



Press Release

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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For Immediate Release:

May 18, 2011

Release No.: 11-14

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Canoe & Kayak Skills Sessions Sunday

Alton, IL- Imagine paddling on the Mississippi River like a modern-day Tom and Huck. At “U Can Paddle Day” people of all ages and skill levels are invited to try canoeing or kayaking for free.

On Sunday, May 22 from 11:00 – 4:00, the Mississippi River Water Trail Association, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and their partners are inviting the public to experience the Mississippi River first-hand. Beginner, intermediate, and advanced skill clinics offer something for everyone. There is no cost to participate in the beginner and intermediate clinics, however a \$5 fee is charged for those wishing to travel outside of the designated safety area.

For experienced paddlers, there will be a kayak fishing clinic beginning at 11:30, and a canoe and kayak rodeo at 12:30. All of the necessary paddling equipment, including a boat, paddles, and lifejacket are provided at the event. The beginner and intermediate clinic are held in Ellis Bay, a calm backwater area. The advanced skills clinic will venture out onto the Mississippi River with the assistance of experienced guides.

The focus of U Can Paddle Day is to promote safe paddling on the Mississippi River Water Trail. The water trail was developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the Mississippi River Water Trail Association and the American Canoe Association. The trail covers river pools 24, 25, 26 & 27, stretching from Saverton to St. Louis, MO.

The Mississippi River Water Trail maps highlight camping and day use areas, launching and parking facilities, and other points of interest. They offer safety tips, and suggested itineraries for people of different skills and abilities. Hard copies of each map are available by calling the Rivers Project Office at 636-899-2600.

For more information about U Can Paddle Day and other upcoming water trail events, visit www.greatriverwatertrail.org or contact the National Great Rivers Museum at 618-462-6979.

- 30 -