

**PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE EMAIL**  
**OPENING DAY FOR MDSA SWIMMING**  
**SATURDAY JUNE 14TH 2024, 11:00 AM**

Join us this 24th(!) year for ceremoniously greeting **Opening Day** with our strawberry toast to another “uneventful” season, rain or shine (and waiting out any lightening!). Be at the Park by 10:30 to arrive on time and enjoy the mountain laurel along the way.

**New for MDSA members to remember:**

- Link directly to **Park ALERTS**, e.g., for extended hours during heat waves or for closures, on the **MDSA web site under the tab Current Member Login**.
- Place **MDSA chairs on the tarp** hooked at the back of our locker; at day’s end, wrap the tarp back over the top of the chairs.
- A new **comprehensive First Aid Kit** is in the locker along with our AED, to be used when needed. **Please note** that the locker is for MDSA equipment and supplies and not for personal storage nor for your trash. This is a “carry in, carry out” Park and so is MDSA.

**Dates to note:**

- **July 26 and 27** Evan Davis’ Boot Camp swimmers (all are MDSA members) will be training.
- **Friday August 1st** at Mohonk Preserve is the MDSA Dinner Picnic (details to follow).

**VOLUNTEER:** We really appreciate members who year after year have been volunteering and we cannot take MDSA for granted. We cannot continue without members volunteering. We need Volunteer Guides IMMEDIATELY.

- Here's the link to volunteer: <https://www.minnewaskaswimmers.org/volinfo>

**MDSA Obligations**

Let’s make this season another successful and uneventful MDSA swim season and let's abide by Park rules.

We want to welcome our new members and to remind us all about 3 rules we are mandated to abide by in addition to following Park regulations. They are only a few and keep us in good stead with the Park, permitting us to enjoy Lake Minnewaska. We are a swim club that expects its members to abide by the rules.

- 1. To swim (counterclockwise, please) within a reasonable distance** around the buoyed line only while there is at least one other MDSA member at our beach during the hours allowed. We are not permitted to swim much further out beyond the buoyed line.
- 2. Always put up your membership card** and put out the **red lifesaving buoy** that is kept under our locker.
- 3. Hours:** All swimmers must be out of the water by 7:00PM, no exceptions. Week days we may start at 9:00, but on weekends and holidays not until 11:00. Watch for **ALERTS** linked to the Minnewaska State Park web site for extended hours due to excessive heat days. Stephanie will email active members if there's enough notice.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE: Park Rule** that dogs are not allowed in or near swim areas, must not be left unattended, and must be tethered at all times.

- If you bring a dog, take it to the far end of the MDSA area, without delay.

## **Important common courtesy and safety considerations:**

1. Sunscreens, lotions, perfumes, and the like: **Sunscreens need to be put on well before you go in the water**, otherwise they just wash off and pollute the Lake. Likewise, avoid the use of lotions, perfumes, powders before going in the water. Let's keep the Lake water clean and not offend other swimmers.
2. **Storms:** Be aware and look up to our beach to see if members are waving you in out of the water. At the first rumble of thunder all swimmers must get out of the water and not return until 20 min after the last sound of thunder (**Park Safety Rule**).
3. Enjoy the peace and quiet and please avoid loud conversations.
4. Try **not** to keep your "stuff" on top of the 3 large "boulder benches" down by the Lake where we go into the water so that members have something to sit on while taking off shoes. Instead use our chairs for your belongings if you want.
5. Keep the bench locker open (unless it is raining!) Note: we have a defibrillator in the locker with instructions for use should the need arise.
6. **The last member to leave**, please place the red buoy under the locker and place any cards left on the board in the "left behind cards" box in the locker.

OUR "CANOE TAXI" at the Boat Launch (aka Diver's Cove) at the north end of the lake is available with advanced planning and with preference given to members for whom the walk to our beach has become a physical challenge. Any member who might want to make use of it, should email [info@minnewaskaswimmers.org](mailto:info@minnewaskaswimmers.org) and your message will be forwarded to a member who can help you. This canoe is 17 feet long, quite heavy, and quite stable and must be kept locked up; the combination is the same as that for our locker at the beach.

**Take care and ENJOY the Lake,**

*Judy Mage, Stephanie Bludau Tor, Kristine Logan, Co-coordinators*