

LRCA RIVERFEST CANOE-A-THON SAFETY PLAN

The Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA), a non-profit, tax-exempt Pennsylvania Corporation conducts an annual canoe and kayak event on the Lackawanna River. The event known as the Lackawanna River Canoe-A-Thon is conducted as a timed athletic event and/or a recreational paddle at the discretion of the individual participants. Each participant is numbered, timed, and tracked by event staff. ***Final race calculations are initiated at 1:00 PM for competitive paddlers. Paddlers finishing after 1:00 PM will not be timed or qualify for awards. ALL paddlers are encouraged to complete the course and be off the River by 2:00 PM.***

The course is run from two launch sites, Archbald and Blakely, to a common finish site at Sweeney's Beach Recreation Area in Scranton, across the street from 41 Poplar Street.

The Archbald launch site is located at Maslyar Park on Laurel Street. It offers a 12-mile course, the first four miles of which have Class II white water features. There are six classes of white water recognized by the American Canoe Association and other paddle sport organizations, from Class I riffles, to Class VI vertical drops. Class I riffles are easily navigable by novices. Class II riffles and ledges are navigable by paddlers with minimum skills.

The Blakely launch site offers an 8-mile course with Class I riffles and longer flat water reaches. The LRCA encourages novices to launch at Blakely, rather than Archbald. The Blakely site is located in the Blakely Borough Recreational Park off PA Route 247, Keystone Avenue. The finish line is located at Sweeney's Beach Recreation Area in Scranton, across the street from 41 Poplar Street..

The prevalent river flow conditions and weather conditions on the morning of the event are primary factors utilized by the LRCA in deciding to commence the event. If conditions are too shallow (less than 2.0 feet at the Archbald USGS gaging station), or too deep (greater than 3.0 feet), the LRCA reserves the right to cancel or postpone the event. The event will run with light rain or drizzle; heavy soaking rain will be cause for postponement. Rain date May 18, 2019.

Prior to the commencement of launching at 10:00 AM, all participants are given a course condition and canoe safety briefing. ***All LRCA RiverFest Canoe-A-Thon Rules must be followed.***

Paddlers are launched in heats of ten (10) canoes/kayaks, at five minute intervals beginning at 10:00 AM at each launch site. Launching is usually completed by 10:45 AM.

The event is conducted with continuous coordination through the Lackawanna County Emergency Communications Center (911) with emergency response units deployed along the riverbanks at strategic locations or traditional trouble spots along the first six (6) miles. Emergency response units are deployed on bridges along the balance of the course and at the finish line in Scranton.

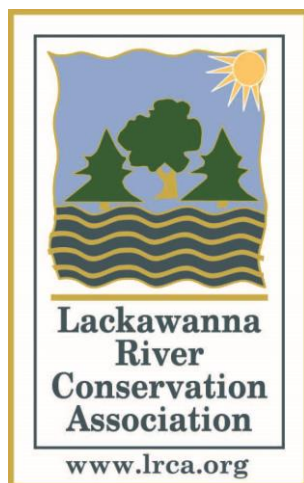
The LRCA event staff is tied to the 911 emergency response through cell phones and two-way radios. The professional and volunteer emergency response teams are augmented by the LRCA event volunteers and spotters who are deployed along the river to monitor the progress of the event and are available to transport paddlers, who elect not to finish the event, and their canoes/kayaks to the finish line.

The LRCA staff also patrols the event from the river. Sweeper kayaks are launched last from each launch site to ensure that any paddlers still on the river are required to move toward the finish line in a timely manner or withdraw from the event at a bridge crossing or other landing site where they can be transported by the LRCA spotters or make their own arrangements.

ALL paddlers are required to reasonably assist disabled paddlers or immediately act to notify emergency responders.

Sweeper kayaks clear each bridge and communicate with the LRCA staff and emergency responders that the previous upstream river reaches are clear of event participants. This process continues until the sweepers arrive at the finish line and verify with race officials that the entire course is clear of event participants. This information is then relayed to the 911 system.

An emergency response unit remains at the finish line until the official conclusion of the event at 5:00 PM.



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