

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 at Philadelphia's Boathouse Row.
- 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. There is an additional charge for the full-trip shuttle and space is limited.
- 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 our outfitter 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. 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 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 only 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.