

# Just Two Hours from Chicago, Indiana's Optimist Triathlon Draws 300+ Athletes for a Scenic Race with a Purpose

*More than 300 athletes will head to Winona Lake on June 27, for the annual Optimist Triathlon, a scenic, sprint-distance race just a short drive from Chicago.*

WARSAW, IN, UNITED STATES, February 18, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- More than 300 athletes

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*Adam Heckaman, Co-Chairman*

will head to Winona Lake on Saturday, June 27, for the annual Optimist [Triathlon](#), a scenic, sprint-distance race just a short drive from downtown Chicago. Hosted by the Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Club, the event is now in its 33rd year and continues its tradition of “racing for a cause,” with all proceeds supporting youth programs throughout Kosciusko County.

The event is designed to be inclusive, offering a sprint-distance course that attracts both elite competitors and first-time triathletes. The course features:

- Swim: A 440-yard open water swim in Winona Lake.
- Bike: A 14-mile open road ride to Pierceton and back.
- Run: A 3.1-mile (5K) run through a wooded trail along a creek.

Beyond the main triathlon, the event hosts a shorter course for younger competitors, as well as USAT-sanctioned duathlon and aquabike categories, ensuring a place for every type of athlete.

“This event is about more than just a personal best,” says Adam Heckaman, Co-Chairman, “While we provide a high-quality, competitive environment, the real impact happens after the finish line. Every [registration](#) helps the Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Club invest in the future of our local kids. It’s high energy, high impact, and a true community celebration.”

The Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Club raises over \$20,000 annually through events like this to support local youth-oriented activities.

Registration is officially open for the Optimist Triathlon, and spots are expected to go quickly.

Athletes can secure their place today at <https://warsawoptimist.org/triathlon/>. Registration will remain open through June 24 or until the race reaches capacity.

Participants will receive an official event T-shirt, swim cap, professional chip timing, awards eligibility, and post-race refreshments. Register by June 1 to guarantee your preferred T-shirt size.

Early birds get the best deal: the first 100 athletes to register lock in the \$70 entry fee. Once those spots are claimed, registration increases to \$80.

About Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Club:

The Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Club is the largest service club in Kosciusko County. It hosts various fundraising activities during the year to support local youth initiatives.

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