



BOATING INFO

- Always wear a life jacket! Required for Lewisburg Public Paddlers!
- Obtain proper instruction in boating skills; learn by going with a friend with boat experience at first
- Know boating regulations (PFD/life vest, whistle, launch permit at Fish and Boat ramps, flashlight)
- Be prepared for hazards (esp. strainers and sweepers; <https://paddling.com/learn/river-hazards/>)
- Carry proper equipment (again PFD/life vest, whistle, flashlight, water-ready clothing and footwear)

PLAN YOUR TRIP

- Tell someone where you are boating and when you expect to return
- Check the weather and know the waters where you will boat (or go with a friend who knows them!)
- Check river conditions (<http://bit.ly/LburgRiverGauge> and <http://bit.ly/LburgHydrograph>, good from 1.5' to 3' stage and ok from 3' to 6'; no go above that! Also check windspeed and direction.)
- Stay away from hazards like dams and trees in the water
- Drinking and boating do not mix
- For more boating safety information visit www.fishandboat.com

PADDLING TIPS

- Expect to get wet -- dress properly. Even the best paddlers sometimes capsize or swamp their boats.
- What's the weather? A wet or dry suit is needed if water temp + air temp is less than 100 degrees.
- Be prepared to swim. If the water looks too hazardous to swim in, don't go paddling.
- Do not carry water-sensitive items with you (battery-powered car keys/phones) without dry bagging.
- If you capsize, hold on to your boat, unless it presents a life-threatening situation.
- Wear wading shoes or tennis shoes with wool, polypropylene, pile, or neoprene socks. No flip-flops!
- Never take your boat over a low-head dam.
- Portage (carry) your boat around any section of water about which you feel uncertain.
- Avoid boating alone. Boating safety increases with numbers.
- Keep painter lines (ropes tied to the bow) and any other ropes coiled and secured.
- Never tie a rope to yourself or to another paddler, especially a child.
- In a canoe, kneel to increase your stability before entering rougher water, like a rapid.
- If you collide with an obstruction, lean toward it.
- If you end up in rapids without the boat, float through with your feet at the surface in front of you.

STOWING GEAR

- When you retrieve a boat, pay attention to how it is attached to the rack. Boats should be upside down (so as not to fill with rain) and the cable should loop through a solid portion of the boat (usually part of the seat assembly) and then around a metal stanchion on the rack.
- When sliding the boats on and off the rack, try to avoid scraping them on the metal.
- PFD's (Personal Flotation Devices or life vests) are not locked. They should just be hung on the side of the rack when you are done with them.

LOGISTICS

- Has everyone you are boating with filled out a waiver? You can bring a guest, but make sure they fill out the waiver first and leave it with the log book.
- If you bring a guest a couple of times and they think they would like access on their own, please have them sign up (do the briefing and contribute).
- Retrieve the key from the lockbox. (Separate instructions provided by email.)
- Unlock the boat(s) you want to use.
- Unlock the trailer box and pull out the appropriate paddles (double-ended paddles for kayaks, single paddles for canoes).
- Note in the log book the day, time out, boat(s) taken, the stage of the river, and your name.
- Select and fit your PFDs, adjust the straps as necessary for a snug fit.
- Put away your battery-operated car keys and phone in a safe, not-in-the boat place (could be in the trailer).
- Relock the box and lock the cable back to the rack and replace the key in the lockbox before you carry your gear down to the ramp.

TRIP REMINDERS

- Be ready to paddle upstream, and also ready to adapt if it proves too difficult to make much headway.
- Avoid paddling downstream first. It is very easy to get farther than you can easily make it back.
- If you do go to the Fence (downstream!) by boat. Have a back up plan for pick up if necessary and be aware that the bank below the restaurant is VERY muddy.
- Look for good weather – you don't want to be out on the water during a thunderstorm.
- The boats on our rack are beaters (fairly humble, e.g. the orange one is missing the footpegs), but please try to keep from scraping them up more than they already are. If in doubt about clearance, wade a bit.
- The river is very shallow at the St George St boat ramp and by Soldiers Memorial Park. Depending on your weight, you may need to wade next to the boat (feel free to go upstream while wading) until you can get in without hitting bottom.