



23rd Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn Daily Itinerary

Theme: Return to the River

*Morning launch is at 9 a.m. daily except for Sunday (Aug. 1);
All other times are approximate and can change based on river
conditions and other factors.*

Pre-Sojourn—Friday, July 30, 2021

4-7 p.m. Check-in at Jim Dietrich Park, Muhlenberg

Schuylkill River Greenways welcomes paddlers to the 23rd Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn with check-in from 4 to 7 p.m. at Jim Dietrich Park (Use 4899 Stoudts Ferry Bridge Road Reading, PA 19605 for GPS). Arrivals will camp at the park for the night, visit longtime friends and make new acquaintances. Delicious s'mores will be made over bonfires for an evening treat and non-alcoholic beverages will be available. No dinner will be served.

Day 1—Saturday, July 31, 2021

16.3 miles: Jim Dietrich Park to Gibraltar

Crazy Hat Day! Sojourners wear their craziest and most creative hats.

Morning Launch: 9 a.m. from Jim Dietrich Park (Use 4899 Stoudts Ferry Bridge Road Reading, PA 19605 for GPS)

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. Paddlers arrive at Reading Riverfront Park (Use 407 Riverfront Drive, Reading 19602 for GPS). At noon, sojourners will learn about the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund from SRG Deputy Director Tim Fenchel. The fund is made possible through public and private partnerships. It has funded more than 120 projects that protect and restore the river.

Evening: 4 p.m. Paddlers arrive at Allegheny Aqueduct Park (Use 1130 Old River Road Birdsboro, PA 19508 for GPS). At 7:30 p.m., John Brady, former President & CEO of the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia, will present on boats of the Schuylkill. Brady is very knowledgeable about boat and ship construction and has crafted several boats himself.

Day 2—Sunday, August 1, 2021

13.9 miles: Gibraltar to Pottstown

Sojourn Mentee Program: *Please join us in welcoming ten young adults from Reading who are new to the river and paddling. Our veteran sojourners will be mentoring these new sojourners, so be sure to say hello!*

Morning Launch: 9:30 a.m. from Allegheny Aqueduct (Use 1130 Old River Road Birdsboro, PA 19508 for GPS)

Water Stop in Union: 10:45 a.m. Paddlers arrive at Union Township Recreation Area (Use 100 Campbell Ford Rd, Douglassville, PA 19518 for GPS). Chari Towne, author of "A River Again: The Story of the Schuylkill River Project" will talk about the nation's first large-scale environmental cleanup. Desilting basins were used to remove coal sediment from the river and one of the basins is in Union Township.

Lunch at Morlatton Village: 12:15 p.m. Paddlers arrive at Morlatton Village (Use 31 Old Philadelphia Pike, Douglassville 19518 for GPS). Sojourners will have an opportunity to walk to the Douglassville Bridge to

experience a section of the Schuylkill River Trail overlooking the river and learn about logjam cleanup efforts.

Evening: 3 p.m. Paddlers arrive at Pottstown Riverfront Park (Use 140 College Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464 for GPS). At 6:30 p.m., sojourners will have a delicious dinner by the river and receive an update about several exciting Schuylkill River Trail projects. There will be live music 7 to 8:30 p.m. from singer-songwriter Van Wagner.

Day 3—Monday, August 2, 2021

17.8 miles: Pottstown to Mont Clare Lock 60

Morning Launch: 9:00 a.m. from Pottstown Riverfront Park (Use 140 College Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464 for GPS)

Lunch: 12:15 p.m. Paddlers arrive at Victory Park in Royersford (Use Victory Park, Royersford, PA 19468 for GPS). Lance Butler, Senior Scientist for the Philadelphia Water Department, will give a presentation titled “Investing in Blue Infrastructure” about a basin-wide effort to restore healthy beds of freshwater mussels to streams, rivers and lakes.

Evening: 3:15 p.m. Paddlers end their day at Lock 60 Recreation Area (Use 400 Tow Path Road, Mont Clare 19453 for GPS), the Schuylkill Canal’s only fully restored and operating lock. Unfortunately, the lock is currently under repair so paddlers will be taking out prior to entering the lock area. The Otterbein United Methodist Church will serve a spaghetti dinner at 6 p.m. at St. Michael’s Park. Game Night begins at 7 p.m. with lawn games, board games and the 3rd Annual Sojourn Trivia Contest.

Day 4 – Tuesday, August 3, 2021

14 miles: Mont Clare to West Conshohocken

Morning Launch: 9:00 a.m. from Lock 60 Recreation Area (Use 400 Tow Path Road, Mont Clare 19453 for GPS)

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. Paddlers arrive at Valley Forge National Historical Park (Use Betzwood Park, Norristown 19403 for GPS). Bill Troppman, now retired from the National Park Service, will speak about the significance of the Schuylkill River at Valley Forge and the strategic importance of the Schuylkill River Valley for the Continental Army in the American Revolution.

Portage at Bridgeport: 2:30 p.m. Paddlers arrive at the Bridgeport portage (Use Frosty Falls - 96 Dekalb St., Bridgeport, PA 19405 for GPS then continue on Water St. to the Norristown Dam). Andrew Desko, Aquatic Resource Program Specialist at the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, will present about the fish ladder located at the Norristown Dam in Bridgeport. The underwater ladder helps shad and other fish swim upstream past the dam.

Evening: 4:15 p.m. Paddlers arrive in West Conshohocken (Use Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken 19428 for GPS). At 7:30 p.m., Sojourners will hear from the Schuylkill Action Network’s 2021 Sojourn Steward, Riel Bילו. Riel, an avid adventurer with her own YouTube channel called Rock Climbin’ Grandma, will share her findings on the State of the Schuylkill.

Day 5–Wednesday, August 4, 2021

16 miles: West Conshohocken to Philadelphia

Morning Launch: 9:00 a.m. from West Conshohocken (Use Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken 19428 for GPS).

Lunch: 12:00 p.m. Paddlers arrive at Philadelphia Canoe Club (Use 4900 Ridge Ave, Philadelphia 19127 for GPS). Delaware River Basin Commission Deputy Executive Director Kristen Bowman Kavanagh will give a presentation on how DRBC uses water from Blue Marsh Reservoir to protect Philly’s drinking water from salt intrusion. Paddlers will have one last chance to participate in an online auction for a Water Trail Sign. Final remarks will be given, and full-trip sojourners recognized.

Final Take Out: Approximately 3:30 p.m. Lloyd Hall, Boathouse Row. Use Lloyd Hall Recreation Center - 1 Boathouse Row, Philadelphia, PA 19130 for GPS.