



Suwannee River Paddling Festival

April 5-7, 2019



Home Base: Suwannee River State Park

Total Paddling Distance: 20 miles over two days

Registration Deadline: March 22, 2019 or until festival capacity is reached

Participation Limit: 100 paddlers

Festival Fee: \$175 per person. Includes camping, meals, shuttles river maps, t-shirt, water bottle, and evening entertainment for the weekend.

Official Outfitter: [Suwannee Canoe Outpost](#)

Paddling Itinerary:

DAY	Launch	Destination	Daily Miles
1	N/A	Suwannee River State Park	0
2	Madison Blue Spring State	Suwannee River State Park	12
3	Gibson Park	Suwannee River State Park	8
		TOTAL MILES:	20

- **Day 1/Friday, April 5: Suwannee River State Park, *Paddling Miles: 0***

Festival participants will check in at Suwannee River State Park between 1-5PM. After checking in, they will set up their tents on the scenic bluff overlooking the confluence of the Suwannee and Withlacoochee Rivers. This spot offers one of the most picturesque river sunset views anywhere in Florida, and it's close to pavilions, picnic tables, restrooms, and 5-minute walk to hot showers in the campground.





An outdoor buffet dinner will be served at 6PM, followed by an overview of the weekend and an educational presentation by regional waterway advocates. Afterwards, we'll light the campfire and lead a moonlight walking tour to nearby ruins and an abandoned graveyard.

By the way, on a nice night, the sunset view from our campsite overlooking the river has to be one of the most beautiful in the state!



- **Day 2/Saturday, April 6: Madison Blue Springs State Park to Suwannee River State Park**
Paddling Miles: 12



A buffet breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. From 8:30-9:30, shuttles will take paddlers and their boats to today's launch site at Madison Blue Spring State Park. Under the right river level conditions, this park features one of the prettiest first magnitude springs in North Florida.

Today's journey will take us 12 miles down the winding Withlacoochee River to its confluence with the Suwannee. Again, if water levels are favorable, there will be two or three springs to see along the way. When you see tents on the bluff ahead, turn left! After a couple hundred yards

going up the Suwannee, paddlers will pull into the Suwannee River State Park boat ramp.



After lunch, paddlers can relax for the afternoon or explore the park's river- and spring-side hiking trails. After our 6PM dinner, paddlers will be treated to a benefit concert by some of Paddle Florida's favorite musical performers. Musicians are donating their time and talents to this event, and concert proceeds will benefit our chosen waterway advocacy organization. We'll end the evening around the campfire.

- **Day 3/Sunday, April 7: Gibson Park to Suwannee River State Park**
Paddling Miles: 8



After breakfast at 7:30 a.m., paddlers will again be shuttled between 8:30-9:30 to their launch site at Gibson Park. Today's Suwannee paddle will be a nice leisurely 8-mile float back to camp. A final barbeque lunch will be served as paddlers pack up their boats and camping gear and head back home with fond memories of a weekend spent on the water.

