

Tracie Baker

Newberry, FL



Growing up in Ohio, Tracie started competitive swimming at the age of 2 and went on to be a Division I swimmer at Cleveland State University and academic all-star. She has completed four Ironman triathlons, open water swim events in three of the Great Lakes, and a historic canoe expedition across the Everglades ([Willoughby Expedition](#)) that qualified her for membership in The Explorers Club.

She has long been fascinated by the story of the Edmund Fitzgerald, having been born in the year of its fateful voyage. In celebration of both her 50th birthday and the 50-year anniversary of the Edmund Fitzgerald, Tracie is honored to be part of the final leg of the Edmund Fitzgerald Memorial Swim that ends on Belle Isle in Detroit, while raising funds for preserving the Whitefish Point Light Station, an important beacon for all vessels entering or leaving Lake Superior.

As a professor in environmental toxicology, formerly with Wayne State University (Detroit, MI) and currently at University of Florida (Gainesville, FL), her research is dedicated to investigating emerging contaminants in aquatic environments to advance human, animal, and environmental health. She specifically chose the final leg of this historic swim because she conducts research in the Lake Huron to Erie corridor, which contains 4 of 31 Great Lakes Areas of Concern as designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency due to significant environmental degradation. She hopes her swim will bring awareness to the health of this important corridor, which serves as an international shipping route, the drinking water source for more than 4 million people, and includes the only International Wildlife Refuge in North America, an important habitat for over 500 native fish, wildlife, plant, and freshwater mussel species.

Tracie dedicates her swim to all lost mariners, as well as to her family, particularly her three children and her dad, who always pushed her to do hard things and always showed up to cheer her on.

To Donate to Tracie's Fundraiser: <https://runsignup.com/traciebaker>