

JOE 2025 Information Packet for Tubing on the Delaware River

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| Day: Saturday | Start Time: 9:00 am | End Time: 3:30 p.m. |
| Co-Leader: | Co-Leader: | Limit: 40 people |
| Transportation: Vendor Bus or Van | Driver: Bus Driver | Bus Captain: |
| Fees: \$59 | Travel Distance: Put-in 28 Mile/Takeout 19 Miles | Travel Time: Put-In 36 Min. / Takeout 24 Min. |

Tubing on the Delaware River

Tubing on the crystal-clear Delaware River is the place to be on those hot summer days. Lay back, relax, and drift along a mild whitewater adventure similar to a lazy river float. Tubing trips generally last between 3 and 4 hours, depending on river conditions. You will end your float at the vendor's campground, where you can use the vendor's bathhouse facilities to clean up, dry off, and change clothes.



You will float between Pond Eddy and Knight's Edge down 4 miles of the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River National Park. This section of the river is known for its scenic views and the opportunity to experience a variety of river conditions. Note: Some or all parts of your body will be physically in water for the duration (three to four hours) of your float downriver. You must be comfortable floating in moving water with or without the assistance of a tube. The ability to swim in moving water is a requirement for this excursion. You must wear your PFD (personal flotation device) at ALL TIMES while on the water. Anyone caught without their PFD properly buckled while on the water will be asked to leave the event upon returning to camp, with no refunds.

- Must wear [closed-toe water shoes](#)
- Also wear a swimsuit, hat, and [long-sleeved sun shirt](#) (to avoid sunburn), eye retainer like [croakies](#) or [chums](#) with any glasses
- Bring a paddler's wallet, sunscreen, a complete change of clothing (including underwear and shoes) for afterward, and a water bottle that can be tied/clipped (with a large carabiner) to your tube.
- Cost: \$59 (pre-paid per person).
- Approx. 9:00 am~ 3:30 pm
- Limit 40 People
- Distance from camp 64 Miles | 43 Min. R/T

Logistics

- 8:30 am - 9:00 am Load bus
- 9:00 am Depart from camp
- 9:00 am – 9:20 am Travel from Camp to Indian Head Canoes - Knights Eddy Boat Rentals and Riverfront Campground (Take-Out)
- 9:20 am- 9:30 am Leaders ONLY drop off clothing and food for changing and lunch
- 9:30 am -9:45 am Travel to Indian Head Canoes -Pond Eddy Tubing Put-in
- 9:45 am – 10:10 am Bathroom/ Prep / Safety talk
- 10:10 am Launch for Tubing on the river from Pond Eddy to Knights Eddy
- 10:10 am ~ 2:00 pm Tubing on the river (Est. 3-4 Hours)
- 1:00 pm -3:00 pm Arrive at Knights Eddy / Change Clothing / Bathroom / Lunch
- 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm (or earlier) Travel from Knights Eddy to camp

Vendor: Indian Head Canoes & Rafts

<https://indianheadcanoes.com>, [845-557-8777](tel:845-557-8777), [Facebook](#), [Yelp](#)

- Put-In: Indian Head Canoes: 1951 NY-97, Pond Eddy, NY 12770
 - 24 Miles / 31 Min [Map from Camp to Put-In](#)
- Take-Out: Indian Head Canoes - Knights Eddy Boat Rentals and Riverfront Campground, 1036 NY-97, Sparrow Bush, NY 12780
 - 20 Miles / 26 Min. [Map from Take-Out to Camp](#)

No personal cars are allowed due to logistics.

Notes:

An Indian Head Canoes Bus is scheduled to arrive in camp at 8:30 am for loading. **The bus WILL leave with or without all participants** on board at 9:00 am! Please arrive at the bus at least 15 minutes before departure to allow the activity leaders sufficient time to prepare. **You miss the bus; you miss the activity!** Personal cars will not work logistically. Getting to the put-in for your float will take about a ½ hour bus ride.

All participants must be “River-Ready” before loading on the bus. There is no place to change once you are on the bus or at Put-In. Activity leaders will ensure you're appropriately dressed for your activity when you board the bus. Anyone not deemed river-ready will NOT be allowed on the bus. We will NOT wait for you to change into proper attire, including closed-toed water shoes.

DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING ON THE BUS! The vendor will use it for other purposes during the day.

THERE IS NO PLACE TO STORE ANYTHING ON YOUR FLOAT DOWNRIVER. ONLY BRING THE ESSENTIALS.

You must sign a vendor-supplied waiver for this activity. A copy of the waiver will be supplied on the bus for your signature. Please sign the waiver before getting off the bus and hand it to your activity leader. This is your ticket for the activity. You MUST have a signed waiver copy to get off the bus. You can find a copy of this waiver [online](#) for your review. For simplicity, we will only be accepting signed paper copies.

What to bring/wear:

- **Do not bring anything on the river that you cannot easily replace. The river is a powerful force of nature that can strip everything from you. Please leave your keys, wallet, and jewelry back at camp. We recommend using spare prescription glasses (leave your primary pair at camp) or sunglasses with a retainer strap, such as [Chums](#) or [Croakies](#).**
- We do not recommend any electronics on the water that are not waterproof on their own and are in a waterproof hard case as well. Ensure you have a method to secure them that does not involve wearing them around your neck. Any watches should be waterproof. This proofreader once had her cellphone destroyed in what she thought was a waterproof container while tubing!
- Wear water shoes, closed-toe sandals, old sneakers, or wetsuit boots. You must wear closed-toe shoes that stay on your feet securely via a strap or ties. No flip-flops are allowed. Activity leaders will ban you from the trip if you do not have proper footwear. Foot and toe injuries are common with improper gear on paddles and floats.
- Do not wear any cotton! Cotton draws all the body heat out of you when it gets wet. We recommend a synthetic long-sleeve shirt (such as those made from [Under Armour](#), fleece, or wool) for warmth and/or sun protection, and a swimsuit or shorts made from nylon or other quick-drying materials. Again, no cotton! Clingy clothes are

more comfortable than loose-fitting clothes because they retain their shape when wet. You will get wet, even if you stay in the tube. That is part of tubing. If you don't want to get wet, don't go tubing.

- Sunscreen. A small bottle that can be tied to the tube. There will be no storage.
- Hat/Visor
- Chapstick
- Water in a bottle with a way to attach it to your tube. [Large carabiners](#) work well.
- Please [check the weather](#) and [water temperatures/levels](#) before your tubing day and dress accordingly.
 - [Pond Eddy Water Temps](#) (Rafting Start/ Tubing Start)
 - [Matamoras Water Flow/ Height](#) (Rafting End)
- A waterproof camera with a hand strap. **DO NOT wear anything around your neck.** Again, bring only the equipment you are willing to lose during the ride—no expensive SLRs. Keep in mind that your hands need to be free to float.
- The area has limited cell phone reception, especially at the river bases.
- Rope to attach tubes, if desired (PFDs must be worn at all times).
- **[Paddler's wallet/fanny pack:](#)** Wear a paddler's wallet or equivalent securely on your body. Please attach it to yourself, but avoid anything around your neck. Think about what would happen if you were unconscious and needed help. [A small waterproof container](#) that has a **COPY** of your:
 - Driver's License (for ID). Can be expired.
 - Medical Insurance Card.
 - Emergency Contact Info.
 - List of medications/medical conditions/allergies
 - Spare credit card
 - \$20 to \$60 in cash (emergencies or small bills for the tip)

Food: Prepare your lunch during breakfast. Label your bag with your name. Place the bag in the group bucket near the food prep area. Leaders will then transport this bucket to the take-out location. You will have lunch when you get off the river at the designated take-out point.

Clothing and gear for after the float:

We will stop briefly on the way to Put-In at the beginning of the trip and at the Take-Out location to drop off any gear or clothing you'd like to leave to change into when you end your trip. **Only bring a VERY LIMITED amount of clothing to change into.** Place your clothing into a bag labeled with your name. Then, place that bag in the blue IKEA Tyvek Bags before getting on the bus. There will be separate bags for males and females. Ensure that you put your clothing in the designated bags. **Only the leaders** with a limited number of volunteers will get off the bus at the take-out to take the buckets inside to the office for safekeeping during your float. Your gear/clothing will be provided to you at the end of your float after getting off the water.

Things to go over during the Safety Talk at the meeting with your leader

Life Jackets (PFD) (personal flotation device)

Mosaic insurance requires everyone to wear their properly fitted personal flotation device (PFD) at all times while on the water. Anyone not following this rule will be asked to leave the event immediately upon return to camp, with no refund.

There have been over 60 people who have drowned in the upper Delaware River since 1980. None of the victims was wearing a properly fitted personal flotation device (PFD). In other words, *no one who wore a PFD has drowned on the Upper Delaware River.*

Below is what the local law of the land requires:

- If the River Height is above 6 feet - Due to high water levels, the law requires a wearable life jacket (PFD) to be worn by all persons in or on the river, including boaters, swimmers, and wading fishermen.
- If the River Height is under 6 feet, the law requires a wearable life jacket to be readily accessible. At the same time, the National Park Service suggests wearing one when boating, fishing, swimming, or floating.

That said, Everyone from Mosaic will always wear their PFD on the water. No Exceptions!

Proper swimming techniques.

There are two techniques when swimming in the river, whether you fall out or jump in for fun. The first is the “Down River Swimmer’s Position.” This is a position where you are on your back, with your nose and toes pointed to the sky, and your head up so you can see where you are going. Feet downstream with your knees slightly bent. If you come in contact with a rock, you can use your feet and legs as shock absorbers and push off the rock. Keep your arms out to your sides to help maintain your balance and control. A helpful hint here: keep your butt up. If you sit with your butt low in the water, you may find a rock and bring home some interesting bruises. Guys, keep your legs together. If you hit a rock, we call this “romancing the stone. There is no romance for a couple of weeks afterward.

The second swimmers’ position is becoming more popular and accepted in rescue situations. This position is on your stomach, doing your best Michael Phelps impersonation—point to where you want to go and go. Swim until you are out of the river.

If you choose to swim to the shore, swim to the beach. NEVER stand up in a moving current. **Never walk in water over your knees.** This prevents a situation called “Foot Entrapment,” where you put your size nine foot in a size eight hole or crack in the bottom of the river. This is not a good place to be, but it's so easy to avoid getting into this situation, so don't walk into the river. It is just that easy.

Be Cautious of Foot Entrapment.

The basic rule is: never stand up or put your feet down in the water unless the water depth is below your knees or the water is calm. The riverbed of any watercourse you may enjoy has likely been forming for millions of years. There are a lot of rocks at the bottom of mountainous streams, and you may not be able to see them. Getting your foot trapped under a rock and having the river push you down face first is a horrible way to go, but it happens. It only takes a few inches of water to drown. [See Avoiding Foot Entrapment](#)

Avoid Strainers

Strainers are a nasty threat. A strainer is any object arrayed across the water that can knock you off a tube if you're in one, and it can force you underwater if you're not. Strainers can be logs, specific rock formations, or low bridges that are exposed due to high water levels. Avoid them if possible; do your best to navigate the obstruction in any way you can.

Leader/ Sweep

It is essential to designate a leader and a sweep. Ensure that everyone understands not to go in front of the leader or behind the sweep. Anyone getting out of the river should tell at least three other people they are doing so. Try not to fall behind the sweep. The sweep should make every attempt to be the last out.

Attempt to stay as a group for the duration of the float.

What If It Is Raining?

This is a popular question — trips rain or shine. You'll get wet anyway, so come along and make like a duck. The vendor will determine if any weather event will cause a cancellation. No refunds unless the vendor cancels.

Miss the Bus Back to Camp

Everyone should be on the bus as a group for the return trip. This means the last person off the river will determine when you can return to camp. If someone misses the bus, the participant must pay for a taxi and contact the taxi service to get back to camp.

Port Jervis Taxi-845-856-3544(99 Pike St, Port Jervis, NY 12771)

Activity Fee Cost: \$59

Your activity fee for the Delaware River Float includes:

- Tubing on Delaware with [Indian Head Canoes](#), including Tube, PFD, and Tax
- Transportation to and from camp provided by [Indian Head Canoes](#).
- 10% Credit Card Fees, Registration Fees, Mosaic registration, insurance, and other administrative fees.

River Description of Float

267.6: Put-in for Indian Head Canoes

267.7 Class I+ rapids of Van Tuyl's Rift. Paddlers will surely bump and grind on submerged rocks in the shallow water. The rapids go on for 0.7 miles, one of the longest on the river. Bluffs of Little Hawks Nest rise above the river on the left.

266.7 Wide ledges extend into the river from the Pennsylvania side, with cliffs rising twenty feet above the ledges, as the river bends to the left.

266.6 The river widens into the slow water of Pond Eddy.

266.4 Pond Eddy Brook enters Pennsylvania side, via a picturesque stone culvert under the Erie tracks. The river bends sharply to the left.

265.8 Mill Brook joins the river on the left.

265.7 Pass under the Pond Eddy Bridge

265.5 Broad ledges are exposed to low water, near the New York (left) side; stay right.

265.0 Gravel bars and shallows continue along the left as the river bends sharply to the right, Class I rapids of Rosas Rift, with boulders strewn across the river. Stay to the right to avoid an eel weir on the left.

264.1 Outfitter: Kittatinny Canoes Staircase Rapids access, launch/ landing for river trips. On NY97.

264.9 Fish Cabin Brook enters a gravel bar on the left.

263.9 There's an old eel weir on the left. As of this writing (2023), it was not in use.

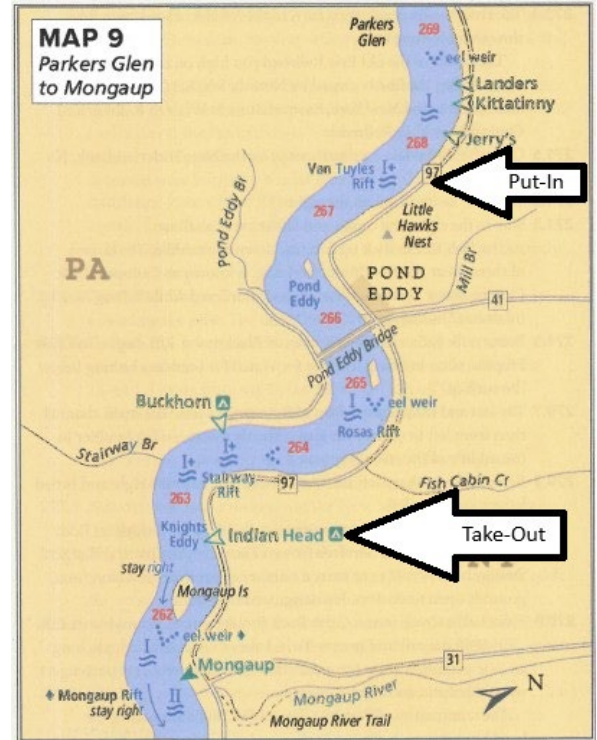
263.6 Begin Stairway Rift, a succession of three ledges with increasingly severe Class I+ rapids. The rocky ledges and bluffs along the Pennsylvania side resemble a giant staircase, giving this rapid its name. The best passage is to the left. Stairway Rift kicks off the most exciting string of rapids on Delaware. The next five miles will give canoeists, kayakers, and rafters a wild ride through five Class I+ and II rapids, with only brief respites in the eddies between. Always wear your PFD and do not remove it until the ride is complete.

NY 97 runs close to the New York riverbank, supported here and there by remnant walls of the old Delaware & Hudson Canal.

263.3 Two big ledges on the proper squeeze the river to the left, the final and most severe "step" of Staircase Rift. Stairway Brook enters on the Pennsylvania side at the final ledge of the rapids.

263.1 Knights Eddy, slow-moving water for 0.8 miles. "Captain John Knight was a well-known timber raftsman.

262.5 TAKE-OUT: Outfitter/Camping: Indian Head Canoes, Knights Eddy campground and launch/landing for river trips. "Primitive" tent sites and lean-tos for canoeists and kayakers - water and prices only. Off NY 97.



Driving Directions

Total Round Trip 1 hr 1 min (47.1 miles) via I-84 E and NY-97 N

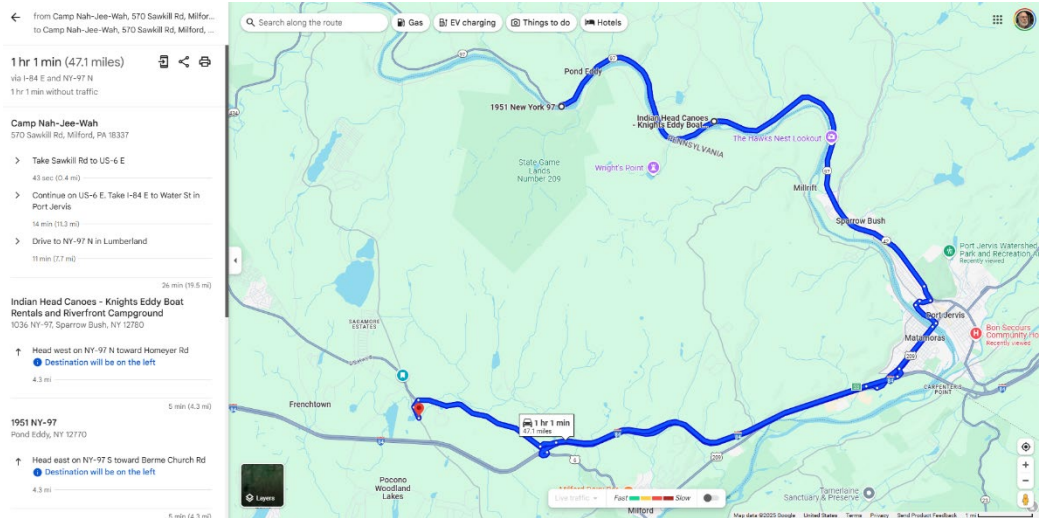
Start: Camp Nah-Jee-Wah 570 Sawkill Rd, Milford, PA 18337

1. Turn left out of the driveway to take Sawkill Rd towards US-6 E
 - a. Go 0.2 mi
2. Turn right onto Bridge Rd. Take one block to end at Rt. US 6
 - a. Go 0.2 mi
3. Turn right onto US-6 E. Take to the intersection of I-84
 - a. Go 2.7 mi
4. Slight right to merge onto I-84 E
 - a. Go 6.8 mi
5. Take exit 53 for US-6 E/US-209 N
 - a. Go 0.2 mi
6. Turn left onto US-209 N/US-6 E
 - a. Go 1.7 mi
7. Turn left onto Water St
 - a. Go 0.1 mi
8. Slight left onto River Rd
 - a. Go 0.4 mi
9. Turn right onto Ferry St
 - a. Go 0.1 mi
10. Turn right onto W Main St
 - a. Go 0.2 mi
11. Turn left onto Grand View Ave
 - a. Go 0.3 mi
12. Turn left onto NY-42 N/ NY-97 N
13. Continue to follow NY-97 N until you get to Indian Head Canoes - Knights Eddy Boat Rentals and Riverfront Campground 1036 NY-97, Sparrow Bush, NY 12780, which will be on the right
 - a. Go 6.6 mi

Total for leg 1 26 min (19.5 mi)

From Indian Head Canoes - Knights Eddy Boat Rentals and Riverfront Campground (1036 NY-97, Sparrow Bush, NY 12780) to Indian Head Canoes - Pond Eddy (1951 NY-97, Pond Eddy, NY 12770) is on the same road, 4.3 miles apart.

Return by retracing steps



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Nearest Hospital: [Bon Secours Community Hospital, 160 E Main St, Port Jervis, NY 12771, 845-858-7000](#)

[From put-in: 22 Min / 17 Miles](#)

[From take-out: 16 Min / 13 Miles](#)

