

33rd Annual FKCC Swim Around Key West, Florida Kicks Off On June 6, 2009

Key West, Florida offers a variety of competitive events throughout the year. June 6, 2009 marks the 33rd Annual Swim Around Key West Event, where challengers swim 12.5 miles around the island's perimeter.

May 15, 2009 (FPRC) -- KEY WEST, FL - Along with its breathtaking scenery, Key West Florida is host to many competitions throughout the year. One of the most challenging and popular events, the 33rd Annual Florida Keys Community College (FKCC) Swim Around Key West, is scheduled for June 6, 2009. The competition, which has attracted competitors from around the world for decades, includes a 12.5-mile clockwise swim around the perimeter of the island.

The race kicks off and ends at the island's Southernmost Hotel & Resort beach, which is located at the end of Duval Street. The FKCC Swim Around Key West event, which is sanctioned by the Florida Gold Coast Masters of United States Masters Swimming, Inc., is the only race around Key West that has been permitted by the United States Coast Guard.

Racers must be 18 years and older to participate, and event categories include solo swimmer (both male and female), as well as two person, three person and four to six person relay races. Due to the large number of event categories available, a wide variety of awards are handed out annually, including: top overall female and male swimmer; top three swimmers for each age bracket; as well as top three teams for each relay category.

"In addition to world-renowned Key West snorkeling this famous tropical island offers a host of activities for visitors and locals of all ages to enjoy. The 33rd Annual FKCC Swim Around Key West event is just another healthy and challenging activity for people to take part in, allowing them to experience the natural beauty the island offers," says Chris Gardner of Best On Key West.

Along with the approval from the United States Coast Guard, the FKCC Swim Around Key West event offers additional measures to enhance the safety of all participants. Throughout the course, a variety of lifeguards and kayaks will be positioned, ensuring that all participants are observing proper marine safety rules.

All participants must also adhere to current USMS swimming rules throughout the duration of the race. Additionally, in order to remain qualified, participants are not allowed to stand or push off the bottom of the ocean floor, and swimmers must swim around all piers instead of swimming under them.

"Although the FKCC Swim Around Key West event is a challenging and exhausting race, it is simply a once in a lifetime experience for people to enjoy a unique part of Key West's beauty. When retiring to their Key West Inn accommodations at the end of the race, I'm sure participants will not only be proud of what they have accomplished, but will probably already be making plans to come to Key West again for next year's swim around the island," says Gardner.

About Best On Key West:

Best On Key West is a company offering a variety of action-packed tours in Key West, Florida,

including special Key West snorkeling excursions. Whether you're looking to dive or relax on the beach, Best On Key West can help you select the perfect Key West tours for everyone in your family to enjoy.

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