

MAY 2-3, 2009 White Water Rafting and Overnight



Overview

Troop 255 will be rafting down the Lower Youghiogheny River on Class III-IV white water river around Ohiopyle, PA on Saturday, May 2, 2009. The troop will be rafting 7 1/2 miles on the river for about 4 hours going through 22 rapids. Each raft provided by White Water Adventure outfitters hold 4-6 persons. The recommended minimum age for the rafting trip is 12 (exception: the outfitter will allow scouts that are 11 years old and weigh more than 90 pounds on the raft trip). Helmets and lifejackets will be provided. Wet suits can be rented on-site if needed because of cold air temperature (the river water is cold). Each raft will be captained by a guide familiar with the river. The guide will also teach about the local history. After the rafting trip the troop will drive to Ohiopyle State Park where we will be camping for the night. The camp grounds have a showerhouse and restrooms.

What are Class III-IV White Water Rapids?

Class III: Intermediate. Rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid and which can swamp a boat. Complex maneuvers in fast current and good boat control in tight passages or around ledges are often required; large waves or strainers may be present but are easily avoided. Strong eddies and powerful current effects can be found, particularly on large-volume rivers. Injuries while swimming are rare; self-rescue is usually easy but group assistance may be required to avoid long swims.

Class IV: Advanced. Intense, powerful but predictable rapids requiring precise boat handling in turbulent water. Depending on the character of the river, it may feature large, unavoidable waves and holes or constricted passages demanding fast maneuvers under pressure. A fast, reliable eddy turn may be needed to initiate maneuvers, or rest. Rapids may require "must" moves above dangerous hazards. Risk of injury to swimmers is moderate to high, and water conditions may make self-rescue difficult. Group assistance for rescue is often essential but requires practiced skills.

Schedule

Saturday, May 2, 2009 Rafting

- 6:45 am Assemble at Chevy Chase Methodist Church
- 11:00 am Arrive at Outfitters ((opportunity to eat a snack)
- 11:30 am Get all equipment from the outfitter for rafting trip
- 12:00 pm Expected departure by bus to put in point
- 2:00 pm Lunch on the river (provided by the outfitter)
- 4:00 pm Take out point, bus back to outfitters
- 4:30 pm Change into dry clothes (left in vehicles)
- 5:00 pm Depart for camp grounds for overnight

Sunday, May 3, 2009

- 7:00 am Wake-up, breakfast and pack
- 10:00 am Leave for home
- 12:00 pm Stop for fast food lunch on the way home
- 2:00 pm Arrive at Chevy Chase Methodist Church Parking lot

EMERGENCY CONTACT: Mr. Rose's cell phone 301-807-6441)

Cost:

Rafting and Campsite \$97.00 per person.

This includes the cost of the raft and guide, floatation vests and helmet. It includes lunch on the river that consists of make-your-own sandwiches of cold cuts, cheese, lettuce, mayo, mustard, Pringles chips, apples, cookies, juice and tea.

All park fees

Campsite in Ohiopyle State Park

Drivers may deduct \$10.00 from their participation cost.

There is an extra charge (\$15.00) for wet suits if needed because of low air temperatures. We will be watching the weather forecasts and asking for the advice from the outfitter in advance of our departure.

Participants should bring money to pay for a fast food lunch on Sunday.

The \$97.00 fee must be paid in full by Tuesday, April 14, 2009 (NEW DATE). Checks should be made payable to BSA Troop 255.

This trip is a "rain or shine" event. Refunds for the cost of the rafting trip will only be given in the event that Ohiopyle State Park or White Water Adventures decide that the river conditions are unsafe for recreational use.

Safety:

All participants will wear floatation vests and helmets while on the river. All participants must wear shoes or sandals without hard soles while rafting. Open toes and sneakers are acceptable. But, the shoe or sandal must be secured to the foot -- no flip flops etc.

The troop committee has decided to open up this activity to all scouts, parents and siblings who have met the BSA First Class Swimming requirements (or equivalent) by the event date and meet other requirements specified by the outfitter on their release. If siblings are participating a parent must attend and take responsibility for the non-scouts.

Scouts that require epipens or inhalers should bring these medications and give them to the guide to put in the First aid Box. Scouts should ride in the raft that carries their medication.

Equipment for the Rafting Trip

Bring a towel and dry change of clothes and shoes.

In cool weather, you should wear wool clothing and a wind breaker or jacket.

AVOID COTTON CLOTHING IN COOL WEATHER

If afternoon air temperatures are below 75 degrees Fahrenheit, wet suits are recommended and can be rented at the outfitters without previous reservation for \$15.00.

For warm days, you should wear shorts, t-shirt and swimsuit.

Secure eyeglasses/sunglasses with a head-band

Do not wear jewelry or other valuables.

Cameras will get wet and may be lost. Participants will be busy rowing to control the raft in rapids. It is impossible to take pictures while in white water.

Adults should leave car keys with the outfitter -- Don't take a chance losing them in the river.

Equipment for Overnight Camp

Normal gear for winter camping (refer to troop Winter Camping Checklist).

Be prepared for night temperatures as low as 45 degrees Fahrenheit

APPROVAL / PERMISSION SLIP

Approval/permission is granted by the parents/ guardians of Boy Scout _____ for their son/Scout to participate in the activities of Troop 255, Chevy Chase, Maryland, National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Approval/permission is granted to the adult members of Troop 255 to authorize treatment of the Boy Scout named above in the event of an accident or emergency. Adult members of Troop 255 that authorize treatment of the Boy Scout in the event of an accident or emergency shall be released from any or all liabilities.

Local and national tour permits will be obtained by Troop 255 when necessary.

This approval/permission is valid for the May 2 – May 3, 2009 White Water Rafting at Ohiopyle, PA.

I can drive: _____ YES _____ NO

If YES, I can carry _____ scouts including my own.

Parent Signature

Parent Name (Print)

Date

