



DONNER LAKE

OPEN WATER SWIM

2.7 MILES SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026 8:30 AM
Water temperature: 65-68° Truckee, CA. Altitude: 5933 ft.



**Sanctioned by: Pacific Masters Swimming for
USMS, Inc. # Pending**

ENTRIES: This event is open to 475 swimmers. Entry fees are \$100 per person if you pre-register.

All entry fees are non-refundable in the event the swim is cancelled for any reason whatsoever, including but not limited to registered swimmer non participation, cancellation of the event at any time for any reason, or for any other reason not listed. Along with entries being non-refundable, all entries are non-deferrable and non-transferable.

Sierra Nevada Masters Swimming, Inc. is a Section 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Nevada. In agreeing to participate in this swim event hosted by Sierra Nevada Masters Swimming, Inc., Participants acknowledge that any and all grievances or claims Participants may have against Sierra Nevada Masters Swimming, Inc. due to this event shall be governed and construed under the laws of the State of Nevada, and the courts of the State of Nevada shall have jurisdiction over any disputes. Such State of Nevada governing law declaration shall be further understood by Participants to be irrespective of the location of this swim event at Donner Lake, Town of Truckee, State of California.

Registration opens June 3, 2026, at 9:00am Pacific time.

Registration for this event will only be available at www.clubassistant.com, **no mail in entries will be accepted.** Online registration closes on August 1, 2026. \$200 per person, for registration on race day. **If the Donner Lake Open Water Swim sells out before race day, there will be NO race-day registration.**

Please note: Your credit card will be charged by “donnerlakeswim.org” for this swim meet.

ELIGIBILITY: Current USMS rules will govern the race. All race participants must be age 18 or older and be currently registered members of U.S. Masters Swimming. To join USMS, go to <https://www.usms.org/join-usms/join-or-renew>

LOCATION: Donner Lake, Truckee, CA. Located 35 miles west of Reno, NV and 100 miles east of Sacramento, CA. via Interstate 80. The start is at the east end of the lake by Donner Memorial State Park; the finish is at West End Beach.

COURSE: Straight, point-to-point, 2.7 miles from Donner Memorial State Park to West End Beach. Expected water temperature 65 – 68 degrees (great website to monitor lake temperature <https://seatemperature.info/donner-lake-water-temperature.html>). Altitude is 5933 ft.

WARNING: Participants should be adequately trained for this competition, which combines high altitude, cool water temperatures, and a lengthy swim. Previous experience in similar conditions is highly recommended.

SWIM PROCEDURE: Pre-race instructions at 8:15 AM followed by a beach start at 8:30. A **2-hour 30-minute time limit will be STRICTLY enforced.** If you fail to finish the race within the time limit, you will be disqualified and removed from the water. There are **NO EXCEPTIONS**; you will be removed from the water after 2 hours and 30 minutes.

AIR QUALITY: Air quality can be affected by wildfires, if the air quality index, AQI PM 2.5, is above 150 prior to the start of the race on Saturday, August 8, 2026, the race will be cancelled per USMS and Pacific Masters Swimming guidance. Again, all entry fees are non-refundable, nondeferrable, and non-transferable. This determination will be made to the best of our judgement and will not necessarily rely upon any single air quality website or data input. *We defer a decision regarding AQI conditions until race morning, as conditions can change rapidly.*

COVID: The Donner Lake Swim will be following USMS, local and state COVID guidelines. Swimmers must follow these guidelines in order to participate in the swim.

CHECK-IN: Check-in and race day registration will begin at 6:30 AM and close at 8:00 AM. Only registered swimmers who have checked in are permitted to participate in the swim; any swimmer not checked in at 8:00 am will be scratched. Check-in is off Donner Pass Road between Donner Memorial state park and Tahoe Donner beach club entrances (portable toilets on the side of the road are a good landmark to look for). Map can be found at <https://www.donnerlakeswim.org/> towards the bottom of the webpage. Pre-race instructions will take place at 8:15 AM.

WARM-UP: A designated warm-up area will be provided. All swimmers wishing to warm up prior to the race must do so in the designated warm-up area.

RACE START: All swimmers must be out of the water at 8:15 am. The race starts at 8:30 am.

TIMING: Chip timing for this event will be provided by Lynn Mentzer. \$50 will be charged for lost chips.

SWIMWEAR: Category I suits: Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit (suits made from textile materials, shall not cover the neck and shall not extend past the shoulder nor below the ankles, no clasps or zippers), cap or caps (including caps made of neoprene when the water temperature is not greater than 78 degrees Fahrenheit), and goggles. **Category II suits:** Swimwear that does not meet the requirements for category I swimwear shall be considered category II swimwear. More information at <https://www.usms.org/volunteer-central/us-masters-swimming-rule-book>. (Part 3 pages 72-73)

DIVISIONS: Masters divisions 18-24, 25-29, 30-34, etc.; male and female. No entrants under 18 years of age are permitted.

AWARDS: Awards given to the top three finishers in each age group for Category I swimmers. All entrants will receive an official race cap and post-race refreshments. There are no rewards for Category II swimmers.

SAFETY: Bright colored caps will be provided and must be worn during the swim. The course will be patrolled by safety craft. Life jackets and "man in water" flags are required on all craft.

MERCHANDISE: Apparel can be ordered online until July 2026. Link coming soon!

REFRESHMENTS/LUNCH: Water, hot drinks and yummy replenishing snacks will be provided to swimmers near the finish area. You may purchase lunch tickets during or after you register for the swim until August 1, 2026 at (link coming soon!) There will be no same day lunch tickets available.

PARKING: This is a point-to-point swim with parking available in designated parking areas at the start and at the finish. Please park in designated parking areas at the start or the finish. At the start of the race, you may park on the south side of Donner Pass Road (absolutely NO parking on the north side of Donner Pass Road or Tahoe Donner Beach Club), Donner Memorial State Park has asked that our participants or spectators not park within Donner Memorial State Park due to another event within the park. Do not block the bike lane when parking on Donner Pass Road. At the finish, you may park at the West End Beach parking lot. The shuttle will run 6:30-12:00 between the start and finish. The first and last shuttle will depart from West End Beach. Please carpool! Parking is limited! **Spectators must pay the West End Beach admission fee. Animals are not allowed in the park. Link to purchasing West End Beach entry coming soon!**

ACCOMMODATIONS: Accommodations in the area are limited, so make your reservations early! Campers should call [800-444-PARK](tel:800-444-PARK) for reservations for Donner Memorial State Park (located at the start of the race). There is also lodging in and near Truckee, California.

VOLUNTEERS: If you want to kayak for the race, contact James at JConkey@nevadavisiongroup.com. If you would like to volunteer a motorboat for the race, please contact Patty at pattyparlato@yahoo.com. If you would like to volunteer at the event, please email donnerlakeswim@gmail.com.

ADDITIONAL RACE INFORMATION: <https://www.donnerlakeswim.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/donnerlakeswim/>

RACE DIRECTOR: Laura Harsh donnerlakeswim@gmail.com