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**Race Day Information Sheet**

**Saturday, September 15, 2018**

Thank you for participating in the 8th Annual Great River Race, and for helping raise funds and awareness for student success. You’ll be one of 30 teams paddling to win – but in the end, ***everybody wins*** as all race proceeds benefit Canoemobile MN’s creative outdoor education program designed to address the academic achievement gap.

The Great River Race is a 6-mile canoe race from Hidden Falls Regional Park, around Pike Island, and back to Hidden Falls. Please note the route may change based on river levels and weather.

This is a **staggered start race** – the type often used in competitive rowing regattas held on rivers. Boats will cross the starting line in flights of 4-6 boats. *It doesn’t matter what number you are in the launch sequence;* your official time begins when your bow crosses the starting line. You never know who is winning in a staggered start race until the end when all split times are calculated. Your goal in a staggered start race is to work together to move your boat quickly, safely, and efficiently towards the finish line – and to safely pass as many boats as possible along the way.

You will be racing in a 24’ Voyageur canoe, led by an experienced Wilderness Inquiry boat captain in the stern. Paddles and life jackets will be provided for all racers. Each canoe will carry a dry bag for small personal items. *Note that all on-the-water times presented here are estimated.* A strong tail wind could make the race go faster; a strong head wind could slow us down.

**In case of emergency**: If your family needs to reach you while you’re on the water, they should contact Nell Holden at 612-202-4510. She will be on-site and in radio contact with the race all day.

**Race Detailed Itinerary**

8:15-8:45am **ARRIVE at the North Gate of Hidden Falls Regional Park,** which is located near the intersection of S. Mississippi River Blvd. and Magoffin Ave. in Saint Paul (map here: <https://goo.gl/maps/SQeHPZgbH6L2>). Race volunteers will direct you to parking. For a spot in the park, please arrive early (and carpool if possible). Overflow street parking will be available in the adjacent neighborhood. Upon arrival, check in and meet your team. Restrooms, coffee, and snacks will be available.

9:00am **Brief program and RACE OVERVIEW**, with an explanation of race route.

\* During the program, your team will be given a bow number. When your team is called, your team captain should go to the stage to get your canoe’s stern flag.

9:30am **Team Huddles**: Gather with your team at an assigned equipment tarp. Select paddles and life jackets. Your Wilderness Inquiry Leader (Sterner) will provide a quick paddle demo and safety talk. You and your team can discuss race strategy and have final preparation.

9:45am First Flight of canoes moves to the **canoe launch** area. We will launch flights of 4-6 canoes at a time, at the direction of the course master.

10:00am Paddles in the water. **RACE BEGINS**!

11:30am **First boats finish.** We estimate that canoes will cross the Finish Line at Hidden Falls between 11am and 12pm.

*\* After landing, your Wilderness Inquiry boat captain will guide you in carrying gear and the canoe to a staging location.*

12:00pm **PICNIC LUNCH** **/ AWARDS CEREMONY**

Join your fellow racers for lunch from the food trucks and festive music by *Gravel on Mud*. Once everyone has their lunch, trophies will be awarded for first, second and third place. A Team Spirit award will also be presented. Be sure to grab your Great River Race t-shirt at the lunch tent!

1:00pm Great River Race concludes.

* *Note: We are also holding a community event open to the public from 11:30am-2pm. All are invited to watch the end of the race, visit our family-friend craft stations, and join for the 40th Anniversary Community Celebration that coincides with our Great River Race awards lunch!*

**Personal Packing List for the Great River Race**

To ensure safety and comfort on race day, we recommend that you wear/bring the following clothing and gear:

**Clothing, Outerwear, and Gear**

\_\_ T-shirt, ideally in a quick-dry fabric such as poly-propylene or nylon

*\* We encourage teams to coordinate colors and to show your team spirit! Costumes are welcome too. Judges will be watching and selecting a team to receive the Spirit Award.*

\_\_ Shorts or zip-off pants, ideally in a quick-dry fabric such as poly-propylene or nylon

\_\_ Jacket or sweater

\_\_ Shoes that you can get a little wet and dirty. You may want to also wear wool socks (Smartwool works great), to keep your feet toasty even if they get wet.

\_\_ Rain jacket or poncho

\_\_ Baseball cap or other brimmed hat to protect you from sun and rain

\_\_ Water bottle

**Optional Items**

\_\_ Sunscreen / lip balm

\_\_ Sunglasses

\_\_ Camera

\_\_ Small daypack for personal items

*\* Paddles and life jackets will be provided for all racers. You can bring your own life jacket if you prefer, but you must use a Wilderness Inquiry paddle during the race.*

*\* Each boat will have one dry bag for personal items. It is recommended, however, that you protect cameras, wallets, phones, etc., by storing them in Ziploc plastic bags.*