



JUNE 1-4, 2023 ANNUAL STONY-KISKI- CONEMAUGH RIVERS SOJOURN

Registrant's Confirmation Packet

Welcome Sojourn Participants:

We're excited that you are joining us for the 2023 Stony-Kiski-Conemaugh Rivers Sojourn where we will be paddling approximately 44 miles along the borders of Somerset, Cambria, Indiana, Westmoreland and Armstrong Counties. This packet will help you plan for the event. Please review it prior to your trip and bring it with you for the weekend. If you have any questions before the event, please contact Sojourn Coordinator, Brenda at mahoneyshome@yahoo.com or (814)254-8361



This year's theme:
LOVE THE EARTH.
On Saturday, have
some fun and dress in
tie dye!

Come a day early or
stay a day after and
enjoy our region's
heritage and
recreation assets!

Paddle through deep
river gorges, check
out historic canal
remnants!

CONEMAUGH
VALLEY
CONSERVANCY

P.O. Box 218
Johnstown, PA 15907

[conemaughvalleyconser
vancy.com/](http://conemaughvalleyconservancy.com/)

SPONSORS

Thank you to the many Sponsors that have made the 2022 Stony-Kiski-Conemaugh Rivers Sojourn possible!!!



Indiana County
TOURIST BUREAU



www.VisitIndianaCountyPA.org



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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
FOR THE ALLEGHENIES

PARTNERS

This event would not happen without the support of our many partners including Allegheny Ridge Corporation, Benscreek Canoe Club, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Army Corps Of Engineers Conemaugh Dam.

SAFETY

*All participants must read and sign a Waiver and Release of Liability.

*All participants must wear properly fitting US Coast Guard approved lifejackets (personal floatation devices or PFDs) during on-water activities.

*Any participant who encounters another participant or event personnel whose personal safety is in danger must stop to render assistance.

*All participants shall be prohibited from consuming any alcohol or illegal drugs immediately before or during an on-water event. Any participant judged to be intoxicated or under the influence of drugs shall be asked to leave the waterfront area immediately.

Sojourners are also asked to follow any rules from event organizers. Sojourners who fail to comply with event guidelines will not be considered part of the sojourn and will forfeit shuttling, meals, and insurance.

GEAR

If you need to rent a boat, please discuss rentals with the sojourn coordinator before registering. While we have great outfitters throughout the basin, none of the outfitters are able to cover the entire sojourn course, none allow renters to just take and return boats on their own, and all have limitations with shuttling locations and times that may not mesh with the sojourn schedule. You can make your own arrangements for rentals with the outfitters below, but be sure to carefully understand their limitations.

Saltsburg Kayak + Canoe Outfitters, Saltsburg, PA (724) 252-8520

Two Dam Kayak Rentals, Saltsburg, PA (724) 541-7447

All participants who are staying overnight with us at the camp sites are required to bring their own camping gear and be able to move it between access points and campsites.

What To Bring

- Please bring your own refillable water bottle. We will avoid purchasing plastic bottles of water, and instead will have large bottles of water so you can refill your reusable bottle.
- Bring your boat for navigating shallow water and paddling equipment (unless renting).
- Personal Floatation Devices (included with rentals).
- Dry bags and/or plastic bags for cell phones, radios, and your KEYS!
- Spare dry clothes and shoes – polyester, polypropylene, or other synthetics are better than cotton.
- Clothes for inclement weather – rain gear, sunscreen, waterproof hat.
- Small snacks such as energy bars, trail mix, raisins, peanut M&Ms.
- Personal hygiene items – SUNSCREEN, towel, tooth brush and paste, lip balm, soap.
- Tent and other camping gear.
- Sleeping bag.
- Travel coffee mug

Please make sure that you know where your keys are at all times, especially during shuttling, and that they are secured, not loose, while you are in your canoe/kayak. Please do not bring valuable items that may be ruined if wet.

Shuttling

Participants are responsible for shuttling their canoe/kayaks to the put-in sites, unless they are renting gear. We will be shuttling people only to and from the put-in and take-out sites.

All sojourners will bring their vehicles along for the entire trip. A bus will be available to shuttle people from their vehicle at the takeout to the put in each day. This will allow sojourners to leave their camping equipment and other supplies in their vehicles.

MEALS

With the exception of Saturday's lunch, which is on your own at Saltsburg's Historic Canal Days Festival, all meals are included in the price of registration. Please keep in mind breakfasts are fairly light but we provide heavy lunches and dinners. If you need a hot breakfast, there are Sheetz near almost all of our campsites.

Camping/Lodging

Thursday, June 1st: Riverfront area near Bairdstown Bridge, Blairsville

Bathrooms will be available at the Blairsville Hebron Lutheran Church and showers will be available at the Blairsville Community Center (a volunteer will stay at the campsite with the gear). No open fires are permitted. There is potable water at this campsite.

Friday, June 2nd: Conemaugh Dam Recreation Area, Tunnelton

Bathrooms are provided, but there are no showers at this facility. No open fires are permitted. Cooking grills are available at campsite. Driving on the grass is not permitted, but plenty of parking is available. Water coolers with potable water will be provided.

Saturday, June 3rd: Avonmore Canoe Launch and Pavilion Area, Avonmore

Port-a Johns are provided. No showers are available at this facility. Water coolers with potable water will be provided. A fire pit and campfire wood will be available.

If a tent is not what you had in mind, feel free to lodge at a local hotel:

Comfort Inn

1085 Rt. 22, Hwy West, Blairsville PA 15717
724-459-7100

Hampton Inn

62 Pine Ridge Road, Blairsville PA 15717
724-459-5920

Please see information at the end of our packet from our local destination marketing organizations for other places to stay and things to do around Johnstown, Ebensburg, Blairsville, Saltsburg. Come a day early or stay a day after to get it all in!

Itinerary & Directions

Please be on time for all registration and other events – your fellow-sojourners will be grateful! PLEASE PARK ONLY IN DESIGNATED AREAS. please help us be courteous guests by being respectful, watching for traffic, and leaving no trace.

Put-in/take-out times, locations are subject to change with weather and water conditions.

Thursday, June 1, 2023 – 11 mile paddle

- 9:00 am. Meet at Sandyvale Memorial Gardens and Conservancy in Johnstown for registration & instructions. After registering, drop boats at put-in less than a block away at the corner of Poplar and Baumer.
- 10:00 am. Shuttle **drivers only** to Seward and will be will be bused back to put-in. Those who do not have vehicles to be shuttled may remain at the **river access** at Poplar and Baumer (**Lat 40 18 58 Long 78 54 50**).
- 11:00 am. On river for paddle through Conemaugh Gap to Seward take-out, lunch, and water break (bring water bottles) along the river
- 5:00 pm. Sojourners arrive at Seward, drive to Bairdstown Bridge area, Blairsville
- 6:00 pm. Set up camp at Bairdstown Bridge area
- 6:30p.m. Dinner at Blairsville Hebron Lutheran Church
And presentation by Mike Cook, Benscreek Canoe Club, CVC
Recreation LOVES Clean Rivers
- 7:30p.m. Shuttles, walks to the Blairsville Community Center for showers (open until 9 PM)

Directions to Sandyvale Memorial Gardens and Conservancy, 80 Hickory St. Johnstown

From US 219 - take 56 W, then take Bedford St. exit toward PA 217/403 S. Slight RIGHT onto Bedford St. LEFT onto Hayes St. 2nd LEFT on to Somerset St. LEFT onto Franklin St. 1st LEFT onto Hickory St. Gardens on RIGHT.

From US 22 – From 56-E make a LEFT onto Napoleon St./PA-403. Follow Napoleon St./PA-403 and go straight onto Hickory St. and cross the Hickory Bridge. Sandyvale Memorial Gardens will be on RIGHT.

Directions to Seward take out (Lat 40 18 58 Long78 54 50) Pine St., from Sandyvale Gardens

Turn LEFT onto Hickory, go over bridge over river. Hickory becomes Napoleon St/403. Slight RIGHT onto Roosevelt St./56/403. Slight LEFT onto Broad St./56/403. LEFT onto Laurel Ave./56. RIGHT onto Strayer/56. LEFT onto Harold/56. Follow 56 about 6.5 miles to Seward. Cross bridge over RR tracks, make 1st RIGHT onto Walnut St. Pass entrance to Sandy Bottom Sportsmans Club parking on left, follow around bend to left, pass Walnut St. on right and turn RIGHT onto Pine St. The river access is down a primitive pathway at the end of Pine St. USE CAUTION IF DRIVING DOWN RAMP TO DROP BOATS. Parking is small gravel area on left immediately after left bend by Sportsman's Club, and some paddlers may want to park and walk boats about two block to primitive ramp at the end of Pine St.

Friday, June 2, 2023 – 10 mile paddle

If you are joining us the day of, please drop off your boats in Robinson and meet us in Blairsville for the Shuttle (drivers only) by 10:00 am.

- 7:30 am. Breakfast at campsite/Hebron Lutheran Church
- 9:30 am. Paddlers drive to Robinson, drop off gear, drivers only return to Blairsville
- 10:30 am. Shuttle paddlers to Robinson
- 11:00 am. Lunch & Registration at Robinson Community Center
- 12:00 pm. On river from Robinson to paddle Packsaddle Gap to Blairsville
- 4:00 pm. Arrive in Blairsville for takeout at Bairdstown Bridge. Drive to Conemaugh Dam
- 5:00 pm. Tent set up at Conemaugh Dam
- 6:30 pm. Dinner and presentation TBD

Directions to Robinson Community Center 258 Caroline St. Robinson, Indiana County PA– please be aware of local traffic at this location. Consider pulling into the VFW parking lot on the right before the community center if sojourn traffic is blocking local activity.

From Route 22 – Take PA 259 S (From US 30 take PA 259 north) toward Bolivar. About a half-mile before Bolivar, turn LEFT onto Caroline St. in Robinson (RIGHT if coming from south, after coming through Bolivar and crossing river). Proceed about a half-mile and the park will be on your RIGHT.

Directions to Blairsville take-out (Lat 40 25 52 Long 79 16 11)

Take US 22 E or W to PA 217 (Blairsville) exit, near Dean's Diner. Turn LEFT and follow the road into Blairsville, on Walnut St. Go to the former National Guard Armory, which looks like a castle and is located next to the library. If you get to the Sheetz you have gone too far. Turn RIGHT onto E North Ave at the Armory and go straight until the street ends behind the Lutheran Church. You'll be at the take-out along the Conemaugh River.

Directions to Conemaugh Dam 1665 Auen Road STE A, Saltsburg PA

From Blairsville – Take US 22 W to New Alexandria/PA 981 intersection (about 10 miles). Turn RIGHT and follow PA 981 toward Saltsburg. (Watch for two Conemaugh Dam directional signs; each sign directs you to make a right turn.) Turn RIGHT on to Tunnelton Rd at Marshall's Market. Go 2.7 miles then LEFT over bridge. Turn RIGHT onto Auen Rd the follow to Conemaugh Dam entrance on RIGHT.

Saturday, June 3, 2023 – 12 mile paddle

Showcase our LOVE THE EARTH theme and dress in tie dye – we'll make an even bigger impression when we arrive in Saltsburg for the mid-trip visit to the Canal Days Festival.

- 7:00 am. Breakfast at Conemaugh Dam
- 8:00 am. All sojourners meet at Conemaugh Dam for registration, instructions, shuttle vehicles to Avonmore
- 10:00 am. Put-in at Dam, paddle Kiski section from Conemaugh Dam to Saltsburg's Canal Days Festival.
- 12:00 pm. Lunch in Saltsburg is on your own at Historic Saltsburg's Canal Days Festival
- 2:30 pm. Put-in at Saltsburg
- 4:30 pm. Arrive and take-out at Avonmore, set up camp
- 6:00 pm. Dinner at Avonmore Polish Club, 501 Indiana Ave.
Interactive presentation – *How Do You Show Your Love for the Earth?*

Directions to Avonmore take-out, 1st St. Avonmore (Lat 40 31 45 Long 79 28 31)

From Conemaugh Dam – Turn LEFT out of park entrance onto Auen Rd. Travel 0.6 miles, then LEFT onto Tunnelton Rd. After crossing the bridge, bear to the RIGHT. Travel 2.7 miles on Tunnelton Rd. to PA 981. At Marshall's Market, turn RIGHT onto 981. Go 3.1 miles to junction of 981 and PA 286. Don't cross the bridge into Saltsburg. Go straight about 100 yards. At bend in road, stay right onto North 981. Follow this for about 3 miles. Turn RIGHT onto PA 156 N. Continue to stop sign at Westmoreland Ave. and 2nd St. Follow signs to Avonmore Canoe Launch Area. (Driving Time: 25 minutes)

Sunday, June 4, 2023 – 7 mile paddle

- 7:30 am. Breakfast at Avonmore Pavilion
- 8:30 am. All sojourners meet at Avonmore Pavilion for registration, instructions, shuttle vehicles to Apollo
- 11:00 am. Put-in at Avonmore, paddle Kiski section to Roaring Run Recreation Area in Apollo
- 1:00 pm. Take out at Roaring Run and Lunch

Directions to Apollo take -out 681 Canal Rd. Apollo (Lat 40 33 48 Long 79 33 36)

From Avonmore – Turn RIGHT onto PA156. At the intersection turn RIGHT onto PA 981. Follow for approximately 2 miles. Turn RIGHT onto PA 819 N. After crossing the bridge in Apollo turn RIGHT onto Kiski Ave. Kiski Ave becomes Canal Rd. Follow this road to the parking area at the end.

Evaluation

Please help us to continually improve our sojourn. Complete the evaluation below and give it to one of the sojourn committee members before you leave or mail to: **CVC Attn: Sojourn PO Box 218 Johnstown PA 15907**

Name (optional): _____ Zip code: _____

Age range (optional) ___ Under 21 ___ 21-25 ___ 36-50 ___ 51-65 ___ 66+

Have you participated in the Stony-Kiski-Conemaugh Sojourn before? ___ yes ___ no

What are the top three reason you participate in the Sojourn?

___ Low registration fee ___ Convenience of shuttling, meals ___ Scenery
___ Enjoy fellowship ___ Enjoy presentations ___ Other _____

How did you hear about the Sojourn?

___ CVC Facebook ___ Participated in previous event ___ Friend/family member
___ Sojourn Brochure at a Local Business ___ CVC Newsletter/Direct Mail
___ Other, _____

Did you add a day to your stay before/after the Sojourn? ___ yes ___ no

If yes, what site(s) did you visit during your stay? _____

Comments:

Can you suggest a potential sponsor? Please include detailed contact information and indicate whether or not you have a personal/professional contact that may be helpful to sojourn planners.

What else would you like us to know?

We would like some fresh faces on the sojourn planning committee! The committee meets 3-5 times a year and is responsible for reviewing the paddling route, planning menus, securing sponsors, planning transportation, marketing, promoting the event, and managing on river activities. Would you like to join the committee? _____ Yes _____ No

Please make sure we have your contact information if you would like to serve on the committee.

Did you know?

___ yes ___ no, that CVC owns and operates the West Penn Trail
___ yes ___ no, that the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team is a program of CVC
___ yes ___ no, that Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team volunteers monitor water quality throughout the basin?



Contact Us:
Indiana County Tourist Bureau
2334 Oakland Ave., Indiana, PA 15701
Phone: 724-463-7505
Email: info@visitindianacountypa.org
Web: www.VisitIndianaCountyPA.org



“It’s A Wonderful Life” in Indiana County, PA!! Along with being the hometown of actor Jimmy Stewart, Indiana County is famously known as “The Christmas Tree Capital of the World”. While you’re here, we hope you’ll explore the unique attractions that Indiana County has to offer – as well as take advantage of the many opportunities to escape into the great outdoors.

Hiking, Biking & Outdoor Adventures

Indiana County’s parks and trails system is one of the best in Pennsylvania. In fact, PA DCNR named the Ghost Town Trail (GTT) as the “2020 PA Trail of the Year”. The GTT totals 46 miles in Indiana and Cambria Counties. The GTT also connects with the Hoodlebug Trail for an additional 10 miles open year-round for walking, biking, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing. The Hoodlebug was recently extended to bring the trail right into the vibrant downtown Indiana business district where you’ll find many local, unique shops and restaurants. Also in Indiana County is Yellow Creek State Park, where visitors can hike, mountain bike, boat, swim or go orienteering, wildlife watching and picnicking. Complete your adventure with an overnight stay in a yurt. <https://www.indianacountyparks.org>
<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/YellowCreekStatePark/Pages/default.aspx>



Buttermilk Falls Natural Area

Indiana County is home to Buttermilk Falls, an impressive 45-foot waterfall surrounded by scenic woodland and includes steps giving access the lower portion of the falls. Pack a picnic lunch to enjoy in a nearby pavilion. The property was once a family retreat owned by the grandparents of Fred Rodgers of children’s television fame. Walk along the same paths and explore the natural beautiful of the land that inspired young Fred Rodgers. <https://www.indianacountyparks.org>



Jimmy Stewart Museum

You won’t want to miss visiting the Jimmy Stewart Museum! Located in downtown Indiana, the museum showcases Jimmy’s career in Hollywood and the military through galleries, technology, and hands-on experiences. Be sure to shop the gift shop for a perfect souvenir to take home. Always free to stop & shop the gift shop for a perfect souvenir to take home. <https://jimmy.org>



Local History and Culture

Embark on a tour of local landmarks such as the four historical covered bridges, the Indiana County Historical Society and Victorian Clark House. Learn more about the extensive Underground Railroad history in the area. Enjoy a scenic drive through the Amish countryside into the town of Smicksburg, which is home to many unique and antique specialty shops, several pottery studios, and events throughout the year. www.smicksburg.net <https://HGSIC.org> <https://undergroundrailroadblairsvillepa.com>



Local Breweries, Wineries and Distillery

Indiana County is a hidden gem for amazing craft beer. Noble Stein Brewing Co. and Levity Brewing Co. both offer broad selections of award-winning beer. The breweries are located within one mile of each other, and both are situated along The Hoodlebug Trail. Try some of the spectacular food choices available at Levity. Not far down the Hoodlebug Trail is Disobedient Spirits, a local artisan distillery that features hand-crafted cocktails in a beautiful space. Indiana County is also home to several wineries that offer wine tastings and tours. <https://www.visitindianacountypa.org/member-categories/wineries-breweries-distillery/>

Check out our website at VisitIndianaCountyPA.org to learn more about Indiana County and for a full listing of our member restaurants, shops, attractions, and calendar of events.



"Simply Incredible!"

Welcome Sojourners!

In your downtime, check out some attractions and businesses that make Johnstown truly unique! For more recommendations, please visit our website: www.VisitJohnstownPA.com or **download our app!**

The Best of Johnstown & Surrounding Communities

The Johnstown Flood Museum - Academy Award-winning documentary film and exhibits tell the story of the worst natural disaster of the 19th century and Johnstown's remarkable recovery.

The Johnstown Flood National Memorial - National Park Site at the ruins of the South Fork Dam that burst on May 31, 1889. Visitor center, original clubhouse & cottages, picnic area, hiking trails around dam's remains.

Ghost Town Trail – 51-mile rail-trail between Blacklick and Ebensburg, PA, minutes from Johnstown. Great for bicycling and hiking! Named the 2020 Pennsylvania Trail of the Year by DCNR.

Path of the Flood Trail – Historic trail that follows the path of the 1889 Johnstown Flood from Ehrenfeld to downtown Johnstown, passing through the Staple Bend Tunnel, the first railroad tunnel built in the United States.

Johnstown Inclined Plane – The steepest vehicular inclined plane in the world will reopen after major restoration in 2023! Date to be determined.

Johnstown Coffee and Juice Shops – Visit one of Johnstown's great coffee shops. All located in or near Downtown Johnstown: Classic Elements, Roots Kitchen, Flood City Café, and Ryan's Artisan Goods.

Johnstown's Beer and Wine Scene – Visit Downtown Johnstown's own brewery, Stone Bridge Brewing Company, and winery, B& L Wine Cellars. Classic Elements, The Wine Loft, Harrigan's Café & Wine Deck, Balance, and Alchemie also have excellent varieties of wine, beer and cocktails.

Heritage Discovery Center – Learn the stories of the immigrants who arrived in Johnstown between 1880 through 1914, and the ethnic neighborhoods in which they settled. Also houses the Iron & Steel Gallery, "Mystery of Steel" film, Children's Museum, and "Steelworkers' Story."

Arts Around Town – Visit Johnstown's unique arts scene. Check out these favorites: Bottle Works, Community Arts Center of Cambria County, Gallery on Gazebo, and the Center for Metal Arts.

An array of public art can be found around Downtown Johnstown, highlighted by the addition of the Spider-Man and Doctor Strange mural, a tribute to hometown co-creator, Steve Ditko. The larger-than-life mural can be found on the side of Stone Bridge Brewing Company. It is the first mural to ever be officially approved by Marvel.