

SCHUYLKILL RIVER SOJOURN 2021

GENERAL INFORMATION AND POLICIES

The 23rd Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn is a 5-day guided canoe and kayak paddle with a wealth of learning opportunities and fun on the Schuylkill River. Participants paddle 14 -18 miles per day and can register for the entire trip or as little as one day. This year's Sojourn begins in Jim Dietrich Park on July 31, 2021 and ends in Philadelphia on Aug. 4, 2021. Traditionally, the Sojourn is a 7-day event that begins in Schuylkill County, but adjustments have been made to the 2021 event because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Your Registration Includes:

- Three meals a day
- Expert guides
- Camping arrangements
- Shuttle back to cars each night
- Transport for gear and boats. (Please limit gear to 2 medium or large duffels per person, waterproof preferred).
- Educational programs and/or musical entertainment at all lunch and evening stops.

Registration Information: *Your registration and payment must be received by July 16, 2021 in order to avoid the late fee.* This year registration for the full-trip (all 5 days) opens May 18, 2021, one week before all other registrations. If you are not registering for the full trip (signing up for 4 days or less), registration starts May 25th. ***We recommend that partial trip registrants sign up soon after registration opens on May 25th because the first days of the Sojourn fill up VERY quickly.*** Registration is limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis.

- **LATE FEE:** Registrations received after July 16, 2021 will be charged a \$10 late fee.
- **CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refunds will be given, minus a \$25 processing fee, if the request is received by July 23, 2021. No refunds can be given after July 23, 2021 because final numbers have been given to meal and other service providers.

Children: Children ages 8 and up are welcome on the Sojourn. Children must be able to swim and weigh at least 40 pounds to be properly fitted with a Type III Life Jacket PFD (*inflatable life jackets are not permitted*). Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. Not recommended for children under 8.

Daily Plan Sheets: 7-10 days before the Sojourn starts, you'll receive an e-mail link to download Daily Plan Sheets with each day's itinerary, maps, and other helpful information. Share the Daily Plan Sheets link with family and friends so they can follow your progress down the river. If you don't have e-mail, we can mail your information.

Sojourn Check-In: On the morning of the first day you join the Sojourn, you must check in. (Check-in locations are identified on the Daily Plan Sheets, and signs are posted along roadways). You will receive a Sojourn sticker for your boat and your meal ticket/name tag.

Camping: You must provide your own camping equipment: tent, sleeping bag, tarp, etc. Many of the camping spots are in municipal riverfront parks with primitive facilities. We make every effort to provide you with the necessary amenities for pleasant camping. Showers are available at some stops. Cooking equipment is not allowed. At some Campsites, tents will be close together. Please be courteous of your neighbors. Quiet time starts at 10 p.m. If you prefer not to camp, a [list of nearby lodging](#) is available. Alternate lodging arrangements are your responsibility. Campers are not permitted.

Meals: Three meals a day are included in registration. Vegetarian meals are available, but expect pasta and cheese dishes to accommodate vegetarian diets.

Equipment and Car Shuttle: Every morning your gear is loaded onto a shuttle trailer, and is transported to that evening's campsite. At the end of the day, after everyone is off the river, a shuttle bus will return to that morning's launch site for people who need to move their cars.

Full Trip Shuttle: Full-trippers have the option of leaving their cars at Jim Dietrich Park and taking a shuttle back from Philadelphia at the end of the trip. You **must register** for the return shuttle through the online registration process. **Please note** that there is also an additional charge.

Canoes, Kayaks and Rentals: You must provide your own kayak or canoe, Type III Life Vest PFD (*inflatable life jackets are not permitted*) and paddles. A maximum of two adults and one

child are permitted per canoe. Special exceptions are possible at the discretion of the safety leaders.

If you wish to rent a kayak: Kayak rentals are handled by Take it Outdoors Adventures. Rentals range from \$40 to \$265 depending on how many days of the sojourn you'll need a boat rental. Life vests and paddles are included. Fees are paid directly to the outfitter. Please [Click Here](#) to rent a boat as soon as possible after you complete your Sojourn registration. You can also contact Take It Outdoors Adventures at the email noah@takeitoutdoorsadventures.com or call 610-656-3969.

On-River Information: Every morning before heading on the water there is a **mandatory safety meeting**. During the day, our guides and designated safety paddlers lead the group down the Schuylkill River. The group is expected to stay together, and at times will be required to stop and wait for all paddlers to move through a narrow area. Every paddler must stay in front of the last safety boat (sweep boat). The trip involves several dam portages. At these times everyone is encouraged to help other Sojourners carry their boats around the obstruction. Portage wheels are allowed, as long as they fit securely and safely inside your own boat.

Pre-Sojourn Paddling: If you've never paddled on moving water, it is recommended you receive some instruction or experience. If you need a paddling lesson or want to brush up on your skills, contact a canoe or kayak club in your area such as:

- **Berks County:** Keystone Canoe Club keystonecanoecub.com
- **Montgomery & Chester County:** Take It Outdoors takeitoutdoorsadventures.com
- **Philadelphia:** Philadelphia Canoe Club philacanoecub.org

Sojourn Policies

- No glass containers allowed on the river.
- **ALL** participants must attend the daily **MANDATORY** safety briefing conducted before launching. Skills instruction will be available. Participants must adhere to the safety guidelines.
- Participants must wear a USCG approved Type III personal flotation device (PFD) at all times. *Inflatable life jackets are not permitted.*

- Footwear is required when on the water, including when getting in and out of boats.
- Participants under the age of 18 years are the responsibility of, and must be accompanied by, a parent or guardian.
- Children must be able to swim and weigh at least 40 lbs to be properly fitted with a PFD.
- All participants must sign a liability waiver. Parents must sign for children under 18.
- Directives of the Safety Officers must be followed in all situations.
- No pets allowed.
- Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the river, in municipal parks and will not be served at Sojourn-sponsored events.
- Organizers and safety officers of the Schuylkill River Sojourn reserve the right to take anyone off the river whose equipment, physical abilities, or state of health would prevent them from completing a day on the Sojourn.