



Fall Float on the Flint 2018 Information Packet

Welcome to **Georgia River Network's Paddle Georgia 2018 Fall Float on the Flint**, produced in cooperation with **Flint Riverkeeper**. In this packet you'll find all you need to know to prepare for and participate in this adventure. Please review this information packet carefully. If, after reviewing this packet, you still have some questions...oops, we didn't do our job! Give Paddle Georgia Coordinator Joe Cook a call at 706-409-0128 or send an e-mail to joecookpg@gmail.com

Have You Signed Your Waiver???

If you have not signed your waiver already, you can sign the electronic form or access printable forms that can be signed and mailed to Georgia River Network by using the following link:

Adult: <https://www.smartwaiver.com/w/5b3fbdef6200d/web/>

Minor: <https://www.smartwaiver.com/w/5b3fbe905b4d9/web/>

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SECTION I: POLICIES AND PREPARATION

MISSION AND GENERAL POLICIES

About Georgia River Network

Fall Float on the Flint is organized by Georgia River Network, a non-profit organization that serves as the voice for Georgia's rivers, helping everyone enjoy, connect with and advocate for the protection of our rivers. Our partner organization, Flint Riverkeeper, is the water watchdog group for the entire Flint River basin.

About Fall Float on the Flint

Fall Float on the Flint is a three-day paddling adventure on the Flint River that was organized as a result of overwhelming demand for Georgia River Network's annual 7-day paddle trip—Paddle Georgia. Fall Float on the Flint, like the original Paddle Georgia, is open to all paddling skill levels and its purpose is to engage and empower citizens to become involved in the protection and restoration of Georgia's rivers. Along the way we will also have a great time.

Since its inception in 2005, more than 4,600 people have participated in Georgia River Network's Paddle Georgia. Thanks to paddlers like you, we have raised more than \$480,000 for river protection. Our participants come from all walks of life and have ranged in age from 4 to 84. In addition to experiencing the beauty of Georgia's rivers, these individuals have experienced a rare and unique sense of community during our journeys.

Fall Float on the Flint *is not* a commercial, for-profit guided trip for individuals. *It is* an educational community adventure led by volunteers and staff of non-profit organizations and depends on well-prepared and self-sufficient individuals and the pooled efforts of the entire Paddle Georgia group. As such, participants should come prepared to take care of all their own needs and to volunteer their services during the course of the journey. These services include assisting themselves and others at launch sites/take outs, serving dinners, breakfasts and lunches, or lending a hand to your paddling friend when one is needed. If you wish to be pampered by professional guides, this isn't the trip for you. But, if you want to experience a real community, brought together under a common goal and by the thrill of adventure, Paddle Georgia is it.

You are expected to adhere to the "leave no trace" ethic. This means that you leave the area where you travel and camp in such a manner that the next person to pass the path would never know that another human had passed before them. Pack out and dispose of all trash properly. This applies on the river, launches, take-outs, and campsites. To learn more about the "leave no trace" ethic visit: <http://www.lnt.org/programs/principles.php>

"Rogue" Paddlers:

Paddle Georgia shuttles, campsites, and all other services are for registered participants only. While anyone can use the river from public access points, some Paddle Georgia take out/launch sites are on private property and access to these locations has been arranged in advance by staff and un-registered paddlers may not have use of these take out/launch sites.

Early Departures:

In the event that you decide to leave the trip for any reason, you must make your own transportation arrangements for yourself and your boat(s). Georgia River Network staff will not be able to provide shuttle services to your vehicle or your home.

Baggage: Please place a label on your luggage, and all other personal belongings, that includes your name and contact information. This is a precaution just in case your equipment accidentally gets misplaced or lost.

During Fall Float on the Flint, we will camp all three nights at Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat. This means your vehicle will always be with you (except on the river, of course) so when it comes to baggage and camp gear, bring all you wish.

Personal Property: You are responsible for securing your valuables at camp and on the river. Georgia River Network provides overnight security for boats and equipment left in boats by the river each evening, and staff members maintain a presence at our campsites during the day. However, Georgia River Network cannot be responsible for securing your personal property. Please leave valuables at home or secure these items in a safe place throughout your journey. Georgia River Network is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen items.

Boats: ALL PARTICIPANTS SHOULD PUT THEIR NAME ON THE LEFT BOW OF THEIR BOAT (FRONT, LEFT IF YOU ARE SITTING IN IT) – YOU CAN USE A PIECE OF WATERPROOF TAPE AND PRINT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON IT: YOUR NAME & CELL PHONE #

All paddlers should be aware that the Flint, though it flows through the coastal plain, includes many limestone outcroppings and even a few shoals that can damage some boats. Boats made of delicate material and/or suited for paddling in oceans and other sandy-bottomed water bodies are not well suited for this trip. Bring them at your own peril. Only boats that can be carried by yourself and (if needed) one other person are appropriate for this trip.

PADDLE GEORGIA SAFETY

Paddle Georgia participants should be aware that this trip is not a commercially-guided trip. While Georgia River Network staff will be available on the river during each day's paddle, we cannot personally ensure the safety of all participants. Unlike a commercial trip in which paid guides direct you through each bend of the river, Paddle Georgia is designed to be your adventure, and as such, you are responsible for your own safety. **All participants are assuming risks (some of which are outlined below) while participating in Paddle Georgia.**

The following guidelines should be understood before disembarking and followed during the entirety of Paddle Georgia 2018 Fall Float on the Flint.

Paddle Georgia Safety Policies

1. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed.

2. All participants must attend the pre-launch safety briefing. Participants must adhere to the safety guidelines presented.
3. Participants must wear a properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard approved personal floatation device at all times on the river.
4. Participants under age 18 are the responsibility of, and must be accompanied by, a parent or guardian.
5. Sorry, no pets allowed.
6. All participants must sign a Medical and Emergency Contact Information sheet and a Waiver of Claims and Release of Liability form. Parents must sign for children under the age of 18. (http://www.garivers.org/paddle_georgia/fallfloat.html)
7. Person-powered watercraft only.
8. All participants must respect private property along the river.
9. All participants must have basic paddling skills and be capable of self-rescue in the water.
10. No more than 2 children under the age of 12 per adult guardian.
11. Children must be in a designated seat in all vessels (no children riding on the back of kayaks or in cockpits designed for one paddler).
12. Georgia River Network is not responsible for any personal property that may be lost, damaged, or stolen during the trip.

Violations of these policies can result in the participant being removed from the event without refund.

Skill Level Required:

Georgia River Network's Paddle Georgia 2018 Fall Float on the Flint is suitable for novice paddlers. Paddlers should have a basic understanding of paddle strokes, should be able to control their vessels in moving water and be capable of self-rescue in moving or deep water. If you are new to paddling, we highly recommend that you take a canoe/kayak paddling course prior to the trip. While there are some shoals and fast-moving water on the Flint, all obstacles on our route do not exceed Class I on the scale of difficulty.

Weather:

Average High Temperature: 80 F; Average Low Temperature: 55 F. Average October Rainfall: 2.64 inches

Hazards:

Strainers—Strainers are branches, trees, vegetation or other partially or totally submerged obstacles in the river's current often found along the river's edge. These hazards allow only water to pass through freely. The current will pull anything else down, plastering it into place, similar to the action of a kitchen colander. It is best to approach submerged trees or logs along the river bank from the downstream side to avoid having the current pin your boat against the obstacle or flipped by the force of the water. You should also avoid grabbing on to low hanging branches of partially submerged vegetation as this action can often cause your boat to capsize. To avoid a multi-boat pile up, leave enough room between boats to allow each boat to safely navigate around these obstacles.

Weather—Strong thunderstorms and high winds are not uncommon, even in the fall. In the event of inclement weather that includes the risk of lightning, paddle to shore, secure your boat and

find cover under a dense stand of small trees. Avoid open areas, especially open areas with solitary trees, and avoid gathering in large groups. By dispersing yourselves over a large area, you reduce the risk of lightning striking numerous individuals at one time. Squatting, with your feet on a personal flotation device or seat cushion, is a good idea when in the midst of a thunderstorm (while on solid ground—not in your boat!).

Sun and Heat—Hats and appropriate sunscreen are recommended. If you get too hot, the river comes with built in air conditioning – get in and cool off. You should carry at least three quarts of water each day to avoid *dehydration*. Sports drinks with electrolytes are also recommended. The first two days are usually the most difficult as we acclimate from spending lots of time in air-conditioned buildings to spending all day outdoors. Prepare by drinking lots of fluids in the days leading up to the trip.

Water Temperature—The combination of cold water and a cold afternoon thunderstorm raises the risk of dangerous changes in body temperature. Be prepared with rain gear and layered clothing that stays warm even when wet (avoid cotton).

Water Quality – Due to a variety of conditions, water quality can vary throughout the entire Flint River and organisms that cause illness may be present. Swimming and submersion in the water increase the risk of contracting water-borne illnesses. Ingesting river water should be avoided and cuts and sores should be kept out of the water and treated if exposed. Recent newspaper stories have documented sewage overflows in Albany upstream from our paddle path. This is an ongoing issue that has occurred in the past. During previous Fall Float events, the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream team’s bacteria monitoring has not shown any alarming levels of bacteria in the river. Flint Riverkeeper is actively working to get the City of Albany to solve its sewage overflow problems.

Trash—Unfortunately, the Flint River collects refuse from surrounding communities. Proper footwear and exercising caution can prevent unnecessary injuries. Participants should wear sandals or shoes that provide adequate protection from broken bottles, rusted appliance parts and tin cans and anything else you might find at your local landfill.

Venomous Snakes—The Flint River and the land surrounding it are potential habitats for three venomous snakes—rattlesnakes, copperheads and water moccasins. If you encounter any snakes, simply leave them alone. Should you have the misfortune of being bitten, remain calm and get medical assistance as quickly as possible. Bites from these venomous snakes are rarely fatal, given proper medical attention. At any given moment on this trip you will not be more than a few hours from a hospital.

Terra Firma—On its journey through the Coastal Plain, the river winds past varied terrain. There are many rock outcroppings along our route that can be treacherous. Please step carefully when paying visits to land. The limestone that is common on the river bottom and along the river’s banks can easily cut exposed hands and feet. Always wear proper fitting shoes. No flip flops. Close-toe water shoes will offer the best protection.

Your Fellow Paddlers—This is a journey involving many individuals with varying degrees of skill level. Space yourselves so that you do not interfere with one another when running shoals

and rapids and when maneuvering around obstacles. Pileups on the river can be just as dangerous as those that occur on interstate highways.

Paddle Georgia “Buddy System”

Paddle Georgia will rely on the “Buddy System” to ensure that all participants arrive safely at the day’s take-out point. Before each day’s paddle, identify your “buddy boat or boats.” This will be the boat or group of boats with whom you will paddle for the day. The group is responsible for ensuring that if someone needs help on the river that someone is nearby to provide help and that no one is left behind. Do not lose sight of your buddy boat or members of your buddy boat group. Participants who have not identified a buddy boat for the day’s paddle will not be permitted to launch from the day’s put-in point. A sweep boat will bring up the rear of the day’s paddle to further ensure that no one is left behind.

Other Considerations

What do I do if I capsize? On slow moving water, stay with your boat and swim it to shore or shallow water where you can dump the water and right your vessel. It floats even when full with water and can support you if you become tired. Make sure your belongings are secured to your boat to keep from losing them in the event of a capsize. Your fellow buddy boaters can assist in recovering any belongings and help you right your boat.

In fast-moving water or rapids, get away and upstream from your boat until you reach slower moving water. Float on your back, feet downstream. Don't try to stand in fast-moving water. Rocks or other objects can trap your feet and the force of the water can hold you under. Moving canoes filled with water can pin or crush paddlers against rocks or trees.

In the event of inclement weather... As noted above, thunderstorms are not uncommon, however, usually these afternoon-variety showers do not last long. If you are on the river during a storm event, take appropriate cover as described above, wait out the storm and continue your journey when it appears safe. Protective facilities along the river for large groups are not available.

Georgia River Network will make every effort to ensure that each day’s paddle is completed in full. However, if all-day dangerous weather is predicted, Paddle Georgia will be cancelled for the day. Boats will be shuttled to the day’s next put-in point and participants will be shuttled to the day’s next campsite (if moving campsites that day). Rain alone does not constitute dangerous weather. All participants are expected to paddle rain or shine, or they may make their own arrangements for moving themselves and their boats to the next put-in and campsite. Exceptions may be made for families paddling with small children.

Swimming... Swimming is permitted with PFDs, but of course, swim at your own risk. There are many excellent swimming holes along the entire route of the Fall Float. Water quality on this journey varies due to point and non-point source pollution. Water quality is generally at its least healthy immediately following rain events—this is especially true downstream of urban areas.

Private Property... As you will see, the Flint takes you through many a neighbor’s backyard. Private property must be respected. It is illegal to trespass onto someone’s property, and it is an offense that is prosecutable by law. You may not enter someone’s property unless you have first received permission. At least one rest stop, with portable toilet facilities and/or restrooms will be

available at the approximate midway point of each day's paddle, therefore it is imperative that you make use of bathroom facilities when they are available. If nature calls, please use a camp trowel and cover all human waste appropriately or carry a sealable plastic bag to remove your waste with you.

Communication in the Event of Emergency... There will be cellular phones on the river at all times (one with the lead boat, one with the sweep boat and others in between). In the event of an emergency, attempt to signal or locate a boat with a cellular phone. If cellular service is available, the participants in these boats can communicate with land-based emergency personnel and on-the-water motorized boats where available. The phone numbers for key Paddle Georgia staff will be distributed during our safety briefing on Friday, Oct. 5.

Universal River Signals... Paddle Georgia participants are expected to use universal river signals to communicate with other boats. They are as follows:

- Stop: Potential Danger Ahead—Form a horizontal bar with your paddle and outstretched arms above your head. Those seeing this signal should pass it back to others in the party. Participants should wait for the “all clear signal” before proceeding.
- All Clear—Form a vertical bar with your paddle, raising your arm and paddle above your head. The paddle blade should be turned flat for maximum visibility. This means the trip can proceed. To signal direction or preferred course through an obstacle, lower the all clear to a 45 degree angle toward the side of the river with the preferred route.
- Help/Emergency—Wave paddle over your head and give three long blasts on your whistle. Whistles are best carried attached to your life vest. This means other paddlers should assist the signaler as quickly as possible.
- I'm OK—Holding your elbow out to the side, repeatedly pat the top of your head with your hand. This signals that you are not hurt and do not need assistance.

HOW TO PACK AND PREPARE

What Do I Pack? (here's a checklist of suggested items!)

Labels with your name for your boat, luggage, and other personal belongings
Tent or Mosquito Netting
Ground Cloth
Sleeping Bag or Sleep Sack
Sleeping Pad
Reusable Plate/Utensils (wash stations provided)
Clothing for week
Waterproof Stuff Sacks for Camp Gear
Waterproof stuff sack or case for lunch and other on river items (like dry clothing).
Rain gear
Footwear
Clothes/Swimsuit
First Aid Kit
Sunscreen
Necessary Medication

Money to tip the caterers
Talent for the Talent Show
Insect Repellent
Towel/Wash Cloth
Soap, Toothpaste, Toiletries
Flashlight/Head Lamp
Book
Camera/Film
Whistle
Watertight cases for Boat
Fishing Gear/License
Duct Tape
Sponge
Bailer
Water Bottles (at least 3 quart bottles for each person)
Snacks for river and camp
Hat or Cap (don't forget to get your Paddle Georgia hats!)
Bug netting
Extra Length of Rope
Ear Plugs (Some of our paddlers snore!)
Sleep Shades (Lights out at 10 p.m.)
Laptop & Electronic Communication Devices (optional and frowned upon!)
Water Guns/Cannon (optional and encouraged!)
At least two paddles for each boat
Flexible mindset
Lightweight long sleeved pants or shirts for bug protection in the evening
Layered non-cotton clothing (lows can be in the 40s during October in Southwest Georgia)

What shouldn't I Pack?

No alcohol Permitted

WHAT DO I BRING ON THE WATER EACH DAY?

1. At least two paddles for each boat.
2. PFD—every Paddle Georgia participant must wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device at all times while on the river (no ifs, ands, buts or “gee, it’s really hot!” – this policy is STRICTLY enforced)
3. Every canoe should have two lines, a bow line and a stern line 8-10 feet each in length secured in such a way that they are readily accessible, but cannot come loose accidentally. Loose rope increases the risk of entanglement in the event of capsizing. Kayaks should have grab loops at both bow and stern.
4. An extra throw rope in case of emergencies should be stored safely in each boat.
5. Attach a whistle to your life vest or body to signal for help in case of emergency.
6. A Knife
7. Waterproof matches or other fire source in waterproof covering.
8. First Aid Kit—while boats will be on the river with basic first aid supplies, each vessel should bring a first aid kit stored inside a waterproof bag or container.

9. A repair kit—each vessel should be able to make their own repairs (duct tape, sealant, waterproof tape and other materials are recommended)
10. Rain Gear—Be prepared to get wet and potentially cold. Every participant should have access to a lightweight rain jacket and rain pants in a waterproof bag or container.
11. Change of Clothes—Be prepared to take an unexpected swim. Every participant should have access to a dry change of clothes kept in a waterproof bag or container.
12. Appropriate footwear that will protect your feet from unseen underwater hazards and permit you to walk comfortably on land when launching and taking out and in the event that you must exit the Paddle Georgia course.
13. Sunscreen—Sunburn might be the trip’s biggest hazard.
14. Water Bottle or Three —At least three quarts per person per day is recommended. Bring sufficient water for the day’s paddle for everyone in your boat. Also consider bringing electrolyte packs or powdered sports drink mix to add to your water to avoid dehydration. Drinking water is not available along the Paddle Georgia route and no drink is provided w/ sack lunches. Many paddlers will fill one bottle with water and another with sports drinks (provided each morning for you to fill your own bottles).
15. Food—There is little access to food along the Paddle Georgia route. Sack lunches are provided to participants for a fee (*See lunch registration information on page 15*). No drink is included with the lunch. You may choose to use this service or bring your own on-river lunches and snacks.
16. Dry Bag or Ziploc—Bring a waterproof bag to protect items you don’t want to get wet, including your lunch.
17. Mosquito Net and/or bug spray.
18. Toilet Paper & Camp Trowel—Each day Paddle Georgia provides one “pit stop” station with a portable toilet approximately equidistance from the launch and take out. However, when nature calls, nature calls. Bring toilet paper and a camp trowel to bury your waste in case nature does call.

SECTION II: REGISTRATION DETAILS

CHECK-IN

All participants must check in at Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat on the afternoon/evening of Friday, Oct. 5 or the morning of Saturday, Oct. 6. Upon check-in, you will receive your event packet that includes items like your Fall Float T-shirt, souvenir decal and your on-river maps and descriptions.

Check-In Times:

Oct. 5: 3 p.m.-8 p.m.

Oct. 6: 7 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

Note: Participants arriving earlier than 3 pm on Oct. 5 WILL NOT be allowed to register early.

Directions to Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat, 2909 Newton Highway, Newton, GA 39870:

From I-75 Southbound: From Exit 99 in Cordele, go west/south toward Albany 35 miles. At intersection with U.S 82 in Albany (Clark Ave.) turn right and proceed 1.5 miles to entrance ramp to U.S. 19/Ga. 300 southbound on right. Turn right and enter U.S. 19 /Ga. 300 (Liberty Expy.) and proceed 2 miles to Ga. 133 (Moultrie Road) exit. Exit right and proceed 0.8 mile. At 0.8 mile Moultrie Road continues right and East Oakridge Dr. bears to the left. Bear left on East Oakridge Dr. and proceed 2.9 mile to Ga. 91. Turn left on Ga. 91 and proceed 20 miles to Ga. 37 in Newton. Continue straight on Ga. 91 0.9 mile to entrance to Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat on left.

From I-75 Northbound: From Exit 39 in Adel, go west on Ga. 37 21.7 miles to 2nd St. in Moultrie. Turn left on 2nd Street and proceed 0.3 mile to West Central Ave. Turn right on West Central Ave (Ga. 37) and proceed 26 miles to Camilla. In Camilla continue on Ga. 37 11 miles to Ga. 91 intersection in Baker County. Turn left on Ga. 91 and proceed 0.9 mile to entrance to Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat on left.

Google Map of Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat:

<https://www.google.com/maps/@31.3028833,-84.3422394,16.79z>

GPS Coordinates: 31.301389, -84.344167

BOAT DROP-OFF

All participants must drop off their boats either Friday, Oct. 5 or the morning of Oct. 6 at our private launch location near Baconton. Read directions below carefully as a GPS unit may be of limited use finding this location (don't call for an address; there is not one!)

Boat Drop-Off Times: Oct. 5: 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. or Oct. 6: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

Directions to Boat Drop from I-75 Southbound: From Exit 99 in Cordele, go west on Ga. 300 35.2 miles to U.S. 82 in Albany. Turn right on U.S. 82 and proceed 1.6 miles to highway interchange with U.S. 19. Pass beneath U.S. 19 and turn right onto entrance ramp to U.S. 19 south traveling 14.4 miles to Daniels St. in Baconton. Turn right and

proceed 0.6 mile to railroad track and Old State Rte. 3. Continue straight across Old State Rte. 3 and proceed 0.9 mile to dirt Old Bainbridge Road. Across Old Bainbridge Road is a gate and dirt road leading through a pecan grove. Proceed straight on this dirt road (look for Paddle Georgia signs) 1.2 mile to river. Where road deadends at the river turn right and proceed to boat drop off area. PLEASE NOTE: Remain on the dirt road through the pecan grove. Pecans will likely still be on the ground and they need to be harvested—not crushed under vehicle tires! Also, staying on the designated road will ensure that irrigation systems are not damaged.

Directions to Boat Drop from I-75 Northbound: From Exit 39 in Adel (Ga. 37), go west on Ga. 37 toward Moultrie 20.2 miles. In Moultrie, turn left on U.S. 319 and proceed 0.7 mile to 1st Avenue (Ga. 37 West). Turn right and proceed 2 miles to 5th Street. Turn right, proceed one block and then turn left on W. Central Ave. (Ga. 37). Continue on Ga. 37 19.7 miles to Stage Coach Road. Turn right on Stage Coach Road and proceed 5.1 miles to Greenough Road. Turn left and proceed 0.4 mile to return to Stage Coach Road. Turn right on Stage Coach Road and proceed 3.1 miles to Jackson Dairy Road. Turn left and proceed 3 miles to U.S. 19. Continue across U.S. 19 straight to Daniels Street and 0.6 mile to railroad track and Old State Rte. 3. Continue straight across Old State Rte. 3 and proceed 0.9 mile to dead end at Old Bainbridge Road. Across Old Bainbridge Road is a gate and dirt road leading through a pecan grove. Proceed straight on this dirt road (look for Paddle Georgia signs) 1.2 mile to river. Where run dead ends at the river turn right and proceed to boat drop off area. PLEASE NOTE: Remain on the dirt road through the pecan grove. Pecans will likely still be on the ground and they need to be harvested—not crushed under vehicle tires!

Directions from Boat Drop Off to Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat: Return to Old State Rte. 3. Turn right and proceed 4.5 miles to River Road. Turn right and proceed 7 miles to Ga. 37. Turn right and travel 2.9 miles to Ga. 91 in Newton. Turn left on Ga. 91 and proceed 0.6 mile to entrance to Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat on left.

Directions from Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat to Boat Drop Off: From entrance to Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat, turn right on Ga. 91 and proceed 0.7 mile to Ga. 37. Turn right and proceed 3 miles to River Road. Turn left and proceed 7 miles to Radium Springs Road (Old State Route 3). Turn left and proceed 4.5 miles to Bowles Street. Turn left on Bowles Street and proceed 0.9 mile to dirt Old Bainbridge Road. Across Old Bainbridge Road is a gate and dirt road leading through a pecan grove. Proceed straight on this dirt road (look for Paddle Georgia signs) 1.2 mile to river. Where road deadends at the river turn right and proceed to boat drop off area. PLEASE NOTE: Remain on the dirt road through the pecan grove. Pecans will likely still be on the ground and they need to be harvested—not crushed under vehicle tires! Also, staying on the designated road will ensure that irrigation systems are not damaged.

Google Map of Boat Drop Off :

<https://goo.gl/maps/ZKqsYyEeWZz>

GPS Coordinates: [31.372512, -84.199620](#)

HOW DO I RETRIEVE MY BOAT AT THE END OF THE PADDLE?

On the morning of Monday, Oct. 8, all paddlers will drive their vehicles to our final take out site so that when you arrive at the take out your vehicle and camping gear will be waiting for you. A shuttle bus will pick up participants at the final take out site and return paddlers to the day's launch site. Upon arrival at the final take out, you will retrieve your vehicle, load your boat(s) and return home.

Directions from Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat to Final Take Out Parking: From the entrance to Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat, turn left and proceed 13.2 miles to Ga. 253. Turn left and proceed 16.8 miles to Flint River Heights Road. Note: Flint River Heights Road meets Ga. 253 twice. Do not take the first left turn to Flint River Road; take the second! Turn left and proceed 0.2 mile to gravel drive on right. Park vehicles in field along drive. **Please note the parking area is a 0.4 mile walk from the boat ramp at the river.

Google Map of Final Take Out Parking Area:

<https://www.google.com/maps/@30.9613129,-84.5639436,556m/data=!3m1!1e3>

GPS Coordinates: 30.9614366, -84.5644659

Directions to Hoggard Mill Boat Ramp and then to Final Take Out Parking: Some participants may wish to drop their passengers at our final day launch site before proceeding to the final day take out parking. If so, here's directions to the launch site and then to the take out site parking.

From the entrance to Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat, turn left and proceed 10.4 miles to Hoggard Mill Road. Turn left on dirt Hoggard Mill Road and proceed 3.6 miles to Lee Heard Road. Turn left and proceed 0.7 mile to boat ramp. After dropping passengers return to Hoggard Mill Road and turn left. Proceed 3.4 miles to Ga. 253. Turn left and proceed 12.2 miles to Flint River Heights Road. Note: Flint River Heights Road meets Ga. 253 twice. Do not take the first left turn to Flint River Road; take the second! Turn left and proceed 0.2 mile to gravel drive on right. Park vehicles in field along drive. **Please note the parking area is a 0.4 mile walk from the boat ramp at the river.

For individuals who may be having someone pick them up at the final take out here are directions from I-75:

Directions to Final Take Out Parking Area From I-75 Southbound (from Atlanta): From Exit 99 in Cordele, go west/south on Ga. 300 35 miles to Albany. At intersection of Ga. 300 and U.S. 82 continue straight on Cordele Road 0.5 mile to U.S. 82 Bus. (Oglethorpe Blvd). Turn right and proceed 1.4 miles to interchange with Liberty Expy. (U.S. 19). Turn right on to entrance ramp to U.S. 19 south and proceed south toward Camilla. At 18.5 miles turn right on

River Road and proceed 17.9 miles to Ga. 311. At Ga. 311, turn right and proceed 23.1 miles to Calhoun St. in Bainbridge. Turn right on Calhoun St. and proceed 1 mile to Ga. 253 (Newton Road) on right. Turn right and proceed 3.6 miles to Flint River Heights Road on right. Turn right and proceed 0.3 mile to dirt driveway on right (150 Flint River Heights Road). Parking will be in field. Charters buses and tractor trailer for boats will load here.

Directions to Final Take Out Parking Area From I-75 Northbound: From Exit 16 in Valdosta (U.S. 84/221), go west on U.S. 84 38 miles to Thomasville. At 38 miles exit right on to U.S. 84 Bypass and proceed 2.9 miles to intersection of U.S. 84 and U.S. 19. Turn right on U.S. 84 west toward Bainbridge and proceed 5.2 miles to intersection with Cairo Road. Bear right and proceed west on U.S. 84 toward Cairo/Bainbridge. At 32 miles reach intersection of U.S. 84 Bus./U.S. 84 in Bainbridge. Continue 1.7 miles on U.S. 84 Bus. (Shotwell St) to Broad St. (Ga. 97). Turn right on Broad St. and proceed 0.4 mile to Calhoun St. Turn left on Calhoun St. and proceed 0.7 mile to Ga. 253 (Newton Road) on right. Turn right and proceed 3.6 miles to Flint River Heights Road on right. Turn right and proceed 0.3 mile to dirt driveway on right (150 Flint River Heights Road). Parking will be in field. Charters buses and tractor trailer for boats will load here.

MEAL INFORMATION

Your Fall Float on the Flint registration includes all meals, beginning Friday, Oct. 5, with dinner and ending with lunch on Monday Oct. 8 (3 dinners, 3 lunches, 3 breakfasts). Meals will be professionally catered. Sack lunches will include sandwich, chips, fruit and dessert and will be picked up each morning during breakfast.

In an effort to reduce the amount of waste created on our journey, please bring a **Reusable Plate and Utensils**. Dishwashing stations will be available at each meal so that you can easily clean these items.

Coffee: Café Campesino will not be on hand this year serving coffee in the morning and afternoons. Coffee will be provided by our breakfast caterer.

Breakfasts: Breakfasts will be provided by Main Street Café in Camilla and will include eggs, grits, meats, fruit and other breakfast foods.

Lunch: Lunches will be provided by Main Street Café in Camilla. When you registered, you chose between the following sandwiches: ham and cheese, turkey salad, pimento cheese, hummus, and peanut butter and jelly) A volunteer will remind you of your choice each morning when you pick up your lunches during breakfast. Make sure you bring a dry bag to keep your lunch dry on the river.

Dinners: Also provided by Main Street Café in Camilla, these meals will be buffet-style with ample food for the hungry paddler. Menus are as follows:

Friday, Oct. 5: Honey Wrapped Chicken Breast, Brown Rice, Butter Beans, Poppy Seed Salad, Yeast Rolls, Chocolate Delite, Teas

Saturday, Oct. 6: Barbecue Chicken, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Yeast Rolls, Coconut Pie, Teas

Sunday, Oct. 7: Roast Beef & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Layered Salad, Yeast Rolls, Banana Pudding

SECTION III: OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Special Tours Information & Details

Georgia River Network will offer several educational tours of local points of interest during the week. Information is provided here so you can plan your itinerary. Registration for the various tours for which pre-registration is required will take place during the week. Any fees associated with these tours are noted in the descriptions.

Oct. 8 Jones Ecological Research Center: Stop and visit with scientists and biologists from the Jones Center to learn about longleaf pines, Flint River mussels and more. The Center focuses on research to better understand longleaf pine ecosystems and aquatic ecology and water resources. Representatives from the Jones Center will be by the river from 8:30-11:30.

Oct. 7 Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Workshop

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream instructors will offer chemical water quality monitoring workshops during Fall Float on the Flint. The training begins on the river Sunday, Oct. 7. During the on-river training, trainers and students will stop at several locations to demonstrate chemical monitoring protocols, collecting and testing water quality samples. Following the on-river training, participants can complete the Adopt-A-Stream certification process in camp, either that evening or later during the trip. By participating in this training, you'll have the opportunity to assist in Georgia Adopt-A-Stream's assessment of the health of the Flint River and its tributaries. When you return home, you'll have a greater understanding of rivers and streams, and you'll be certified to conduct routine water quality monitoring on a local waterway.

Once certified, interested participants will be encouraged to assist the monitoring team by conducting additional sampling during the course of the trip. By participating in this workshop, you will gain firsthand knowledge of the many issues our rivers are facing.

You can register to participate in the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream workshop at registration on Oct. 6 at Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat.

Fall Float Live Auction

Back by popular demand, on Sunday, Oct. 7, we will hold a live auction to raise money for Georgia River Network and Flint Riverkeeper river protection projects. Do you have a mountain cabin or beach condo you'd be willing to donate to the cause? Perhaps your business can provide a service or product? Are you an artist? Why not donate a piece of your art? This is a great way to learn about your fellow paddlers, have some fun and take home some great prizes from your time on the Flint. To donate an item, please send a description of the item and retail value to Joe Cook at joecookpg@gmail.com

Fall Float Raffle

The good folks at Flint Riverkeeper have done it again! They've secured a beautiful NuCanoe Flint kayak for our Fall Float Raffle. The NuCanoe Flint is a versatile sit-on-top kayak fishing boat that can be configured to suit your specific needs. Retail value is \$999. Learn more about it at <https://www.nucanoe.com/the-flint-coming-january-2018/>

Raffle tickets are \$10 each or 15 for \$100 and may be purchased during Fall Float on the Flint. The winner of the boat will be announced Sunday, Oct. 7 during our evening program.

Fall Float Poker Run!

Push your chips in to help Georgia River Network raise money to protect Georgia rivers! During the four days of Fall Float on the Flint, we'll hold a poker run. Each participant makes a \$25 donation to Georgia River Network. Then during the course of our journey, you will draw a card from a regulation card deck. The person with the best poker hand at the end of the trip wins the pot. Our pot will be based on how many paddlers "push in their chips." If 10 or more participate, the pot will be \$100; if 20 or more compete, \$150; 30 or more = \$200; and 40 or more = \$250. Registration for the Fall Float Poker Run will take place during registration on Oct. 5-6.

SECTION IV: ITINERARY & CAMPSITES

Paddle Georgia Fall Float on the Flint Daily Itinerary

Friday, Oct. 5

Boat Drop:	2:00-6:00	Private Landing near Baconton
Registration:	3:00-8:00	Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat
Set- Up Camp:	3:00-8:00	Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat
Dinner:	6:30-7:30	Kick-Off Feast provided by Main Street Café
Evening Program:	7:30-9:00	Welcome, Safety Briefing, Water Trail Update
Lights Out	10:00	

Saturday, Oct. 6

Registration:	7:00-8:00	Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat
Boat Drop:	7:00-8:00	Private Landing near Baconton
Breakfast:	6:30-8:00	Provided by Main Street Café
Launch:	7:00-8:30	Buses Leave for Launch Site
Take-Out:	2:00-5:00	No shuttles! Take Out is at Campsite!
Dinner:	6:30-7:30	Dinner provided by Main Street Café
Evening Program:	7:30-8:30	Flint Riverkeeper, Campfire
Lights Out	10:00	

Sunday, Oct. 7

Breakfast:	6:30-8:00	Provided by Main Street Cafe
Launch:	7:00-8:30	Launch at Campsite!!!
Special Tour	8:30-11:30	Jones Ecological Research Center
Take-Out:	2:00-5:00	Take out at Norman's Ferry Boat Ramp & Shuttle to Camp
Dinner:	6:30-7:30	Provided by Main Street Cafe
Evening Program:	7:30-8:30	Live Auction, Raffle, Flint River Trivia Contest, Campfire
Lights Out	10:00	

Monday, Oct. 8

Breakfast:	6:30-8:00	Provided by Main Street Café
Shuttle to Take Out	7:30-8:30	Participants drive cars to Take Out Parking
Launch:	8:00-9:30	Buses shuttle participants from take out parking to launch site
Take-Out:	2:00-5:00	Flint River Heights Road

Campsite Description

Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat: There's nothing quite as nice as camping on the river. Flint River Retreat provides that...and in a beautiful setting. Shaded, grassy tent camping sites along the river are numerous as well as many shaded spots away from the river. Private rental cabins and RV sites can be reserved by calling Frances Deese at 229-343-2767. Shower facilities are extremely limited--1 mens, 1 womens and 1 co-ed...that is, men and women can take turns, ahem! The co-ed shower is an outdoor shower tent with hot water. Please take short showers and be patient. If you wish, you may bring your own camp shower. With the exception of rental

cabins, there is **NO** indoor camping! Bring your tent! Meals will be served in “The Pavilion,” an air-conditioned dining hall that seats about 70. Overflow dining will be on picnic tables on the lawns surrounding “The Pavilion” Evening programs and announcements will be conducted from the porch of “The Pavilion.”

Nearby amenities: Rocky Bend is located outside of Newton, but the only amenity in Newton is a convenience store located 0.9 mile from the Rocky Bend entrance at the corner of Ga. 37 and Ga. 91. Camilla, 12 miles to the east, is the nearest town with grocery stores, drug stores and other amenities.

Alternative Accommodations: Camilla Inn Hotel & Suites-229-336-0731, Days Inn Camilla- 229-336-0330, Eagle Eyrie Bed & Breakfast-229-336-8811.

Paddle Georgia 2019 Canoe-a-thon Pledge Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____



Thank you for participating in the Paddle Georgia 2019 Canoe-a-thon. This Pledge Sheet will allow you to solicit donations to Georgia River Network from family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. GRN will use the funds for its programs and to provide grants to local watershed groups who are working to protect the rivers we paddle.

Simply use Page 2 of the Pledge Form to record the names of donors and the amount they donated. This money should be collected at the time of the solicitation and returned to Georgia River Network by the morning of June 15, 2018 or Oct. 6, 2018 at Fall Float on the Flint (if you do not wish to continue raising funds after Fall Float on the Flint). You may also utilize our online fundraising system at: <https://www.firstgiving.com/garivers/paddle-georgia-canoeathon-2019> This is a great way to solicit hundreds of your friends and, because the online system tracks all giving, you can keep track of others competing for our great prizes!

The Canoe-a-thon works just like a walk-a-thon. Ask prospective donors to sponsor your boat at a specific amount for each of the miles you'll be paddling during Paddle Georgia

The money you raise goes to support Georgia River Network's efforts to engage people in enjoying and protecting their rivers, empower citizens and Georgia's network of more than 40 local watershed protection groups to effectively address issues impacting their waterways, and advocate alongside them for strong protections for our rivers.

More than \$2000 in prizes will be awarded to those participants generating the most money. Prizes will include new boats (canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, etc. and other products and services from our sponsors and supporters. Please visit our website: http://www.garivers.org/paddle_georgia/ for updated lists of Canoe-a-thon prizes.

Participants in Paddle Georgia generating more than \$850 in Canoe-a-thon pledges and participants in Fall Float on the Flint generating more than \$650 may request to have their registration fees reimbursed!

Prize winners will be announced during Paddle Georgia 2019. All prizes will be awarded based on total canoe-a-thon donations turned in at the Paddle Georgia registration desk by the morning of June 15—no exceptions.

The top 250 fundraisers in the 2019 Canoeathon, raising at least \$300, will be eligible for priority registration in 2020. See the website for details. Thanks again for participating in the Canoe-a-thon. See you on our rivers!

YOUR DONATION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Thank you for your support.
Donations of More than \$35 Receive a Year's Membership in Georgia River Network

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TOTAL COLLECTED \$ _____

Remember, all money must be returned to Georgia River Network via mail or in person at the Paddle Georgia registration desk on June 15, 2019 to be eligible for prizes. Prize winners will be announced during the week of Paddle Georgia.

