is a historic site located in **Knappton, Washington**.

Columbia River Maritime Museum



