



John Sigmund, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 1965



Personal Website (None known)

John Sigmund was the premiere river swimmer of his era. Starting in 1939, he completed the 28 mile Mississippi Rivers swim in 39 hours from Alton to St. Louis. The same year John broke the longest river swim record swimming 288 miles (463.4 km) down the Yellowstone River from Billings to Glendive in 77 hours and 30 minutes. The next year he again increased the record by completing the 470 km (292 miles) swim down the Mississippi River from St. Louis to Caruthersville in 89 hours and 46 minutes. These swims were widely covered by the media at the time and have set the mark for future generations of swimmers who continue to push to break the longer river swim record.

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)