

2017 AMAZING BRONX RIVER FLOTILLA

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



1) Who can register for the *Amazing Bronx River Flotilla: 5-mile Paddle for the River?*

Individuals (18+ years old) will form teams of 4-10 people (in 2-5 canoes) to paddle 5 miles down the Bronx River. A designated captain should take the lead in forming and leading the team.

2) What are the fundraising expectations?

The Amazing Bronx River Flotilla is a fundraiser to support free and low cost paddling adventures for Bronx youth and their families. Teams will commit to fundraising a total of \$2,000 - \$3,000. We can also accommodate individual spots on our open team "Eels". Each individual on this team also commits to \$350 fundraising minimum. We'll support you in reaching your fundraising goal by providing you with your own fundraising webpage to spread the word to family, friends and social network.

Ready to form a team? Come up with an exciting team name and designated captain and contact Tahai Addae at Tahai.Addae@bronxriver.org.

3) What if I don't want to form a team, can I join a team?

To accommodate individual spots, we have an open team "Eels." The individual fundraising minimum for each person is \$350. Individual fundraising efforts will be acknowledged for prizes, however, this team does not qualify for team prizes.

4) Is there a registration fee?

Yes, there is a \$50 registration for participants, which applies toward your fundraising goal. All funds raised for this event including registration fees are tax-deductible.

5) What happens if it rains on May 13th?

In case of inclement weather or unsafe river conditions, we will utilize the rain date of Sunday, May 14. Please hold this date and stay tuned to email, our webpage and social media sites the day before the event. Decisions will be made at least 12 hours prior to proposed start time of event.

6) How long will the trip take?

The paddle will start in several waves launching from 9:30am to 10:30am. Please be aware that for a safe dispatch from the canoe portage for the number of canoes participating in the event, there will be a slight wait before your boat gets on water. Completion of this trip depends on the start time of your wave and individual paddling abilities. Allow 4-6 hours to complete this trip, although the trip may be completed in as little as 3 hours. Though we will offer on-site support, please be ready to carry or wheel your canoe with your canoe partner at three portage locations: New York Botanical Garden, the Bronx Zoo and 182nd Street dam.

If you would like to see the route of the trip, check out paddle.bronxriver.org. We will be putting in at the 219th St launch and taking out at Hunts Point Riverside Park.

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7) I am not interested in participating in the 5-mile canoe trip. Can I still fundraise for your cause?

Yes, you can! We can help you create your fundraising page and can arrange for you to have your registration fee waived.

8) What should I bring/wear/be prepared for?

For all Bronx River trips you should bring light snacks and bottled water, as there are no stores on the banks of the river and no rest stops. There will be an opportunity to refuel on minimal supplies at the Starlight Park docks, a little over a mile from the end-point. We advise that you bring sunscreen and insect repellent to ensure your comfort.

As New Yorkers know, it is important to dress appropriately for occasions, and our trips are no different. Wear sport sandals or old sneakers to protect your feet and offer you sure footing during portages. **All footwear must be closed-toed and securely fastened to your foot, no slip-ons!** Wear light, quick-drying clothes in case you get wet. Take note of the weather forecast and dress appropriately for the temperature and weather.

Bring only what is essential to prevent loss or damage to your things. Ziploc bags protect water sensitive belongings like cameras, cell phones, and wallets. While 95% of paddlers keep their boats upright, there is always a chance for even the most experienced paddlers to tip over.

Filling out and bringing a waiver with you will save time as we prepare to get in the water.

Please be aware, this paddle may take as long as 6 hours (although can be considerably shorter for skilled paddlers) and includes 3 portages around waterfalls, where paddlers get out of boats and carry or wheel their boat to the next put-in. You are responsible for the movement of your vessel from the starting launch to the end location. Please consider your abilities and level of health.

9) What if I do not meet my fundraising goal?

By signing up a team or individual spot, you are committing to reach your fundraising minimum (refer to Question 7) and are responsible for fulfilling your pledge. To secure your team canoe or individual spot, you should strive to meet half of your minimum fundraising goal by April 15th. Team captains are responsible for recruiting their team members and providing them with proper instructions and motivation to fulfill their team goal. During your fundraising, you'll receive fun and helpful tips on how to fundraise.

10) Will there be another opportunity to paddle the 5-mile length of the river?

Yes, additional 5-mile trips are scheduled for June 10, 2017 and July 8, 2017. These will not be fundraising events and will cost \$45. Registration for this paddling trip, like all Alliance on-water trips, will open two weeks in advance, please be aware that there are only 20 slots open for each event and are filled up quickly. In addition, we offer numerous shorter distance canoe trips all season long at different sites along the river! Stay in the loop by visiting the canoe and events calendar on our website www.bronxriver.org, signing up for our monthly newsletter or following us on social media.

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11) Is the *Flotilla* a canoe race down the river like in past years?

No. The 5-mile trip is not a race. This trip is longer and more challenging and will be your chance to pace yourself, relax and enjoy the river and its natural surroundings. We'll have prizes for the highest fundraising individual and fundraising team (excluding the open team "Eels"), as well as a few surprises.

12) Will there still be a chance for paddling clubs and individuals to be a part of this event?

Absolutely! As in the past, we invite boathouses and canoe clubs to volunteer at the *Flotilla* as canoe guides. For available volunteer opportunities, contact Kathalene Lamboy directly at Kathalene.Lamboy@parks.nyc.gov.

13) Can I use my own canoe and kayak for the race?

No, but you can wear your own [life jacket] personal flotation devices (PFDs). We will provide a canoe, paddles and PFDs for your team. Due to limited staff and volunteers and for your own safety, we have limited spots for this event. In addition, there are no motorized craft permitted. All participants are required to register online and agree to fundraising efforts described in Question 3.

14) Can I participate in the *Flotilla* if I have never paddled?

The 5-mile event is not the time to learn to paddle; some paddling experience is necessary because this is a long and challenging trip.

15) Is there an age limit/minimum?

For the *Flotilla* 5-mile trip, you must be 18 and older to participate. However, for the post-race free activities starting at noon at Hunts Point Riverside Park, all ages can join!

For up to date information about the day's activities, visit www.bronxriver.org/flotilla.

To get started on fundraising team or for business sponsorship opportunities, contact Tahai Addae: Tahai.Addae@bronxriver.org.

To volunteer, contact Joseph Sanchez: Joseph.Sanchez@parks.nyc.gov.

For questions regarding other canoe opportunities, contact Katie Lamboy: Kathalene.Lamboy@parks.nyc.gov.

Can't join our event? Support our efforts and help us reach our fundraising goal by donating. Contact tahai.addae@bronxriver.org for details.