

# Hello Squiggy Skater!

Race weekend is almost here! We are super excited to bring you a weekend of skating events in the Tampa area. We've put a lot of preparation into making this a full weekend of fun, and we look forward to sharing our great city with you! This email serves as your pre-race instructions and information – please read over everything carefully.

## Weekend Schedule

### **Friday Night – Tampa Urban Assault Skate**

We will meet at 7pm in the parking lot at Matlaw near downtown Tampa. The address is:

304 S. Plant Ave  
Tampa, FL 33606

(the corner of Platt and Plant, one way streets. The address is on Plant St. but the parking lot is on Platt St.)

Depending on the number of skaters participating, we may park our cars across the street at Four Green Fields. Look for the noisy people with glowsticks. We will do a sightseeing circuit which will include Bayshore Boulevard, Ybor City, and downtown Tampa (including the new lighted Riverwalk). The skate will be approximately 10-15 miles. We will stop at our favorite cider bar for drinks, and at Eddie and Sam's New York Pizza for a slice right before the end of the skate.

Notes: This is an adult themed skate. We do not discourage children, but we do stop in a bar, so someone would have to wait outside with them. This is also a potentially dangerous skate. The speed skaters in the group have been known to wear comfortable recreational skates and pads because there are lots of pavement changes, railroad tracks, short downhill grades, potholes, street crossings, pedestrians, etc. Do not attempt this skate if you do not feel comfortable on your skates, skating at night, or have trouble stopping. As always, skate at your own risk.

### **Saturday Morning - Courtney Campbell Causeway Skate**

We will meet at 8:30am at the Ben T. Davis beach parking lot, next to Whiskey Joe's (which is where we'll be eating for lunch). The address for Ben T. Davis beach is:

7650 W Courtney Campbell Causeway  
Tampa, FL 33607

We will skate the entire length of the trail, which will be approximately 16 miles total.

Notes: There is a parking fee to park at Ben T. Davis beach. Don't get a ticket! About halfway through the skate, there is a large bridge to cross the bay. You can turn around at this point if you feel uncomfortable going over the bridge. There are expansion joints on the bridge (metal plates), so make sure you're able to skate over those comfortably. Please wear your protective gear, and skate at your own risk.

## **Saturday Night – Packet Pickup and Pajama Skate in the Dark**

Packet pickup starts at 5pm and runs until 6pm. Vendors will be onsite for anything you might need last minute. We **very** highly recommend picking up your packet Saturday night, for two reasons:

1. Less confusion and rushing on Sunday morning.
2. Familiarize yourself with the location of Flatwoods Park, as the entrance can be easy to miss in the dark on Sunday morning.

The address for Flatwoods Park is:

14302 Morris Bridge Rd  
Thonotosassa, FL 33592

The ranger station is about a half mile down on the right side.

The Saturday Night Pajama Skate in the Dark will meet at 5:45pm at the ranger station, and roll out at 6:15 pm. We will meet at Fuzzy's Taco's for dinner afterwards. The address for Fuzzy's is:

5621 E. Fowler Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33617

Notes: Pajamas and glowsticks are recommended, but helmets are mandatory! Other safety gear (wrist guards and pads) are recommended. No headphones allowed. **Please** bring a light of some sort to attach to yourself so other skaters can see you (it will be very dark). Headlamps and flashlights are also recommended (so you can see the beasties in the bushes!) Please make sure that anyone participating in this skate can complete the 7 miles in under one hour.

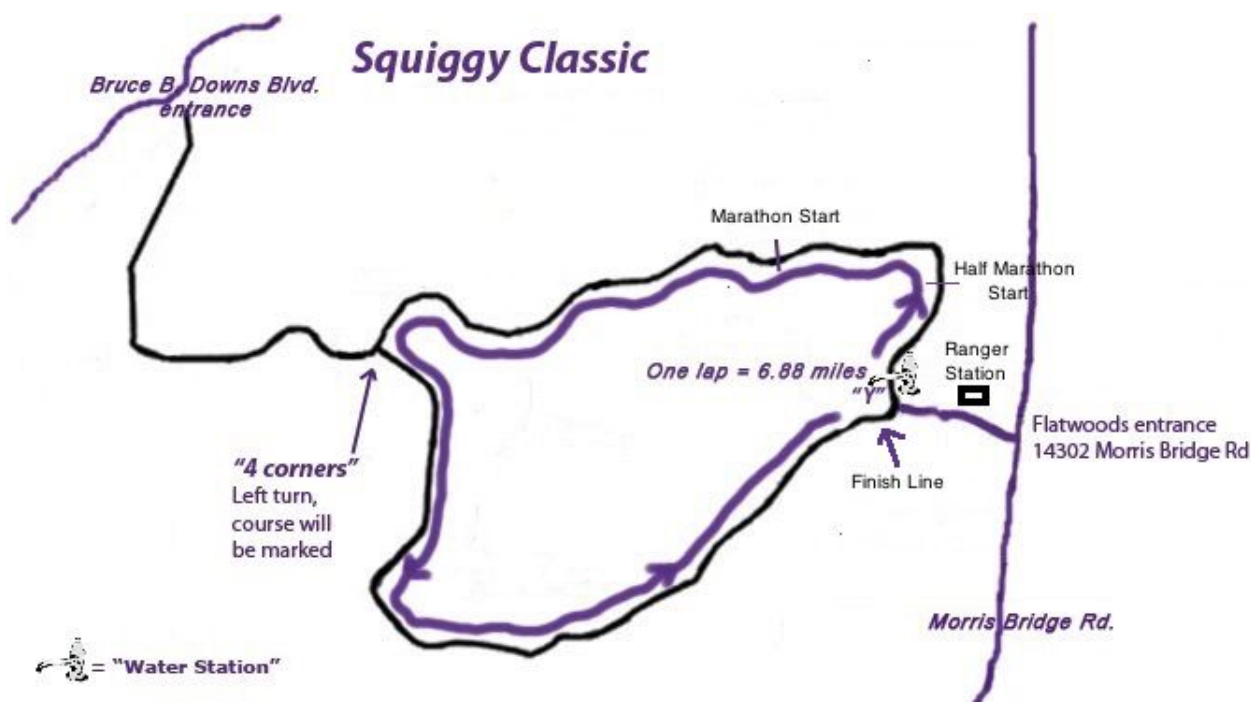
**There is a \$5 fee to participate in this skate (not associated with the Squiggy event), plus a \$2 parking fee per car.**

## Sunday - Marathon and Half Marathon

**Parking:** The parking fee is included in your registration fee. In your race packet, you will find a green parking slip. Make sure this is displayed in the front window of your car on race morning to avoid getting a ticket. When you arrive at the park, you will be directed by volunteers to park alongside the path leading up to the ranger station. **Important: Please do not park in the ranger station parking lot on Sunday morning.** This area is reserved for regular park visitors.

**Packet Pick Up:** If you did not pick up your packet on Saturday night (highly recommended), you can pick it up on Sunday morning from 6:30-7:15am inside the ranger station. Your race number should go on your right side. After you cross the finish line, someone will be taking your tear tag (this is just an extra precaution in addition to the timing). Please try to line up in the order you finished when giving your tear tag to the volunteer.

### Course map:



The course is approximately 7 miles long. Full marathon skaters will complete the loop **4** times. Half marathon skaters will complete the loop **twice**. Please keep track of the number of laps you have completed. If you cut a lap short, the time discrepancy will be noticeable.

At just after mile marker 3, you will be making a left turn to stay on the loop. There will be signs and volunteers directing you for the first couple of laps.

You will pass through the finish line area at the end of each loop. If you have not completed your laps, you will stay left to continue on the course. If you have finished your laps, stay to your right to roll out after the finish line. The half marathon is two laps and the full is four.

## General Information

**Timing:** provided by RFID chip technology. You will receive your chip on race morning. **You MUST visit the timing table near the finish line to pick up your chip before the start of the race.** Don't forget your chip! You will receive instructions how to attach your chip in your packet. Your race number should go on your right side. After you cross the finish line, someone will be taking your tear tag (this is just an extra precaution in addition to the timing). Please try to line up in the order you finished when giving your tear tag to the volunteer.

**Start:** Please meet at the Y (near the finish line, see the map) at 7:30am for announcements. All skaters will roll out to the start lines together at approximately 7:40am.

Full Marathon skaters will be starting about a mile from the Y. They will roll out to their start line first. Half Marathon skaters will be starting about a half mile from the Y. They will roll out to their start line after the full marathon skaters have left.

**This year, cross-gender drafting is allowed. Everyone starts together.** In the full marathon, we ask that open division skaters allow the elite skaters to line up in front, then line up appropriately in relation to ability – faster skaters should start closer to the front, and slower skaters/beginners should start in the back. In the half marathon, line up appropriately based on your ability.

There is a possibility that some of the faster skaters in the half marathon will catch and pass some of the slower skaters in the full. As with any trail, keep trail etiquette in mind while skating. Skate on the right side of the trail, and allow others to pass on the left. Call out your intentions when you're passing someone.

**Rules:** Helmets are required! You cannot start the race unless you're wearing a helmet that's secured under your chin. Other safety gear (wrist guards and pads) are recommended. Headphones are NOT allowed during the marathon, half marathon or night skate for the safety of all skaters. Strollers are permitted on the night skate, but NOT permitted during the marathon and half marathon. Cross gender drafting IS allowed in the marathon and half marathon. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and may result in disqualification. Please skate on the right side of the trail at all times unless passing. Please refrain from skating side by side. This will allow for the faster skaters to pass on your left. Please call out to other skaters to make them aware that you're passing.

If you have skated Squiggy before, you may remember that the park was closed for the event. **This is not the case this year.** In order to hold this event again, we had to agree to sharing the trail with the regular users of the park. This means that there is a possibility you will see other users on the trail, such as runners and cyclists. They will be informed as they enter the park that an event is taking place, so everyone should be looking out for each other. As long as you use that trail etiquette, everyone should get along fine. Otherwise, just watch out for the wildlife – armadillos, squirrels, snakes, deer, etc. are abundant out here in the wilderness.

THERE IS NO BIKE DRAFTING. If you are caught skating behind a bike you will be disqualified.

**Race Numbers:** Don't forget your number! Please pin your race numbers on your right thigh.

**Water stops:** There will be two water stops – one at approximately mile .2 (right after the finish line) and another after the turn at four corners approximately mile 3.3. **There are also three extra unmanned water stations (under shelters) on the loop.**

**Finish Line:** After finishing their second lap, half marathon skaters should go straight after the finish area, while full marathon skaters will go left to continue to skate the loop. When coming to the end of the loop for the 2nd time, **half marathon** skaters should go straight after the finish line.

When coming to the end of the loop for the 4<sup>th</sup> time, **full marathon** skaters should go straight after the finish line.

**Rain Policy:** The races will take place rain or shine – plan accordingly. If there is thunder/lightning in the vicinity we may be forced to delay or cancel the event.

**Awards/prizes:** Please stick around for the awards ceremony and giveaways near the finish line. Elite skaters will be eligible for cash awards, and age category winners will receive special custom awards. We also have prizes to give away thanks to all of our great sponsors. Everyone that registered online has a chance to win a prize.

**Directions:** From Interstate 75, take Fletcher (exit 266) and go east. Follow this road (now Morris Bridge) for approximately 5 miles. The Flatwoods Park entrance is on the left side of the road (a green sign). There is also a small brown sign on the right before the entrance. If you come to a light (Cross Creek), you've gone too far.

Once again, thank you so much for supporting the Squiggy Classic. We look forward to seeing everyone this weekend!