



July 1, 2019

Dear Kids, Parents & Partners:

It is hard to believe we are only 8 days away from the opportunity to meet in person at the Packet Pick-Up & Pep Rally on Saturday, July 13. Hopefully, you and your friends are ready to be the stars of The Biggest & Best Kids Triathlon ever held in New England. We have some very exciting surprises in store, and we know everyone will have a great time!

As promised, following is the 2nd installment of our *Getting Ready to Race Email Series*. Enjoy all of the details and feel free to link to our website at NewEnglandKidsTriathlon.org for even more information or to contact us directly with a specific question. And, do not forget to watch your email box for the final installment on Thursday. It will include a lot of race-specific information such as what to eat the night before and morning of the triathlon.



Volunteers Still Needed

Along with all of these amazing, young athletes, volunteers are a critical part of our success. While we have 100+ volunteers ready and waiting to help this event run without a hitch, **we need many more**. In total, we need about 200 volunteers to keep things safe and on-schedule.

Please do not rely on someone else to fill this void. We would love introductions to your company, church, PTA, NHS, swim team - any group looking to help kids across New England and to raise some money in the process.

To encourage volunteer groups to join us, we have extended our Group Fundraising Program to include volunteers. If you are already part of a team, this is a great way to grow your team - and our donation back to your group. Each volunteer counts the same as an athlete. . . add 10 volunteers to your team and get an additional \$100 donation from us. Of course, this works even if you are not on a team and just know about a group of people who love to volunteer.

If you have any friends, older brothers or sisters (think high schoolers and college students who need community service hours), neighbors, teachers or co-workers who might be interested in helping, please ask them to contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Charlene Alcorn. [CLICK HERE](#) to send an email directly to her, or call her at (904) 448 - 2464. Every volunteer will receive a **nice t-shirt** and a **cool gift** (literally).



Great Parking Options

If you read nothing else we send you, please read this. As with any event in any metropolitan area, parking is a challenge. Fortunately, the leadership team at MIT has been extremely accommodating to our event. It also helps that our event happens during a "low traffic" time - a Sunday morning during the summer.

However, there have been some changes in the parking system at MIT. Unfortunately, we no longer to offer as much free parking. Like with many events, you may now have to pay up to \$9 to park in an on-campus lot.

With all of these thoughts in mind, we want you to carefully consider the following tips to make your arrival and departure on both Saturday and Sunday a pleasure:

1) **No On-Street Parking** will be allowed on Vassar Street or Albany Street on Sunday morning. These areas have been designated as tow zones from 7:00am to 11:00am Sunday for the safety of the participants. However, these areas can be used for parking (if you can find a spot) during packet pick-up and the Pep Rally on Saturday. Be careful. The meters will be in effect, and they may be hungry. The affected areas are marked in red on the attached Parking Map.

2) The West Gate Lot (please see the attached Parking Map) is the most convenient place to park both on Saturday and Sunday. However, MIT will charge you \$9 to park there each day. This money will be collected when you enter the lot. **ALSO, PLEASE UNDERSTAND** access into the lot will close at 7:00am Sunday, and **you will NOT be able to leave the**

lot (your car is stuck there) until the final biker has completed the race course. This is most likely to be around 11:00am on Sunday.

3) FREE parking will be available on Saturday & Sunday in the 65 Waverly Street Parking Lot (please see the attached Parking Map). This lot is quite convenient to the Johnson Athletic Center.

In addition, access to the lots will close at 7:00am Sunday, and **you will NOT be able to leave the lot** (your car is stuck there) until the final biker has completed the race course. This is most likely to be around 11:00am on Sunday.

4) The Albany Street garage is your best bet for a headache free parking experience on Saturday and Sunday (please see the attached Parking Map). While it does require \$18 (\$9 per day) and a couple of short walks, parking here is not impacted by any road closures, and there are a ton of spaces. We would love for you not to have to pay to park here, but we do not make the rules.

5) Because America is the land of opportunity (and choices), you will have other parking options - see the Parking Map for all the details). These locations have various pro's and con's depending on your priorities. The most important thing is to consider all the options and to have a plan BEFORE you arrive on Sunday morning.

Again, we cannot thank Dan Martin, Larry Brutti and the rest of the team at MIT enough for offering these options. Please review them carefully, and please understand Massachusetts State Police and MIT Police will be on-hand to strictly enforce these guidelines. They are critical to the safety of the participants (your kids) and the volunteers.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for a printable version of the Parking Map.

Bring Your Bike Saturday

Due to the large number of participants, we are going to open transition on Saturday. We will have transition open at 3:30pm sharp, and we will be ready for you to set up your gear. We will provide security for the bikes overnight. This plan will help ease congestion on Sunday (and make your race day much more enjoyable), and it will allow us to start the races on time. In addition, you will get your timing strap on Saturday. It is up to you not to lose it overnight and to bring it with you Sunday.



Be There at 6:15am Sunday

Going to a kids triathlon is not like attending a Celtics game. It is NOT COOL to be fashionably late. In fact, it will make your entire experience better if you are a little early. Even with all the parking options, there will be 1,000 cars (and 4,000 people) descending on the MIT Campus within a very short period of time. The participants will need at least 45 minutes to get their bodies marked, check on their bikes and organize their stuff. The parents (and grandparents) will need time to find a spot in the shade and to enjoy a cup of coffee.

As people who have been to more than 65 kids triathlons, please trust us in saying. . . your morning will be infinitely more enjoyable if you are not rushing through traffic and hundreds of people at the last minute. We want this to be a very positive experience for everyone!

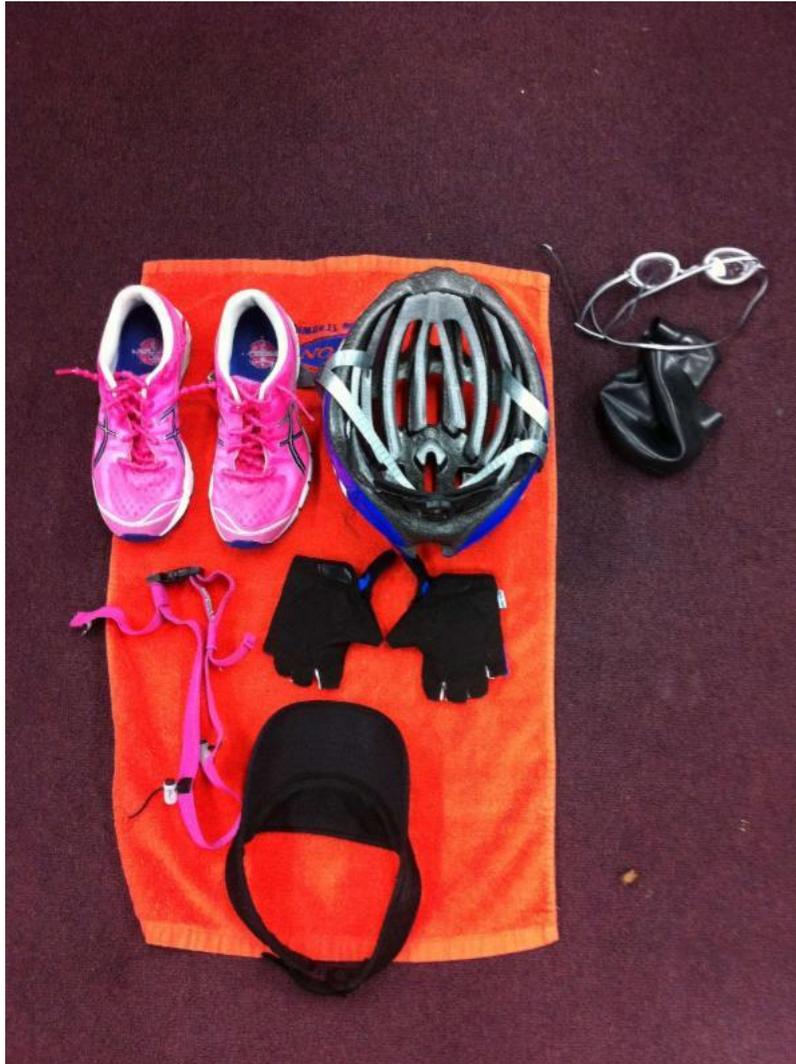
What to Bring on Race Day

Most of the 3rd and final edition of our email series will focus on Race Day. However, we wanted to go ahead and answer our most frequent question (and give you a little time to prepare). **What do I need to bring on race day?**

Well, it all starts with a swim suit. We will provide a color-coded swim cap, and many kids wear goggles (which you need to provide). Also, you will need a bike (check the brakes and tires) and a good, safe helmet that fits (these are required). Finally, a brightly colored towel (to mark your spot in transition and to wipe your feet) and a pair of running shoes are important. Many of the kids complete the entire race in their swim suits (though a t-shirt is not a bad idea, as it provides a good place to pin your race number and helps protect you from the sun).

Some of the optional equipment (helpful, but not required) that you will see includes: a race belt (used to hold your race number - if you do not

want to wear a t-shirt); water bottle (kept in the transition area); elastic shoe laces (save time if you do not have to tie); hat or visor; sun screen; and post race clothes / shoes (that are not hot & sweaty).



The Raffle

You are hearing it here first! We have revamped our Raffle, and it will now include more than \$2,000 in prizes - including a new bike, some cool memorabilia from the Patriots & much more.

At the same time, we have changed the format of the raffle to give you a better chance to win - while helping us raise some money to fund all the great things our non-profit does across New England. This means you can buy as many chances to win as you want. Starting Saturday afternoon, you can buy 1 chance for \$2; 3 for \$5; 7 for \$10; or 15 chances for \$20.

Currently, we are finalizing our list of raffle prizes, and we encourage you to check-out your goody bag on Saturday for all the details. Watch for more information and bring your spare change. Your support will help a great cause, and you will have multiple chances to WIN BIG!

Location, Location, Location

In an effort to minimize confusion, we have put together the map below to supplement the various course maps on our website. The center of all the action for Saturday and Sunday will be the Johnson Athletic Center (inside, air conditioned and out of the sun). This is where packet pick-up and the Race Expo will be held, and it is where ALL PARTICIPANTS will start their race on Sunday morning (by getting organized in numerical order). This is also where the raffle and awards ceremony will take place.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view the Overview Map.



1,105 Medals & 72 Awards are Ready

Without a doubt, every kid who finishes is a winner and will be recognized with a cool medal (along with FREE ice cream, ice cold bottle of water and iced towel). In addition, the 3 fastest racers in 10 different age groups (both boys & girls) will be presented with an award at the end of the day Sunday. Not only will you want to stay for the raffle (see above), but also you will want to be on-hand to recognize the fastest

triathletes in New England.



\$4,000 in Charitable Donations

The New England Kids Triathlon is a primary source of funds for a charitable organization called Kids Triathlon, Inc. Their mission as a 501c(3) is to improve the lives of kids by helping them realize the benefits of being healthy, active and responsible. A critical component of this effort is to support other organizations that do incredible things for kids all year long. We are very proud to be able to donate more than \$2,000 from this year's event to YMCA's across New England along with 24 schools, teams and community organizations that will receive in excess of \$2,000 in donations through our Group Fundraiser Program.



Did You Miss Eblast #1?

Just in case your SPAM filter caught us, we have provided a link to the first installment in our Getting Ready to Race series. Just [CLICK](#)

[HERE](#) to go to the page of our website with all important race day information.

Once again, we want to say thanks for your support of our event. It would not happen without the interest of the kids and the encouragement of the parents. The New England Kids Triathlon is the ultimate family event, and we sincerely appreciate your support. Feel free to contact us via our website with additional questions and stay tuned for the 3rd and final edition of our email updates. The start of the 1st race is less than 180 hours away!

Sincerely,

The 2019 Organizing Committee

