

Summer Float Party 2021 Frequently Asked Questions

- **What counts as a “floaty”?**
 - o Anything you can fill up with air and float on top of the water with. “Floaties” also include things made of foam (like pool noodles). You will not be allowed to use hard sided, foldable, or full-sized canoes, kayaks, or SUPs for this event.
- **What time should I get there?**
 - o You can show up any time between 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Check in begins at 9:45 a.m., and we recommend getting on the water by 12:30 p.m.
- **Where will I park?**
 - o [The Dammrich Rowing Center](#) is not easily accessible via public transit, and although it’s right off of the North Shore Channel Trail, you may find it difficult to bike with your floaty, so we recommend.
 - o The Rowing Center has very little parking, reserved for media and staff. Fortunately, Home Depot (2201 Oakton St, Evanston, IL 60202) has granted us permission to use the southwest corner of their lot. It’s just a few minutes’ walk from the lot to the Rowing Center, and we will have signs and volunteers out there to help direct you.
 - o You *will* be able to drive into the Rowing Center parking lot to drop folks and floaties off. We will have signs and volunteers to help guide you with this as well.
 - o Please keep in mind Oakton Street can get busy, so be cautious of traffic and your fellow floaters walking into the park.



- **What if I float all the way to downtown?**
 - We will have volunteers on canoes and kayaks on either end of the docks to keep floaters close to the shore and dock at the Rowing Center.
 - You will get into and out of the river at the Rowing Center.
- **How will I stay safe on the water?**
 - Your safety is of the utmost importance. Heed all directions from staff and volunteers, including canoe guides on the water.
 - Be careful getting in and out of the water from the dock. There will be volunteers to assist you on the dock, should you need it. Take your time and be mindful that the docks will be wet and slippery.
 - All floaters are **STRONGLY** encouraged to wear shoes while floating (water shoes or an old pair of sneakers). If you end up in the water and swim to shallow water to walk to the shore, we have **NO** way of knowing what's on the bottom (broken glass, broken concrete, buckthorn branches, etc.).
 - No rough-housing on the water. Anyone endangering other participants will be given a warning and then asked to leave.
 - Don't knock anyone off their floaty. Play games on land, not in the river.
 - Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) must be worn at all times on the water. You need to be safe in the event your floaty deflates or you fall off. We will have a limited number to rent (\$5 cash) next to check in. Review the safety information below for how to properly wear your PFD:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKS1yc6J004>
 - <https://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/life-jacket-wear-wearing-your-life-jacket.php>
 - If your float deflates a Guide boat will assist you.
 - If you see anyone in trouble, assist them but most importantly get word to the nearest guide boat (have other floaters pass your mayday call up and down the line of floaters to the nearest guide boat).
 - No glass allowed out on the water.
 - Stay hydrated. You can get in and out of the river, so be sure to drink plenty of water and use the restroom facilities (wear your mask). Bring your reusable water bottles for the water fountain!
 - Basic first aid will be available at the check-in tent.
- **COVID-19?**
 - You must wear masks in the restrooms.
 - Do your best to keep your distance from others on the water and on land.
 - Do **NOT** let the masks become trash throughout the park and water.
 - [See our registration page for additional details.](#)

- **I saw I need to sign some waivers?**
 - If you signed up after Friday (8/20) morning, bring your email confirmation for the [Release of Liability waiver](#). Help us cut down on paper copies, and *sign the waiver ahead of time!*
 - [You must sign a paper copy of our Friends' waiver](#) (we encourage you to read it ahead of time to expedite the process), regardless of pre-registration. We will have copies at the check-in tent.
- **How do I inflate my floaty?**
 - We will have at least one air compressor on site. A volunteer will help inflate your floaty to 90-95%. If you want it fuller, you can do so yourself with the air compressor. We don't want to accidentally pop anyone's floaty!
 - We *strongly recommend* that you come with your floaty as inflated as you can. Keep in mind that there may be a line to inflate, so please be patient!
- **What will I do with my things?**
 - Don't bring anything to the park or onto the water that you're not prepared to lose! We love photos from the water, but the bottom of the river has become home to many phones over the years during other events.
 - We can store your keys, phone, and wallet in a quart-sized Ziploc bag (please note, we are not responsible for your belongings).
 - Again, we strongly encourage you to leave your phones on dry land to prevent losing them to the river.
 - You're welcome to bring your towel and other personal items, but we will not be able to store these larger items for you, so leave them on the lawn while you float.
 - Again, we are not responsible for your belongings, so you should not bring anything with you that you would be heartbroken over losing.
- **Restrooms?**
 - There are restrooms on site.
- **Food?**
 - We will not have food on site, so bring your own lunch. Make sure that all wrappers and foodware gets packed out with you. There are no trash cans.
 - Bring plenty of water with you, though there is a drinking fountain at the restrooms.
- **Room to picnic?**
 - There is a small lawn area where you could sit down out of the water to eat, but there are no picnic tables or shade available at the site.
- **What to wear?**
 - Water shoes are *highly* recommended
 - Sunscreen
 - Hat/Sunglasses recommended
 - Life jacket (either your own or rent one from us for \$5)
- **Can I bring my dog?**
 - We ask that you do not bring your dog to this event.

- **I see Molson Coors Beverage Company is sponsoring; can I bring alcohol?**
 - o No alcohol is permitted in the park or on the water, but join us for an after party at [Village Inn Bar and Grill](#), 8050 Lincoln Ave, Skokie, IL 60077. They'll be serving \$3 Coors Light drafts and bottles just a 9 minute drive from the Rowing Center, close to downtown Skokie. There's nothing you need to show at the bar location; it is a special for the whole time and open to all customers that afternoon.
- **Other important things to keep in mind:**
 - o We are guests of the Skokie Park District; let's keep things neat and clean so they want us coming back for years to come. Bring as little disposable/trash items with you and/or pack them out with you (as you would on a hike to a remote destination). You are responsible for removing all trash items.
 - o If your floaty comes with floaty sized paddles, be mindful when using it not to knock into your fellow floaters. We recommend navigating with hands and feet. You will not be allowed to use full size canoe or kayak paddles, as they could be hazardous to other floaters.

