



Press Release

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Race or Relax at the Great River Rendezvous

Alton, IL- On Saturday, August 6, the Mississippi River Water Trail Association, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and their partners will welcome paddlers to the Great River Rendezvous, a race and social paddle on the Mississippi River Water Trail.

For experienced paddlers, an 18-mile American Canoe Association sanctioned race will take place from Grafton, IL to West Alton, MO. Racers will be divided into four categories: men's or women's solo kayaks, tandem kayaks, and canoes. This activity is recommended for experienced paddlers only. Registration fees are \$50 for ACA members and \$55 for non members. Check-in begins at the public boat ramp in Grafton, IL at 7:00 am, followed by a mandatory safety meeting at 7:30.

A 4-mile social paddle will offer a relaxed journey as you paddle around Maple Island with a river guide. Registration fees are \$30 for ACA members and \$35 for non members. This activity is recommended for intermediate or experienced paddlers. Check-in will begin at the Maple Island access area in West Alton, MO at 8:30 am, followed by a mandatory safety meeting at 9:15.

All participants must provide their own equipment, including boats and lifejackets. Registration for both activities is available at www.greatriverwatertrail.org. Advanced registration is recommended; a \$10 late registration fee will be assessed for those who register the morning of the event. This is a drug- and alcohol-free event.

The focus of the Great River Rendezvous is to raise awareness and 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, MO 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 Great River Rendezvous and other upcoming water trail events, visit www.greatriverwatertrail.org or contact the National Great Rivers Museum at 618-462-6979.

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