



WI River Outings

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Helpful Hints and Suggestions for Organizing a Group Outing

Thank you for taking on the work and responsibility of organizing a group canoe outing. We appreciate your dedication to herd cats in order for them to enjoy our river.

Below are some helpful tips for the organizing of a large group and make your work less stressful.

1. Unless you're prepared to take on the financial responsibility for the entire group, **set a drop-dead date when money from the group is due**. We suggest as many as 4 weeks before your scheduled trip date if you can get away with it, but not less than 10 days. You should be able to hold off until 10 days out to book your trip, we still have inventory available unless you're looking at more than 20 boats.
2. We HIGHLY recommend that you **have the same cancellation policy as WRO**: Once your canoe is booked and the trip has been paid for, there are no refunds. If you can't make your trip, the weather is not to your liking or if the river is running over 17,000 cfs – you will have a credit that can be used at a later date. ALSO, to avoid some of this, consider building into your total Trip Cancellation Protection so those who do not show can be refunded rather than a credit – ask us for deets.
3. **Resist the urge to "cover" someone** who says, "I'll pay you that morning we head out onto the water." This is frequently the person who mysteriously doesn't show up at all and now you've got a canoe rental credit to use at some point in the future.
4. We find that **nonprofits have the most difficulty setting firm timelines** for their outings. There's nothing wrong with saying, "I'm sorry, you missed our deadline. We hope that next year when we organize this event again that you'll be among the first to sign up and pay."
5. Communicate with your group when packing to **avoid doubling up gear** like stoves, coolers and cooling utensils. Be sure to check out our [packing video](#) on YouTube.
6. It's a good idea that the "Jack Rabbits" of the group:
 - Not have any critical gear (like lunch, cooking gear or someone else's camping gear)
 - Tell them to stop for lunch 30 minutes earlier than you plan so they stop paddling and wait for the group
 - Ask them to collect as much firewood as possible, this gives them something to do rather than paddle all the way to the Gulf of Mexico
 - These suggestions come from experience, it's not unusual to not see the Jack Rabbits again, after pushing off, until you're at the boat landing the next day packing up
7. We've provided **tons of info on our site and in your email confirmation** that help with packing and directions to the start of your trip. A GPS is nice, but it is not 100% accurate. PLEASE, bring a map with you and verify what your GPS is telling you. Also, make sure everyone in your group knows where they're going and how to get there.

Again, thank you for putting this trip together! We look forward to seeing you this summer for a relaxing time on the river.