Frequently Asked Questions:

These are questions people have asked us:

How far in advance do you need to know exactly how many of us will attend?

Three days in advance is good. More is ok but more means that it's more likely people will cancel. So three days is optimum.

Are the events weather permitted, or are you a "rain, snow, sleet, or hail" type of guy?

I am a "drizzle / mist" type guy. High winds, rain, thunder and lightening, earthquake and forest fire - we cancel. It's not fun to do this stuff in the rain. If we get out there and it rains, then we deal with it. We always take what we need to be sure we are covered if it rains. With today's weather forecasts, that rarely happens.

And how long do they typically run for?

Most of the projects in town run about three to four hours or less. If we travel to some distant river, that needs to be taken into consideration. Some of our longer trips do take all day so we get home at 6:00pm. Others might get us home by 2:00 or 3:00pm. The Commons project on Mother's Day Weekend Saturday will be done by 12:30 if we are lucky.

We ask that the volunteers wear closed toed shoes that tie - not sandals or flip flops. It's for safety reasons. There are barbed hooks as well as sharp objects like prongs of trees, thorns and prongs on drowned logs in all these rivers and in the woods along the river and at the landings. If you wear sandals or flip flops two things can happen. 1. They can come off and float away and you spend the rest of the day walking around with one shoe. 2. You stick a sharp object in between your toes or in the side of your foot and we have to surgically remove the object while out on the river. Obviously, these are things you and we would rather avoid.

We also ask that they wear hats, sunscreen and bring their own water and food unless otherwise informed.

No drinking of alcohol or smoking of any kind is allowed during the trip.

If they have a boat and/or a pfd, they should bring it. If not, let us know what they need three days in advance and we will try to provide it. Sometimes we are unable to provide everything people need and they can't go. In that case it's first come, first served.

They will be expected to stay with the group and not head out on their own for safety reasons.

Cell phones, car keys, wallets and personal valuables will be put in waterproof bags which we will provide and kept in our boats unless they prove to us that they are skilled paddlers. No computers or iPads are allowed. Cameras are fine but should be waterproof. If they are not waterproof and they are destroyed, it's not our fault.
Waterproof iPhones are not really waterproof and should not be used on the river. We have found way too many of those in the river and none were waterproof. All were toast. That's $1000.00 literally down the drain.

They will not be expected to do anything they are not comfortable doing. They can help a lot by simply pointing out trash and the more experienced paddlers will go in to the logjam or brush pile to get it. Later, after they see how it is done, they can try if they want to. No pressure at all to do that kind of stuff if they don't want to.

This can be a dangerous game and we are the last ones that want to see them injured or worse. There is no fun in doing rescues. It slows us down and takes all the fun out of the trip. And it is no fun and quite embarrassing to tip a canoe or kayak in any kind of weather in front of 15 people who are busy doing a cleanup. I know. I've done it.

They should not bring anything they will not need. It's rare but cars have been broken into and personal stuff stolen. BRING ONLY WHAT YOU NEED.

I hope these answer most of your questions.

Let us know if we missed anything.

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