

Suwanee River Wilderness Trip **INFORMATION PACK**

Dates: *Friday, November 17-Monday, November 20*

Cost: \$75

Depart: 5:00 AM, Friday, November 17

Return: ~4 PM, Monday, November 20

Weather Concerns: Be prepared for being wet and in the sunshine while on the river. It may be a bit buggy in the evenings and cool after dark. Prepare for temperatures ranging from high 40's to low 80's.

GEAR LIST

WHAT TO BRING:

- ___ 1 Swimsuit & water shirt (For Paddling Clothes)
- ___ 1 pair of Hiking/camp Shoes (for Camp & hiking)
- ___ 1 pair of Water Shoes (will get wet)
- ___ 1 pair of Pants (for Camp & hike)
- ___ 2 T-shirts (1 for camp & 1 for sleep)
- ___ 1 shorts (for sleeping)
- ___ 1 warm hat (for sleep & cool mornings)
- ___ 2-3 pair Underwear
- ___ 2 pairs of Socks (1 for camp, 1 sleeping)
- ___ 1 Light Long-sleeved Shirt
- ___ 1 light Fleece or Sweater (for cool weather)
- ___ 1 set of Shorts & T-shirt for sleeping in
- ___ 1 Rain Poncho/Jacket
- ___ Optional-small daypack (for day hike)

PACKING TIPS: Pack clothes in 2 gallon Ziplocs

What not to bring:

***cell phones** & other tech: It's preferred we not have/use them, as it distracts from the wilderness experience. Also the service is not great. If you must bring a phone, plan to keep it packed away and tell your loved ones you will not be available. The trip leader will have a phone in the case of emergencies and will check in with support coordinator daily.

- ___ Sun-hat, Sunglasses & Sunscreen
- ___ 1 Bug Spray
- ___ Small Flashlight/Head torch
- ___ Small spiral Notebook, Pen, & small Bible
- ___ Small Towel & wash cloth
- ___ Toiletries: biodegradable soap, Toothbrush & Toothpaste, wet wipes, etc.
- ___ BYOTP (Bring your own Toilet paper – biodegradable, what you feel you will need in a small Ziploc)
- ___ Any personal medications
- ___ Small camp chair (optional)

Provide by ministry (upon request)

- ___ *Sleeping Bag
- ___ *Tent
- ___ *Dry bags & pack liner (limited availability)
- ___ **Pad (limited availability)

BASIC SCHEDULE

Thursday	Pre-Trip Gear Sort & Pack Vehicle Commitment to Journey
Friday 5 AM	Gibson Park → Primitive Site Load-up Drive to Launch Gibson Park Ramp- Quickly unload boats -Shuttle vehicle / Explore Alapaha Sink Paddle LUNCH (on River) Primitive Site Camp- Set-up DINNER Worship & Wrap-up at campfire
Saturday	Primitive Site → Dowling Park River Camp Break Camp BREAKFAST & Devotion Paddle LUNCH (on River) Dowling Park River Camp -Set-up Camp Activity: Swim & Explore DINNER Worship & Wrap-up at campfire

Sunday	Dowling Park River Camp BREAKFAST & Devotion Activity: Solo time alone with God (LUNCH on solo) Activities DINNER Worship & Wrap-up at campfire Activity: Night Hike
Monday ~4 PM	Dowling Park River Camp → Take out point Break Camp BREAKFAST & Devotion Paddle LUNCH (on River) Take Out point Clean & Load Boats Drive-Head for Home Gear Clean & Sort

Menu

Friday:

Packed Lunch: Lunchmeat sandwich, pretzels, and banana, condiment packets: Mayo, mustard, relish

Dinner: foil burrito (chicken Beans & vegetables) – Robert Williams

Saturday:

Breakfast: Oatmeal, milk powder & dried fruit, Hot cocoa/coffee

Lunch: Tuna, Mayo, 3+ Cracker, Fig Bars & fruit snacks, apple [Robert may have some tuna packs]

Dinner: summer sausage, laughing cow cheese, potatoes, and vegetables

Sunday:

Breakfast: Grits bowl: Fresh Eggs, Grits, bacon; orange

Lunch: Beef jerky, Trail mix & fresh Fruit

Dinner: chicken & Noodle w/ vegetables [Robert has Knorr's noodle packs]

Monday:

Breakfast: cereal/granola, instant milk powder, raisins

Lunch: (remainder of snacks)

Snack Bag (for as desired + lunches):

	<u>~per person</u>	
Vienna sausage	1	
Cliff bars	1	[Robert will Provide]
'snack mix'/Sunflower nuts	1+	
PB Crackers	1+	
granola Bars	3+	
Drink Mix (Gatorade, Tang, electrolyte, true lemon, etc.)	4-8	[Robb & in PSJ stuff]
instant coffee packets	2-3	
Hot Coco	2-3	
Water Bottle(s) (1 liter)	1	
Gator Aid (lemon lime or Orang; and Crry Frost?)	2	
beef jerky	~.5 packs	
?S'more stuff	1 (Robert, Scott & Robb don't need)	
??Wet Wipes	1 mini packs	

Other Dinner Options (for another time):

Dinner: Tin foil Meal-beef, Vegetable frozen (broccoli, cauliflower, carrot), Parmesan, Bacon bits

Dinner: Hotdogs (kosher beef), crescent rolls, k-up; S'mores-chocolate coated cookie, marshmallow, moon pie

Dinner: Potato casserole: instant potatoes, canned chicken, mixed veg or corn (canned), Parmesan

Dinner: chili-mac: Chili, Mac & Cheese, Green beans (canned)

Budget

Campsite booking fee	\$ 20.00	
Fuel (~350mi @~18mpg x \$3.30/gal)	65.00	
Parking (~\$5/night x 3??)	15.00	
Shuttle driver (~65mi & 1.5hr)	50.00	140
Food Budget (~\$14/day x 3 days x 5)	<u>210.00</u>	
	~\$350.00/5 = \$75 each	

Suwannee River Trip Plan (Detailed)

Dates: Friday-Monday, November 17-20, 2023

Group: (5 Paddlers; 5 Kayaks, 0 canoe)

Robb Elmatti, Robert Williams, Scott Schoonmaker, Dorian Maxson, Ahkeem Desinor

Emergency Contact/support coordinator: Heather Elmatti (352) 348-8988

Friday, November 17--Destination: River bank camp

Launch point: Gibson Park Boat Ramp (River mile 135.4)

Points of interest:

-Alapaha Rise [wildlife encounters, rock cliff jump/swing] (135.7)	-.3 mi
-Alapaha River [feeder river] (134.2)	.2
-Big Oak Trail-Boat Ramp [residential area] (130.3)	3.9
-Suwannee River State Park-boat ramp (127.7)	2.6
-SRSP Group site/Withlacoochee River (127.5)	.2
-Bridge-Historic Hillman Bridge (127.4)	.1
-Bridge-Modern Highway 90 (127.2)	.2
-Bridge-Interstate 10 bridge (124.8)	2.4

Camp: A-'Half stop'-**Camp site** option A (124.3) *listen for highway noise .5

~11.1 miles

B-'rest spot?'-Camp site option B (123.7) .5

Saturday, November 18--Destination: Dowling Park River Camp (113.0)

Launch point: River bank camp (~124)

Points of interest:

-Black Track Campsite [loop Trails] (122.7)	1.6 mi
-Mill Creek North Campsite (122.2)	.5
-'Rest Stop 20' (121.0)	1.2
-'rest spot' (113.8)	7.2

Camp: Dowling Park River Camp (113.0) .8

~11.3 miles

Sunday, November 19--Destination: Dowling Park River Camp (113.0)

Points of interest: Rest Day [Solo, hike, games, food, etc.]

Monday, November 20--Destination: Lafayette Blue Springs Park-Boat Ramp (103.3)

Launch point: Dowling Park River Camp (113.0)

Points of interest:

-"Suwannee River Bridge" (112.7)	.3
-Rail Way Bridge (112.6)	.1
-Sims Landing-boat ramp (111.1)	1.5
-Charles Springs (106.5)	4.6
-Ezell Landing Boat Ramp (106.4)	.1

Takeout: Lafayette Blue Springs Park-Boat Ramp (103.3) 3.1

~9.7 miles

Group Gear

For personal use

- 10-15 *Dry Bags (2 to 3 per person)
- 5-10 *Pack liner bag/Trash bags (compactor or contractor)
- 4 *Sleeping Bag
- 4? **Pad (there are only a few available)
- 2 Tents

For Boats

- 5 -Kayaks & Canoe ('Fire'-Robert W.; 'Ice'-Robb; Scott's Perception-Scott; JB1 Green-Dorian; JB2 Green-Ahkeem)
- 6 -Paddles (one spare)
- 5 -Life-vest (w/ whistle)
- 5 -Rope (for each boat)
- 1 -Bilge pump
- 5 -Sponge?
- 5 -Glow Sticks?
- 5-10 -Ikea Tote bags (1 to 2 each)
- 5 Hydration system (old PSJ ones?)

Cooking & Hydration

- 1 -Water filter system
- 1 to 2 -collapsible water container
- 2 -Stove(s) (for 3 meals)
- 3-4 -Gas (cans that match the stoves)
- ? -Lantern?
- 2 -Pots (one for bacon & eggs, the other for boiling water)
- 1 -cutting board
- 1 -knife
- 2 -lighter
- 1 -dish soap (1 meal for pots, 1 or 2 for bowls)
- 1 -scrub pad
- 1 -serving spoon
- ? -spatula
- 1 -Seasoning?
- 1 24pk -Paper bowls? -only meal 1 or 2 need bowls)-
- 1 -Paper Towel roll
- 1 -Wet wipes (1 community pack)?
- 1 -Hand sanitizer

- 1 -Duck-Tape
- 1 -Rope (for close line, etc.)
- 1 -Drill Bit & Eye hooks
- 1 -Small Drill (Robert W.)
- ? -Tarp?
- 2 -Bear bags & Line
- 1 to 2 -Trowels (for primitive toilet)
- ? -Lighter Fluid (small amount for ease in starting fire)

- 1` -First Aid Kit & Mr. Blister
- 1 Guitar

- 1 -Machete
- ? -Saw?
- ? -Hatchet?

Useful Contacts:

Florida State Parks, Reservations:

<https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/suwannee-river-wilderness-state-trail/river-camps>

www.srwmd.org

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park (168.2)

386-397-4331

Day Use (including boat ramp) - \$5.35/night/car (4 nights = \$21.40)

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

tent camp and overnight parking available for a fee

Suwannee River Water Management

Edwin McCook

Direct line: 386-647-3106

800-226-1066 or 386-362-1001, www.mysuwanneeriver.com

-Contact For primitive Camping "special Use Permit" along the river on Management lands. Permit is free, but needs to be arranged ahead of time.

-Check Water level monitoring: <http://www.mysuwanneeriver.org/realtime/river-levels.php>

-Probability Predictions: https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/probability_information.php?wfo=jax&gage=wsp1

"you should reconsider your trip if level is over 62' at white springs; due to the hazards [strainers] created above those levels." -Edwin-

Edwin suggest that a paddle of ~10 miles/day is a good trip

River speed ranges from 3-4mi/hr

Map: wwals.net/wp-content/themes/pianoblack/img//2017/03/f28d3165141a21c56bc753e259c095f7.jpg

Gibson County Park

386-792-1631, Park Managers live on site: Jackie?

Tent Camp - \$5.50/night

Pavilion rental (w/ fire-ring) - \$22

Parking- no charge to park there for several days as a take-out point for a Suwanee river trip.

Lafayette Blue Springs State Park (parking/takeout location)

<https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/lafayette-blue-springs-state-park>

386-294-3667

Suwannee River Wilderness Trail

To reserve River Camps: 800-868-9914

Suwannee River State Park

Alternate take out: Suwannee River State Park Ramp (127.7)

tent site – \$5.35/night

overnight parking available for fee

Shuttle Services: Estimate for shuttle from Gibson park ramp to Stephen Foster ramp

386-364-4003 -County Cab, CO; Bob, Live Oak, FL (quoted \$45)

386-397-1309 -American Canoe Adventures, White Springs, FL (quoted \$59)

386-758-8294 -Mr. Taxi; Tom, Lake City, FL (quoted \$70)