



**Ohio River Voyager Canoe Trip  
June 6 to June 9, 2019  
Cincinnati, Ohio to Louisville KY  
Orientation, Logistics and Safety Procedures  
River City Paddlesports Inc.**

Dear Paddlers,

Thank you for your interest in the Ohio River Trip from Cincinnati to Louisville on June 6 to 9 with the Ohio River Recreational Trail Committee. River City Paddle Sports is pleased to work with the committee to host this trip, River City Paddle Sports has comprehensive outfitter insurance and an excellent safety record. We paddle about 130 miles in 4 days in 10-person voyager canoes. This packet describes the adventure, provides details and required paper work that you need to fill out by and send in **May 6**.

There will be two segments to the June Ohio River Adventure, this packet describes the June 6 to 9 trip: June 1 to 5 - Portsmouth to Cincinnati – one voyager canoe – 10 paddlers and up to 10 bicycles and June 6 to June 9 – Cincinnati to Louisville – four voyager canoes – 40 paddlers and up to 10 bicycles.

Our goal is to learn about and document the historical, ecological and cultural Ohio River sites. We will be assisting the Ohio River Recreational Trail initiative by assessing each public access site and collecting Ohio River Stories: photos, videos, drone videos and narrative descriptions for the Ohio River Digital Guide all while we visit the river towns of Rising Sun, Vevay, Carrollton, Madison, Payne Hollow and Westport and promote paddle sports and the Ohio River Recreational Trail. Kertis Creative will be shooting video for a upcoming marketing initiative.

It will be long days and at times before dawn or night paddling on the beautiful Ohio River. Now is the time to start paddling as it will toughen up your hands and get you in shape. Another way of getting ready for the adventure is to start reading and investigating. In the packet is a short bibliography on the Ohio River.



**We are requesting that you review the material enclosed and if you still want to participate, print off the pre-trip information and the waiver. Send these two documents and a check by**

**May 6 to:**

**David Hudson, River City Paddle Sports Treasurer  
3711 Longview Rd. Louisville, KY 40299.**

Questions, comments, problems or ideas contact:

Dr. David Wicks  
[dwicks1@gmail.com](mailto:dwicksl@gmail.com)

Owen Nyswonger  
[onyswon@rei.com](mailto:onyswon@rei.com)

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On Thursday morning you are expected to be on site at Gilday Park between 6:00 and 7:00 am to register and begin the trip. We expect that participants will carpool with family or friends to Gilday park and all are encouraged to attend the kickoff party and arrival celebration on Louisville’s Waterfront. If you need assistance with the shuttle, please indicate so on the pre-trip information form.

| Camping Date                     | Destination                  | River Mile | Miles to paddle | Camp location  | Possible stops as we paddle     |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|-----------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Thursday<br>June 6<br>meet: 7 am | Cincinnati at<br>Gilday Park | 475.5      |                 | Gilday Park - 7:00 to 8 am<br>Launching Celebration and<br>program                           | Lawrenceburg,<br>Aurora         |
| Thursday<br>June 6               | Rising Sun                   | 506        | 30.5            | Rising Sun   | Ohio River Lock<br>Warsaw       |
| Friday,<br>June 7                | Vevay                        | 538        | 32              | Vevay City Campground  | Carrolton<br>Madison            |
| Saturday,<br>June 8              | Westport                     | 582        | 44              | Westport Campground  | West Port                       |
| Sunday,<br>June 9                | Louisville                   | 603.3      | 21.5            | We plan on arriving around<br>2 pm - but hard to tell, we<br>are in human powered<br>canoes. | Louisville –<br>Waterfront Park |

The intent is arriving at our campsite by late afternoon in time for our catered dinner at each of our locations. It is also the intent to wake up early and be on the water at first light. If strong upstream winds are forecasted, we will wake up about 4 am each day and start paddling by 5 am, well before the winds of the Ohio River pick up. For the longest day, Vevay to Westport, we will aim to start paddling by 5 am as we have 44 miles to cover that day. All boats will have lights and a safety boat following us.

## Group Equipment - provided

- 1) 1 [30 foot Voyageur Canoe](#) per 7 to 11 participants
- 2) 1 paddle per participant, two extra paddles
- 3) 1 life jacket per participant. Life jackets must be checked for proper fit and worn fully zipped while on the water.
- 4) Cooler with sufficient water for the participants.
- 5) Each Canoe will have:
  - a. Detachable Bow and stern painters
  - b. Flag
  - c. First aid kit
  - d. Throw rope
  - e. cell phone, back up battery and marine radio
  - f. sound making device
  - g. Bailing bucket and sponge
  - h. A 360-degree light mounted on a three-foot mast – for night travel only.
- 6) Campsite stove and equipment for boiling water.
- 7) Equipment in the support vehicle and trailer
  - a. Phone, maps of the route
  - b. Hammer, Screw driver, Pliers
  - c. First Aid Kit, Waterless hand sanitizer
  - d. Jack, tire changing gear and a spare tire.
  - e. Proper light adapters for the trailer – 4 pin.

## Personal Equipment – Just like summer camp, label your equipment

- 1) **In the boat** to be stored in a waterproof bag (Each participant can have two waterproof bags on the canoe and water systems
  - a. Paddling Clothes, comfortable, water shoes, bathing suit.
  - b. Paddling gloves, sun hat, sun glasses, suntan lotion, bug repellent.
  - c. Rain Gear
  - d. Cup, spoon, fork, knife, water bottle or camelback water system (water bottles tend to roll around in the bottom of the boat)
  - e. Headlight
  - f. If you bring a phone/camera. . .store them and your backup battery in a good waterproof bag. A small waterproof bag (approximately 4L) for daily food to be carried in the boat with you
  - g. Seat cushion for use in the boat
  - h. Photo ID, medical insurance card and spending money in a waterproof container.
- 2) **On Shore** – there will be a truck and trailer driving from camp site to camp site carrying on shore gear. The bags will be strapped on the trailer and could get wet if it rains, we will cover with a tarp, but.
  - a. Shore Clothes – two sets
  - b. Personal tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad
  - c. Head lamp, personal bathroom kit
  - d. Camp Chair if necessary
- 3) You are welcome to use your own paddle, life jacket or bring any other small items that you choose.

**Food/Meals:** Each participant should fill out the pre-trip information, see attached. It contains several important food and allergy questions.

Breakfasts, lunches and snacks will be eaten in the voyageur canoes. Each evening or early morning each paddler will choose their food from the group food box and place it their waterproof bag. Each food box will contain an assortment of cold cereals, bagels, fruit, vegetables, sandwich material, power/nutrition bars, etc. You eat breakfast and lunch when you so choose. It is better to eat small amount of foods often, then having a big meal.

Dinners will be catered by different river town restaurants near the city campgrounds that we will be staying at: Rising Sun, Vevay and Westport. The above mentioned pre trip information website will let us know if you are a vegetarian. We will be having dinner with the bicyclists who are riding along the distance and several invited guests from each community. All food is included in your fee. If you have special dietary requirements, please feel free to bring your own food and snacks. There will be limited extra cooler space though so please be mindful of that. Also, we will be stopping in many river towns along the way. Some of these towns will have other food choices that will make it possible for us to refill water and get some snack food.

### **Departure, Finish and Camping locations**

Thursday morning – 6 to 7 am: registration and Launch Celebration  
Gilday Park (formerly Riverside Park)  
3540 Southside Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45204

Thursday night June 6: Rising Sun  
Denver Siekman Park and Arnold's Creek Boat Ramp  
Rising Sun-Ohio County Parks - City of Rising Sun, Indiana  
3445 IN-56 Scenic, Rising Sun, IN 47040

Friday night: June 7: Vevay Indiana  
Paul Ogle Riverfront Park,  
100 Ferry St; Vevay, Indiana 47043

Saturday night: June 8: Westport, KY  
Westport Park,  
6617 Main Street, Westport, KY 40077  
Optional Camping is on 18-mile island - about one mile downstream of Westport

Sunday afternoon Celebration: Louisville KY  
Louisville Waterfront Park  
Community Boat House  
1321 River Road, Louisville KY 40206

## Safety Procedures and Safety Boat, Boat Captains and Night Paddling.

The first priority is safety: Safety is about written policies while being mindful of the river conditions, the weather and traffic on the Ohio River. It is also about individual attention to take personal responsibility for one's own safety as well as for the safety of others.

There shall be one captain per voyageur canoe that has demonstrated ability/training in:

- First Aid
- Canoe and paddle instruction
- Teaching experience
- Trailering the boat and landing procedures

**Weather requirements:** In case of inclement weather, the team shall check [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) before departure. The trip will have a weather delay for heavy rain or thunderstorms. If on the river and thunderstorms develop head to shore and wait till they pass. We will use the 30-30 rule. If from the canoe one sees lightening and you hear thunder in less than 30 seconds, wait for 30 min. before putting back out again. Repeat this process each time you see lightning.

Programs on open rivers will adhere to the 100-degree rule, add the air and water temperature together, We use the [KMA / KHSAA Heat Index Chart for determining Reduction in Activity \(color\)](#) If the heat Index is above 105 degrees all programs are cancelled. If the heat index is between 95 and 105 ice wraps shall be provided, and all participants shall carry water and drink it often.

**Wind, Current and High Water:** If upstream sustained winds are over 15 mph, the trip will be placed on a weather delay. With a downstream current of over 3 mph, caution is required. The trip will be postponed in case of flooding, if the Ohio River is above 30 feet at Cincinnati, the leadership team in consultation with public safety officials will consider delaying or cancel the trip given the future forecast of Ohio River conditions.

**Plan B:** If there are sustained winds of over 15 mph going upstream, or unsafe conditions on the Ohio River, we would have an alternative paddling route focused on the local tributaries; The Great Miami, the Kentucky River, Harrods Creek etc. If that is the case, we would put the canoes back on the trailer and shuttle people to the next location. If the tributaries are unsafe, we will have on shore activities and River side natural areas.

**Paddling at early in the morning or at night.** The winds on the Ohio River tend to be stronger in the afternoon. If strong winds in the forecast, we will wake up early and be on the water before dawn. While paddling in pre-dawn conditions, each canoe will have a 360-degree white light on a 3-foot mast fitted into the flag pole hole in the stern of the boat. Each paddler will also have a personal head light, hopefully used very infrequently to enjoy the night ambience, the voyager canoes will stay in visual sight of each other.

**Instruction:** Before participants enter a paddlesport activity with River City Paddlesports, participants should attend an orientation containing: Overview of the watershed, orientation to the day's schedule, paddle strokes, canoe handling and safety. All participants must always wear a properly fitted life jacket while on the water.

**Personal equipment, personal safety and hygiene:** All participants are responsible for washing their own dishes and keeping track of their equipment as well as group equipment. While the safety boat and the canoe captains are in charge, it is your responsibility to share your concerns and not to exceed your abilities. With 10 paddlers in the boat, each of us has different levels of endurance. While we will be sensitive to this, it is your responsibility to monitor your own health. Bathroom stops are at the request of the group and will likely be in primitive wooded areas. While on the trip, limited showers will be available at some camp grounds. Be prepared for sponge bathing and a leave no trace philosophy. ☺

**Team Commitment:** Your participation in this event is to be part of a team. In that regard it is expected that you commit to the entire trip. Should an emergency arise and you need to leave the trip, you are responsible for your own transportation back to your home. Trip leaders have the right and responsibility to ask any participant to leave the program at any time. The participant will then be responsible for their own transportation home.

**Safety Boat:** At times a safety boat will accompany the trip from Cincinnati to Louisville. The safety boat will be the sweep boat. The safety boat captain in consultation with the trip leaders has the authority to call a weather delay, alter the route, postpone the trip or cancel it outright.

**Waivers:** All participants must sign a waiver before participating.

**Drugs, alcohol and firearms are not permitted at any time while on the boat.**

Emergency Numbers - for emergency situations call 911

River City Paddlesports trip leader: David Wicks 502- 671-3595 home 228-7432

Canoe Captains:

- Joe Kinman 502-445-5494
- Susan Schneider 704-701-8840
- Brewster Miller: 502-681-6520
- Owen Nyswonger: 513-706-7797
- Tracy Barnes: 502-802-9811
- David Hudson 502-554-7071

Safety Boat – Jerry Schulte 513-260-8249

## During the Ohio River Voyageur Trip we will be collecting the stories of the river.

Bring your creative, gregarious juices with you. One of the goals of the trip is to collect stories, natural, cultural and historical. It would be great if folks picked a topic that they could read up on before the trip, and then share when appropriate. But for sure, bring your camera, your note book, your pencil and your curiosity.



### The Artistic



### Access Points



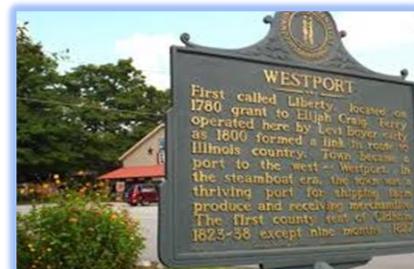
### Interesting people – river rats



### The Pollution



### The Biodiversity



### River towns

## **Bibliography and Interesting Websites:**

[The Digital Guide to the Ohio – Ohio River Paddfest](#)

[U.S. Army Corps Charts of the Ohio River McAlpine Pool](#) Charts 86 to 102

[U.S. Army Corps Charts of the Ohio River – Markland Pool Charts](#) 103 to 113

[Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service: Louisville - National Weather](#)

[Weekly Ohio River Water Quality Report - ORSANCO](#)

[Big Canoe Paddling](#) by Ridge Wilderness Adventures: a good introductory video on Voyageur Canoe Paddling.

[The Original Boatload of Knowledge Down the Ohio River: William Maclure's and Robert Owen's Transfer of Science and Education to the Midwest, 1825-1826](#)

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[A “Boatload of Knowledge”: New Ideas in a Would-Be Utopia](#)

[Four Months in a Sneak-Box](#); A BOAT VOYAGE OF 2600 MILES DOWN THE OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI RIVERS, AND ALONG THE GULF OF MEXICO. By [Nathaniel H. Bishop](#), 1879

[afloat: an ohio river way of life](#)

[Ohio River Guidebook: Charts and Details from beginning to end:](#)

By Jerry Hay 2008, The Ohio River Guide Book is the most complete guide to the Ohio River available. He has a great web site [Riverlorian.com - Ohio River Ohio River Scenic Byway](#)

[Ohio River Parks Project – Drink the water! Eat the fish!](#)



**Pre-Trip Information - River City Paddle Sports  
June 6 to 9 Cincinnati to Louisville Voyageur Canoe Trip**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City, State, Zip Code**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

**Your Emergency Contact:**

**Name:**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

**Relationship:**

|  | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| 1) Do you have food or environmental allergies that we should be aware of?   |     |    |
| 2) Do you have medical or physical limitations that we should be aware of? describe on the back side of the paper  |     |    |
| 3) Do you have food sensitivities or dietary restrictions such as gluten free, lactose free, diabetic, etc.? We will do our best to accommodate for food issues, but this may not be 100% possible.    |     |    |
| 4) Do you have favorite cold breakfast food? Lunch food? Snack food? If so, describe on the back.  |     |    |
| 5) Do you need help arranging a shuttle to the event start or home at trip's end? We are encouraging your friends and family to attend the June 6 morning kick off and the June 9 arrival celebration. |     |    |
| 6) Are you able to commit to paddling for the four days, packing up camp and paddling before dawn if necessary?  |     |    |
| 7) In case of personal emergency, are you able to call someone to pick you up?   |     |    |
| 8) Other questions, suggestions, if so, write them on the back of this form  |     |    |

Feel free to contact the co trip organizers:  
David Wicks 502-671-3595,  
dwicks1@gmail.com or  
Owen Nyswonger: 513-706-7797  
onyswon@rei.com

Send form, waiver and check to  
David Hudson,  
River City Paddle Sports Treasurer  
3711 Longview Rd. Louisville, KY 40299