

General Information for Tualatin Riverkeepers Paddle Trips

Welcome to a Tualatin Riverkeepers paddle trip. We are pleased you are joining us. Please read the following information to help you prepare for the trip.

Waivers: You will be asked to sign a trip waiver prior to participating in this event. A parent or legal guardian must sign for minors.

Safety: If we feel the river or weather conditions could make the trip hazardous, we will cancel the trip. The river is generally a “benign” river during the spring, summer and fall; however, due to conditions such as heavy rains or winds, this “benign” river can be dangerous. Conditions do change on a river. Logs in the river may not be apparent underneath the water surface, and trees may slide into the river during saturated conditions.

Canoes and kayaks can be tippy if occupants are not seated and centered. Be aware of where you and your boating partner are in the boat at all times. When you get in the boat, stay low and keep at least one hand on the boat. Communicate with your boating partner about shifts of weight or other actions you might do while in your boat.

Stay with the group. Your safety and the safety of others depend on being aware of each other. Please keep the boat ahead of you within site. Communicate with a TRK volunteer if you are having trouble or need to stop for any reason.

While on the river, avoid hazards such as logjams, downed trees, irrigation pumps or dams. The currents that are created by such midstream hazards can be unpredictable and dangerous. Do not take unnecessary risks.

Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs): Everyone must wear a “vested” life jacket.

Persons without a personal floatation device will not be allowed on the trip.

Participants can bring and use their own PFD’s if they meet USCG specifications

Clothing: Please dress for the weather – we suggest quick dry clothes, a hat and sun block. For cool and rainy weather, please bring an insulating layer of fleece or wool and raingear.

Footwear: We often put-in and take-out boats on muddy ground or slopes. Water shoes and sandals are ideal. Tennis shoes with wool and/or polypropylene socks or other sturdy footwear that can provide good traction are good alternatives. Please do not wear shoes that can’t get muddy or wet.

Food: Please bring plenty of water and snacks.

Medication: Bring any special medications that you might need (e.g. bee sting kit, asthma inhaler). Let the trip leader know if you have any special medical needs.

Trip Specifics: Prior to launching, the trip leader will explain the specifics of the trip. Each trip will have a designated lead boat (first) and sweep boat (last). Please stay behind the lead boat and ahead of the sweep boat. We will review safety procedures prior to launching. While on the water, we ask you to keep the boat ahead of you within sight.