

Pedal and Paddle Frequently Asked Questions

Q. When are pedal and paddles planned?

A. Schuylkill River Heritage Area Pedal and Paddles are scheduled on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. In 2017, we will hold one a month from May through September. The June Pedal & Paddle is a Thursday evening paddle scheduled for 3:30-8:30 p.m.

Q. Where do participants meet?

A. All Pottstown Pedal & Paddles (with the exception of the Lock 60 event) meet at the Schuylkill River Heritage Area offices, located beside Riverfront Park, at 140 College Drive in Pottstown. Registrants are asked to arrive a few minutes early, so they can sign a waiver and spend time in our River of Revolutions Interpretive Center, which is open during the event.

The Lock 60 Pedal & Paddle on Saturday, August 26 will take place at Schuylkill Canal Park's Lock 60, located at 400 Towpath Road in Mont Clare, PA.

Q. What if it rains?

A. The tour will be held rain or shine, so remember to dress for the weather. However, if heavy rain and thunderstorms are forecast we reserve the right to cancel. If it becomes necessary to cancel, participants will be notified by email by early Saturday morning and you will receive a full refund.

Q. What equipment do I need?

A. All equipment, including bikes, helmets, kayaks, paddles and PFDs are provided. However, it is recommended that you bring the following items: water bottle, sunscreen, insect repellent, hat, water shoes and bike helmet, if you prefer to use your own.

Q. What type of bikes are used?

A. We use yellow cruisers from our Bike Pottstown bike share. They are sturdy, stable bikes that are fun to ride. All bikes are equipped with baskets.

Q. Can children participate?

A. Pedal and Paddles are open to ages 16 and up. This is consistent with the Bike Pottstown bikes, which can only be used by people who are 16 or older.

Q. Do I need to pack food?

A. No, a boxed lunch or dinner will be served. Vegetarian meals are available.

Q. Can I participate if I am a beginning paddler?

A. Yes, this event is appropriate for all experience levels. We have guides on bikes and in kayaks to assist beginners. A brief paddling introduction is provided after lunch.

Q. How many people can participate?

A. For safety reasons, space is limited to 15 people for each event.

Q. Can I just show up for one of these events?

A. No, pre-registration and pre-payment is required.

Q. What is Historic Morlatton Village?

A. Morlatton Village is a historic village consisting of four 18th century buildings that have been restored or are in the process of being restored. The village is located directly off the trail and is owned by the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County, which provides a tour guide during the event. The buildings are only open to the public during special events.

Q. What is the itinerary?

A. Saturday Pottstown Pedal and Paddle events follow this schedule:

9:00—Introduction and safety briefing

9:30—Begin 4.5 mile bike ride along Schuylkill River Trail

10:15—Arrive at Historic Morlatton Village and begin historic tour of village

11:15—Bike to Ganshawny Park (approximately 1 mile)

11:30—Lunch and kayak safety briefing

12:30—Begin paddle to Riverfront Park

2:00—Arrive at Riverfront Park in Pottstown

- **The Thursday evening** itinerary remains the same, but begins at 3:30 p.m. and ends at 8:30 p.m.
- **The Lock 60 Pedal & Paddle** will begin with a bike ride along the Schuylkill River Trail, followed by a tour of the canal and locktender's house and finish with a kayak loop along the river and canal.
- **Water Quality Pedal & Paddle** participants bike directly to Ganshawny Park for a discussion on environmental issues pertaining to the river with a Montgomery County Conservation District representative, who will join paddlers on the water and stop midway for macro invertebrate sampling and basic water quality sampling.

Q. Why does the Schuylkill River Heritage Area offer Pedal and Paddles?

A. As a National and State Heritage Area one of our goals is to connect people to the river and the region through recreation. The Pedal and Paddles enable us to introduce people to biking on the trail and paddling the river, so that they hopefully feel more connected to the natural environment.

Pedal & Paddles & Hike & Paddle are made possible through a grant from the Pottstown Heath and Wellness Foundation and the William Penn Foundation, and are held in partnership with Tri County Bicycles, which provides biking support, and Take it Outdoors Adventures, which serves as kayak outfitter and guide, as well as the Schuylkill Canal Association and Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County