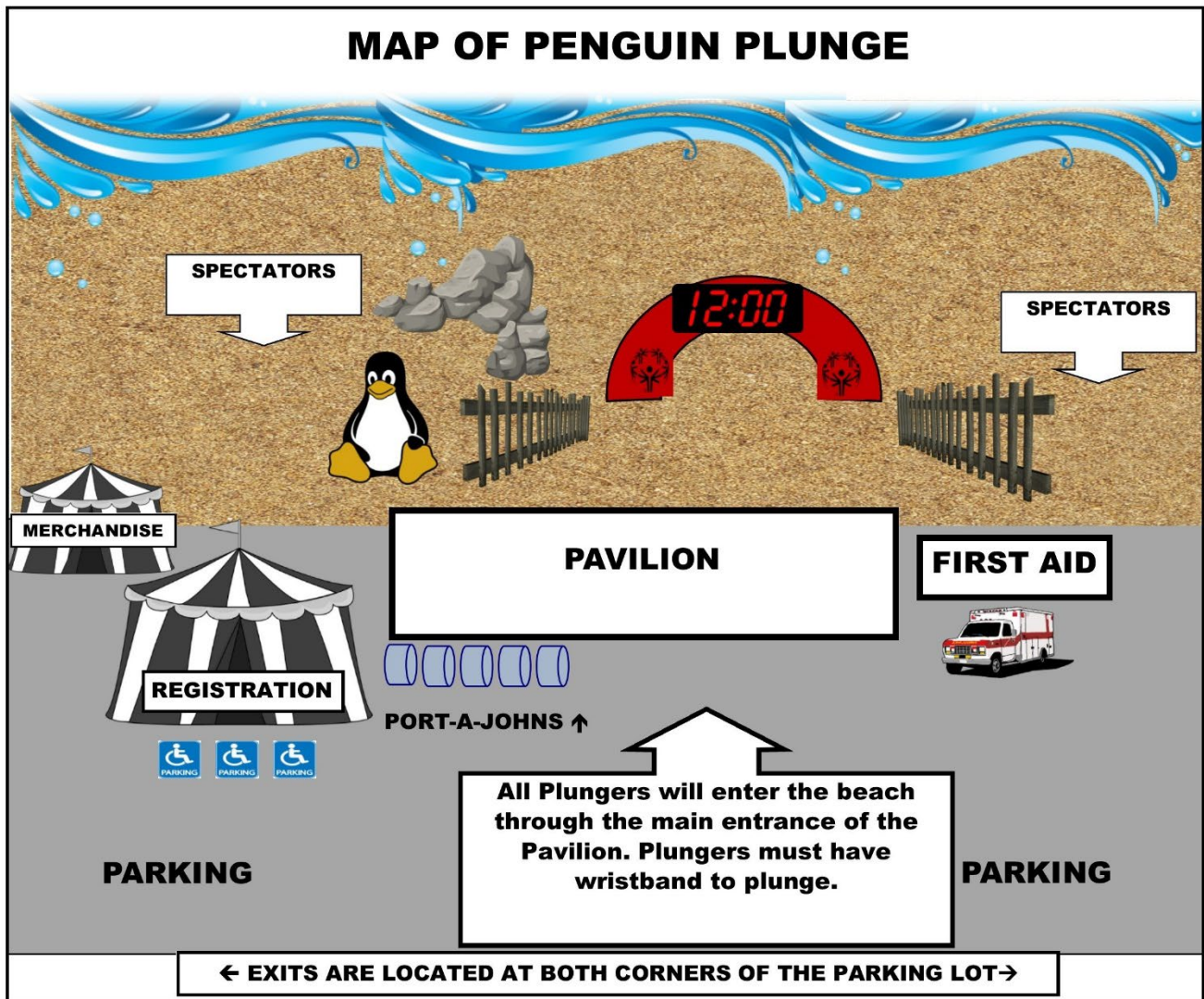




MAP & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What can you tell me about the history of the Penguin Plunge for Special Olympics Rhode Island?

- ❖ Special Olympics Rhode Island is celebrating its 48th Annual Penguin Plunge on January 1, 2024, making it the longest running plunge in the Ocean State.
- ❖ Since moving the Penguin Plunge to Narragansett, approximately 600-700 people plunge annually accompanied by 300-400 spectators.

How can I best prepare for the Penguin Plunge?

- ❖ Pre-registration is strongly recommended for all plungers. Pre-registered plungers who raise \$50 or more are eligible to earn incentives (shirt, hat, blanket etc.).
Pre-registration closes on Sunday, December 31 at 12:00 p.m.
- ❖ Pre-registration on the website allows you to create a fundraising page that you can share with family and friends to enable them to support your efforts.
- ❖ Please plan on getting to the Plunge well before the noon plunge, to ensure a good parking space and time to check in to get your wristband and incentives if applicable.

What should I bring to the Penguin Plunge if I am plunging?

- ❖ Towel
- ❖ Checks and cash from your fundraising
- ❖ Swim shoes or old sneakers to plunge
- ❖ Dry clothing to change into (Bathrooms in pavilion are closed)
- ❖ Plastic bag for your wet clothes
- ❖ Money (cash, check or credit card) to purchase items at Merchandise Tent
- ❖ Family, friends and supporters to cheer you on!

Whether I am a participant or a spectator, what should I be prepared for on the day of the Penguin Plunge?

- ❖ SCHEDULE
 - Registration will open at 10:00 a.m. (Registration Tent to the left of the pavilion)
 - Main Plunge starts promptly at 12:00 noon
 - Family Friendly Plunge starts at 12:30 p.m.
- ❖ If you are not feeling well on the day of the Penguin Plunge, please stay home. For your sake and the health of the other Penguin Plungers, spectators and volunteers, please do not come to the beach if you are not feeling well. Thank you for understanding.
- ❖ Traffic may be heavy the morning of the Plunge as you approach Roger Wheeler State Beach. Please follow the directions of law enforcement and volunteers to safely get to the Penguin Plunge.
- ❖ Special Olympics Rhode Island Athletes will be in the parking lot with buckets asking for optional parking donations. Any amount is accepted and will benefit the organization.
- ❖ All Plungers **MUST** sign a waiver and get a wristband. If you have pre-registered online, you have already signed a waiver, and need to check-in at the tent to get your wristband and any incentives you may have earned.
- ❖ Please bring any checks or cash with you to the Registration Tent to add to your fundraising total. It will help if you can bring up your fundraising page on your phone, to verify your total to earn more incentives.
- ❖ Those who have not pre-registered are welcome to plunge by contributing a minimum of \$25, signing a waiver and get a wristband. Due to limited inventory, "day of registrants" may not receive shirts or other incentives.
- ❖ **BATHROOM FACILITIES AT THE BEACH ARE CLOSED.** Port-A-Johns may serve as changing areas for plungers and are in the parking lot to the left of the pavilion.
- ❖ Lost and found will be on the pavilion by the DJ.
- ❖ Alcohol is not allowed on State Property. Representatives from the Department of Environmental Management will be on hand to enforce State Laws.

What steps have been taken to keep the Penguin Plunge fun, fair, and safe?

- ❖ Wristbands (verification that you have signed a waiver and paid the participation fee) are required to plunge.

- ❖ Please follow the directions of the Plunge volunteers for spectators and plungers. There is a designated area in the middle of the beach for plungers, and spectators are asked to stay by the sides of the beach.
- ❖ Our DJ will be on-hand providing music and making announcements throughout the morning as the Plunge gets closer. The Plunge has a 10 second countdown you won't want to miss!
- ❖ Everyone needs to stay off the rocks.
- ❖ Medical professionals will be on hand if there is a medical emergency.
- ❖ The Main Plunge at 12:00 noon is very large and dynamic for those who enjoy a dramatic plunge into the New Year. For those who would prefer a smaller and quieter plunge, especially those with children, a Family Friendly plunge is available at 12:30 p.m.

Will donations be accepted after the Penguin Plunge event concludes?

- ❖ The Penguin Plunge webpage will remain active until the end of January. If you receive additional donations or matching gifts from your employer, you may continue to add them to your page.
- ❖ If you need assistance with matching gift documentation, please contact our Finance Director at (401) 349-4900. Matching Gifts can double your contribution to Special Olympics Rhode Island. Thank you.
- ❖ If you filled out an Incentives Owed Form at the Plunge, you will receive an email when the items are available to be picked up at the Special Olympics Rhode Island office.

How do the funds raised by the Penguin Plunge benefit the athletes of Special Olympics Rhode Island?

- ❖ Athletes do not pay to participate in any Special Olympics Rhode Island programs. Fundraisers like Penguin Plunge make this possible.