



## Schuylkill River Sojourn Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How long is the sojourn?** The Schuylkill River Sojourn is 112-miles and lasts 7 days. It begins each year in Schuylkill Haven and ends in Philadelphia.
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 in Schuylkill Haven for the week and get a shuttle back from Philadelphia on the last day of the Sojourn. There is an additional charge for this full-trip shuttle and space is limited. People that don't use the full-trip shuttle, can retrieve their car each evening of the Sojourn by using the daily shuttle (included in regular registration fees).
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 beginners 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 \(takeitoutdoors.com\)](http://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 or canoes.
14. **Do participants stay together as a group?** The entire Sojourn is guided, so there is 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 overnight stops, 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 a.m.** 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
  - **4:30 p.m.** usually when paddling ends
  - 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.