



River Trip Guidelines

About the Trip:

Our river trips are “escorted” trips – we will have one of our staff at the end of the group of boats, and sometimes one at the beginning. Other than staying in front of (or between) these boats paddlers are free to go at their own pace, stop and explore, or fish a little. It is not a “guided” trip and paddlers need to be self sufficient with bring everything they need - other than the boat, paddles and PFDs (life jackets) which we will provide.

At this point we only rent tandem (2 person) canoes, and participants need to have a canoe partner. Canoe capacity is limited and if the people and gear will weigh over 450 pounds please contact us in advance.

These trips are not for people who have not paddled a canoe before. If you are new to canoeing, please sign up for one of our Heron Academy trips first.

This is a 12 mile trip, and depending on the water level, wind, and other weather conditions it may be a harder trip than you expect. If there is any question about whether you are in the right physical condition for this trip please check with your doctor first.

We look forward to paddling with you!

Things to Bring:

- Water
- Rain gear (just in case)
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Food/snack
- Waterproof bag for anything you don't want to get wet
- Any needed medications
- Shoes that can wet and muddy. (If sandals, be sure they have a strap on the heel – flip flops come off too easily in the mud)
- Optional: Fishing gear and license

Safety Rules:

Life Jackets Are Mandatory – All participants must always wear an approved life jacket on the water.

Weather Watch – Tours may be delayed or canceled due to inclement weather or high river conditions.



Stay with the Group – Do not pass the lead guide. There may some distance between the front guide and the back, but the whole group must stay between them.

Swimming – If you really want to swim, it must be at an entire group stop with both guides present.

Environmental & Ethical Rules:

Leave No Trace – All trash, gear, and waste must be packed out. Do not leave anything on sandbars or in the water.

Respect Wildlife – Do not disturb animals or nesting areas. Keep a safe distance from all wildlife.

Use Designated Launch & Exit Points – You are welcome to make sandbar stops, but remember that any land above the normal high water line is private. Steep banks may be unstable and should be avoided, Always stay within sight of the group.

Participant Conduct:

Follow the Guide's Instructions – All instructions from staff or guides must be followed without exception.

Fitness Requirement – Each participants must be physically capable of paddling the entire 12 mile distance, possibly into a headwind.

Respect Others – Be courteous to fellow paddlers, other river users, and local residents.

Operational Rules:

Reservation & Waiver Required – All guests must book in advance and sign a liability waiver before launch.

Rental Equipment Responsibility – Participants are responsible for the care and return of all rented gear. Lost or damaged items will be charged.

No Music – We ask the no music be played so we can all enjoy the sound of the river and converse with each other.

Beverages – Please be sure and bring enough water for the day. Please no alcohol other than beer and no more than a few of those.

Food – We will be making a longer stop about halfway through the trip. Please bring enough food to get you through until potentially early evening.



Storm Plan – If we encounter an unexpected storm, we will pull off of the river if there is lightning and wait for the storm to pass. You may get wet, and this could put us well behind schedule. Plan accordingly.

Preparation – Bring a waterproof gear bag for anything you want to keep dry. We also recommend sun block and a rain jacket.

In Case of Emergency:

Call 911 & Notify Guide Immediately – In case of injury, missing person, or other emergency, contact emergency services and alert your guide.

Transportation:

Options are: (1) leave a car at Lecompton and get a ride back to it (Uber or a friend) at the end. (2) leave a car at Riverfront park before the trip and get a ride to Lecompton by start time or (3) Get a ride (friend or Uber) to Lecompton and then get a ride home from Riverfront Park.