

Schuylkill River Sojourn Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. How long is the sojourn?** The 2021 Schuylkill River Sojourn is 78 miles and last 5 days. It will begin in Jim Dietrich Park of Berks County and end in Philadelphia. 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.
- 2. Do I have to do the whole thing?** No, you can sign up for as little as one day or any combination of days that you like.
- 3. If I only do one day, will I not fit in with the rest of the group?** Usually one-half to one-third of the people on the water each day are not doing the full trip.
- 4. How do I get back to my car at the end of the day?** Daily shuttles are provided to take people back to their cars each evening.
- 5. If I do the full-trip, do I get my car each evening?** Sojourners doing the full trip can opt to park their cars at Jim Dietrich Park for the whole 5 days and get a shuttle back from Philadelphia. There is an additional charge for the full-trip shuttle.
- 6. Where do we stay each night?** Sojourners camp in parks along the river each night.
- 7. Do I have to camp?** Camping is not mandatory. You can choose to stay in a [hotel](#), return home for the night, or stay with friends or family if you prefer.
- 8. How do I carry my camping gear?** Gear is shuttled to each camp site every night.
- 9. Do I have to bring my own kayak?** Kayaks can be [rented](#) through Take It Outdoors Adventures for an additional fee.
- 10. Do I have to pack my own food?** No, three meals a day are provided, as well as snacks and water at rest stops. Vegetarian options are always provided.
- 11. How far do we paddle each day?** Sojourners paddle between 14 and 18 miles per day
- 12. Do I need to be an experienced paddler to participate?** Not necessarily. We have novices come along every year. However, if you are brand new to paddling, we recommend that you take a lesson or participate in a group paddle before the Sojourn. Our outfitter [Take It Outdoors Adventures \(takeitoutdoors.com\)](#) schedules regular paddling trips. The [Philadelphia Canoe Club](#) and [Keystone Canoe Club](#) also offer trips and lessons.
- 13. How do we get past dams?** Sojourners must portage around several dams during the course of the Sojourn. During portages, Sojourners always help one another carry kayaks/canoes. Bear in mind that some portages are fairly long, and participants are expected to assist with moving their kayaks.
- 14. Do participants stay together as a group?** The entire Sojourn is guided, so we have a lead boat and a sweep boat. All paddlers stay between the lead and the sweep, but they are often fairly spread out.
- 15. How often do we stop?** The Sojourners stop for lunch each day, and on long stretches there are water stops.
- 16. What about bathrooms?** Port-a-potties and hand-washing stations are provided at all lunch and overnightstops as well as at rest stops.
- 17. How many people are usually on the sojourn?** For safety reasons, we typically allow between 100 and 120 people on the water each day. Most days are filled.

- 18. What is a typical day like?** The schedule varies slightly from day to day but a typical sojourn day goes like this:
- 6:30-8 a.m. Newcomers register
 - 7-8:15 Breakfast
 - 8 :30 a.m. Mandatory safety briefing
 - 9 a.m. Launch
 - Some days there is a morning water stop
 - Between 12 & 1 p.m.: Lunch stop lasting about 1 ½ hours with a speaker before returning to the water.
 - Some days there is an afternoon rest stop
 - Paddling ends by 4:30 usually
 - Paddlers are shuttled back to their cars (in some cases dinner is served first)
 - Between 5 & 6 p.m. Dinner begins
 - Between 7 & 8 p.m. Evening program begins.
- 19. What type of programming is offered?** The Sojourn includes presentations about the history, environment or other aspects of the region and the river at every lunch and evening stop.
- 20. Can children go on the sojourn?** Children aged 8 and up are allowed on the sojourn.
- 21. How do I know if I am fit enough to participate in the sojourn?** People of all ages and skill levels participate each year. However, if you are unsure of your ability, we recommend that you spend one day paddling at least 8 miles (about half the distance of an average day) to determine whether you are capable.