

2022 SPRING PADDLE SEASON

Friends of Dragon Run (FODR) welcomes you to one of the most beautiful rivers in Virginia. We are dedicated to preserving this waterway and want to show you how special it is. In the spring, the Dragon Run swamp is particularly beautiful with the emergence of flowers and the leafing of the bald cypress. It is also the only time we get to see the beautiful prothonotary warbler. We thank you for your interest in Dragon Run and look forward to meeting you on the day of your paddle trip.

The 2022 Spring Paddle Season will be different from our last spring paddle season. We will host paddles on the dates listed below, we will use a roundtrip route from Big Island, and we will take COVID-19 vaccinated guests (adding other COVID 19 precautions if required by the Virginia Department of Health or the CDC). Here are the details:

Vaccinations required: We ask that everyone be vaccinated. Please do not make a reservation unless you are fully vaccinated. Wearing masks especially on land and when close to others on the water may help prevent the spread of infection even for those who are fully vaccinated.

Dates: April 15th through May 24th (excluding Wednesdays), weather permitting. We will paddle by reservation only. We will consider hosting paddles for groups on Wednesdays. For group paddles contact us at PaddleMasterDragonRun@gmail.com. If additional days are added to the schedule, we will post them on our website.

Limited group size: 8 Guests maximum each day. Group reservations will be permitted, but the maximum group size is 8. **Every paddler must be at least 18 years old.**

Route: We will meet at the FODR's launch site at our **Big Island Complex. (This is a change from Spring 2021.)** We will launch from Big Island and return there after about 2.5 to 3 hours. We will paddle sometimes against the current, so this paddle will be more strenuous than our pre-Covid paddle trips.

Start times and place: We will meet at our **Big Island Complex**. The meeting time for all the paddlers is **8:45 a.m.** We will be off the water by 12:00. Directions and a map are provided below.

No Radios: We will not use individual radios or headsets or earpieces.

No lunch break: We will not stop for an extended group lunch break, but we will take several short breaks for folks to hydrate, so bring water and snacks.

Reservations: Reservations will open on **3/1/22 at 9 a.m.** Go to www.dragonrun.org and click on the Signup Genius button. You will be asked for your cell phone, email, and address information, so that we can assist with contact tracing if we are asked to do that by the VA Department of Health (cell phone numbers are an important tool also for assisting you if you are late to the event). Donations must be made at the time of reservation. The suggested amount is \$50.

REFUND POLICY: Refunds will be offered if FODR has to cancel the paddle due to weather or if a paddler guest is ill. Many paddlers whose trips have been canceled by FODR or who have changed their plans do not ask for a refund. Since this is our principal fundraising activity, we hope that you will consider this option, if possible.

If we have to cancel a paddle or make any changes, we will call the phone number that you give us when you make your reservation. If you are part of a group, please give your group leader your mobile phone number. It will be the group leader's responsibility to notify everyone in the group. We are not always able to arrange rain dates.

IRS requires that a receipt be provided to any donor upon request, and that a contemporaneous receipt be issued at the time of any donation of \$250.00 or more. FODR will provide a receipt if requested, which will disclose that the trip is valued at \$15.00, and that any donation in excess of \$15.00 may be considered a donation to Friends of Dragon Run, a 501c (3) organization. We recommend you consult your tax advisor about tax deductions.

Any time you have questions, you may email PaddleMasterDragonRun@gmail.com.

We provide a kayak for each paddler, a paddle, and a life vest. DO NOT bring your own boat. The kayaks are sturdy 9 or 10-foot flatwater kayaks that are ideally suited for navigating the Dragon's narrow, twisting channels. We will adjust your boat to ensure your comfort.

You may bring your own paddle and life vest. However, your life vest must be a standard Coast-Guard approved PFD, not inflated by a cartridge. **WE REQUIRE LIFE VESTS TO BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON THE RIVER. VESTS MUST BE ZIPPED AND/OR BUCKLED AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON THE WATER.**

We will be on the water about 2.5 - 3 hours, depending on water levels and the overall ability of the paddlers. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, trips usually end around 12:00 p.m. It is not wise to schedule other events on the day of the paddle because of the uncertainty of trip length.

Parts of the trip will require paddling upstream against a current. For this reason, they are a bit more strenuous. Spills can and do occur; so be prepared to get wet. Dress for the weather on the day of your paddle. Bring rain gear and/or a jacket if rain is forecast. Layers of clothing might be appropriate if it is breezy or chilly. Other items to bring along include: paddling gloves, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and insect repellent.

There are port-a-johns where we launch and takeout. However, there are NO facilities of any kind along the paddle route. Bring enough food and water for the day. No potable water is available along the route. We will take frequent water and snack breaks; but we will not stop for lunch. Pack your food and water in a small, soft-sided bag that will fit in the kayak – the storage area is only about 12 inches wide. Secure cameras, binoculars, phone, and other expensive items in waterproof bags that you can tether to the kayak or

wear around your neck (waterproof phone and key bags are available for loan at the launch site) .

NOTE: We strongly recommend that persons with heart problems or other serious medical conditions consider very carefully whether they should make the trip. Remember, we will be in the wilderness. Medical help and transportation are a significant time and miles away. If you have a physical condition that would require treatment while you are on the water, be sure to bring necessary medications and equipment you normally use to treat the condition. If you are allergic to stings, be sure to bring whatever medication you use to counteract a reaction.

Please notify your Crew Leader if you have an existing medical condition that we should know about.

Although insects are seldom a problem, it is wise to bring insect repellent. If you are allergic to stings, be sure to bring whatever medication you use to counteract a reaction.

What about bad weather? We will definitely cancel in case of thunderstorms or if the river is running too fast or the water level is too low or too high. We usually cannot make the decision to go or not to go until the morning of the paddle. Therefore, it is necessary to provide a telephone number where you can be reached the night before and early on the morning of your paddle. At or before 6:00 a.m., we will notify everyone with an individual reservation or the leader of a group reservation. If you are part of a group trip, be sure to give your group leader your contact information.

If you feel ill on the day of your paddle, stay home! And, if you have to cancel for any reason, **PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!** That will enable us to fill your seat with someone else.

We hope to sell FODR merchandise each day after the paddle. We have T-shirts (\$25), long-sleeve t-shirts (\$30), long sleeve solar vapor shirts (\$30), quarter-zip long-sleeve performance t-shirts (\$35), long-sleeve performance hoodies (\$30), hooded sweatshirts (\$35), caps (\$20), and bucket hats (\$15) for sale, with all proceeds benefiting FODR. We will also be selling limited edition prints of the Dragon by a local artist (\$60 / \$90 framed). We take cash, checks, or credit cards.

This information sheet and the attached Friends of Dragon Run Release Form should be given to everyone in your party. The release form must be filled out and signed (one person for each form) by each participant; don't forget to initial the middle paragraph. Bring it to the launch site on the day of your paddle.

The above information is intended to help you have a safe and happy trip and to enjoy the special wonders of Dragon Run. We look forward to escorting you on this exciting adventure.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS to the FODR Meeting Place:

We will be **Launching from the FODR Big Island Property**. Take-out will be from the same location as the launch. We will have you drive directly to the launch site. **The Launch site is at the end of a one mile dirt road. Please drive slowly especially if you have a low ground clearance vehicle!** Use the following GPS location: **558 Piedmont Road, Shackelfords, VA 23156** to get you onto the dirt road. There will be FODR signs and a FODR Crew member stationed at the transition between the paved and dirt road.

If you have problems with GPS, directions are as follows: Heading North on Route 17: Approximately 6 miles north of the Rt 33 and Rt 198 intersection, turn left onto Farley Park Road (Rt. 603). Travel 4 miles and turn right onto Coldwater Road (Rt. 610). In 3.1 miles continue right onto Piedmont Road (the sign at this intersection says Dabney - this is still Rt. 610). In 0.4 mile, you will exit the paved road onto a dirt road. There is a yellow house off to the right and a sign for “Three C Kennel”. Continue straight past the sign on the dirt road that follows the wood line to the launch site.

Heading South on Route 17: Approximately 17 miles south of Tappahannock, turn right onto Brier Swamp Road (Rt 606). Travel 1.6 miles continuing onto Dragon Road. In 1.5 miles, turn right onto Wares Church Road (Rt 602). In 1.7 miles, make a sharp left turn onto Piedmont Road (Rt 610). In 1.1 mile, you will turn left onto a dirt road. There will be an FODR sign and a yellow house off to the left. Follow the dirt road along the wood line to the launch site.

Heading from West Point: Travel East on Rt 33 for about 4 miles, turn left onto The Trail (just after the Dragon Run Brewing Co). In 2 miles, turn right onto Elsom Mascot Road (Rt 610) (this becomes Coldwater Road at a stop sign – continue straight). In 8.6 miles continue right onto Piedmont Road (the sign at this intersection says Dabney - this is still Rt. 610). In 0.4 mile, you will exit the paved road onto a dirt road. There is a yellow house off to the right and a sign for “Three C Kennel”. Continue straight past the sign on the dirt road that follows the wood line to the launch site.

On the day of the paddle, if you get lost, please call our Paddle Masters:

Jack Kauffman (267-733-3670)

Carol Kauffman (267-733-3667)

