

SCHUYLKILL RIVER SOJOURN 2016: GENERAL INFORMATION AND POLICIES

The Schuylkill River Sojourn is a 7-day, 112 mile guided canoe and kayak trip 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.

Your registration includes:

- Three meals a day
- Expert guides
- Camping arrangements
- Shuttle back to cars
- 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 form and payment must be received by May 18, 2016 in order to avoid the late fee.* This year registration for full trippers opens on April 1, one week before all other registrations. If you are not registering for the full trip, registration starts April 8. The sooner you register the better, because the first three days of the Sojourn fill up VERY quickly. Registration is limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis. To ensure the safest possible trip, we can only accommodate 100 people on the river each day. This limit is set by our safety officers

- **LATE FEE:** Registrations received after May 18 will be charged a \$10 late fee.
- **CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refunds will be given, minus a \$25 processing fee, if request is received by May 27. No refunds can be given after May 27 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 PFD. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. Not recommended for children under 8.

Daily Plan Sheets: 7-10 days before June 4, 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 will 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 (lacto-ovo) are available, but expect pasta and cheese dishes to accommodate vegetarian diets.

Clothing: Please pay attention to what clothing you wear. If it is cold and rainy, please, NO COTTON.

What to bring (personal) *Please mark ALL your possessions with a permanent marker*

Each Sojourner is limited to 2 duffel-type bags (medium or large) for all gear.

Waterproof bags are strongly recommended

- Coast Guard approved Type III Life Vest (one required for each person)
- Water bottle (water is provided at all stops)
- Sweaters, jackets, gloves if cold (warm clothes, cotton not recommended)
- Emergency dry clothes
- Hats, visors and sunglasses
- Sun block, first aid kit, medicine, spare glasses, insect repellent
- Ear Plugs (train tracks are typically close to campsites, especially in West Conshohocken)
- Rain gear (Ponchos not permitted)
- Swimming apparel
- Water shoes, sport sandals (other sandals are not appropriate) or sneakers.
- Dry bag or double plastic bags for anything you want to keep dry on the water
- Camping gear (tent, sleeping bag, flashlight, ground cover)
- Personal toilet kit, bath towel
- Whistle, pocket knife, matches
- Bird/nature guides, camera, binoculars

What to bring (equipment) *Please mark ALL possessions with a permanent marker*

You are responsible for providing or renting a canoe or kayak.

- Tie-downs (rope, bungee cord)
- Bow and stern lines for canoes
- Bailer & large sponge
- Seat pad, knee pad

If you bring portage wheels they must fit *safely and securely* inside your canoe or kayak.

Canoes, Kayaks and Rentals: You must provide your own kayak or canoe, type 3 life vest and paddles. A maximum of 2 adults and one child is permitted per canoe. Special exceptions are possible at the discretion of the safety leaders.

If you wish to rent a kayak: All kayak rentals are handled by our outfitter, Doug Chapman owner of Take it Outdoors Adventure, (doug@takeitoutdoorsadventures.com).

- Please register for a kayak rental at:
<http://www.takeitoutdoorsadventures.com/adventures/schuylkill-sojourn-kayak-rentals/>
- Kayak rental fees are: 1 day, \$45; 2 days, \$85; 3 days, \$115; 4 days or more \$35 per day; 7 days, \$245. Life vests and paddles are included. Fees are paid directly to the outfitter.

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 in Schuylkill Haven and taking a shuttle back from Philadelphia at the end of the trip. **New this year:** You **must register** for the return shuttle through the online registration process. Please note that there is also a \$20 charge. *There are a limited number of spaces available for the full-trip shuttle.* If you are not registering online, please contact ckott@schuylkillriver.org to reserve a space on the full-trip shuttle.

On-River Information: Every morning before heading on the water there is a **mandatory safety meeting**. During the day the safety leaders and designated safety paddlers guide 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:

- **Philadelphia:** Philadelphia Canoe Club www.philacanoes.org
- **Berks County:** Keystone Canoe Club www.keystonecanoecub.com
- **Take it Outdoors Adventure Group:** www.takeitoutdoorsadventures.com

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 3 personal flotation device (PFD) at all times.
- 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.