

RIVER RAFT PROGRAM CHECKLIST

A complete checklist of what is needed to put on your own river rafting program for high school students.

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Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy 2013

Equipment needed for a rafting trip planed to accommodate 100 students and 10 adults.

13 of these 13' Otter Livery 130 rafts will be needed. Each raft can comfortably hold 8 paddlers.

Cost: \$2,575.00 each



13 of these 60' standard paddles will be needed. One for each of the rafts.

Cost: \$29.95 each



100 of these lightweight paddles will be needed. One for each of the students.

Cost: \$19.95 each



110 of these life vest will be needed. One for each student and for each adult.

Cost: \$19.20 each



One of these blowers will be needed to inflate the rafts.

Cost: \$399.00



Total Cost for all Equipment \$38,370.35

Event Logistics:

In addition to the equipment needs, some basic safety and liability measures will need to be in place prior to the rafting trips.

For any water-based excursion, all participants should have some form of liability waiver signed. With high school students, a liability waiver added to a basic permission slip—signed by the parents—should be sufficient.



The sponsoring agency should also ensure that liability insurance will cover the rafting trips. Some events require a specific certificate for the day; other events may require basic liability insurance, or extra coverage if such water-based events are regularly hosted by the agency or organization.

Prior to the event, the sheriff or other responsible agency should be notified about the excursion. This will ensure that an emergency rescue team will be available in the event of an emergency.

Finally, some plan should be in place in case of injury or other medical emergency. First aid kits should be part of the equipment, and some form of over-the-counter pain medication and allergy medication should be included. If any students participating have an extreme allergy—such as an allergy to bees that could lead to anaphylactic shock should be documented in advance, and appropriate medication should be brought to the rafting trip.

Event Planning Checklist:

This is a basic checklist for planning your rafting trip. Some of these steps may be unnecessary if the sponsoring organizations plan frequent excursions; some steps may only need to be done at the beginning and end of the recreational season.

One Month Prior to the Event:

- Confirm rough attendance anticipated. Groups to contact regarding a rafting excursion include: high school classes; science or environmental clubs and organizations at the local high schools; boy and girl scout troops, youth groups at local churches, etc.
- Identify a target event date, and line up a back-up date in case of inclement weather.
- Contact speakers and plan educational sessions.



Two Weeks Prior to the Event:

- Confirm final attendance.
- Basic equipment check. Ensure that rafts do not have any holes or leaks, paddles and life jackets are in good working order and have not been lost, and equipment is ready for the trip. Allow sufficient time to order more equipment
- Finalize speakers and educational sessions.
- Plan an advance rafting trip. Ensure that river conditions are safe, and any potentially hazardous areas and log jams are identified and a plan is in place to remove blockage or navigate around it.

One Week Prior to the Event:

- Check weather reports for inclement weather. If heavy rains, storms, or extreme flooding are anticipated, contact student chaperones and make plans for an alternate date.
- Plan a second advance rafting trip two or three days prior to the anticipated event. Include stops for educational sessions, and conduct a “dry run” to ensure that the trip leaders are familiar with the route and planned stops.
- Final equipment check.
- Print any required educational materials.

After the Event:

- Clean equipment, check for damage.
- Make sure all equipment is stored properly until it is needed again.

Educational standards that can be met with this program:

Indiana Academic Standards

The following Indiana Academic Standards are taken into consideration in the construction of the River Expedition & Academic Competition and are covered in part or fully.

Biology

B.1.15, B.1.16, B.1.17, B.1.18, B.1.37, B.1.38, B.1.39, B.1.40, B.1.41, B.1.42, B.1.45, B.1.46, B.1.47

Chemistry

C.1.3, C.1.8

Environmental Sciences

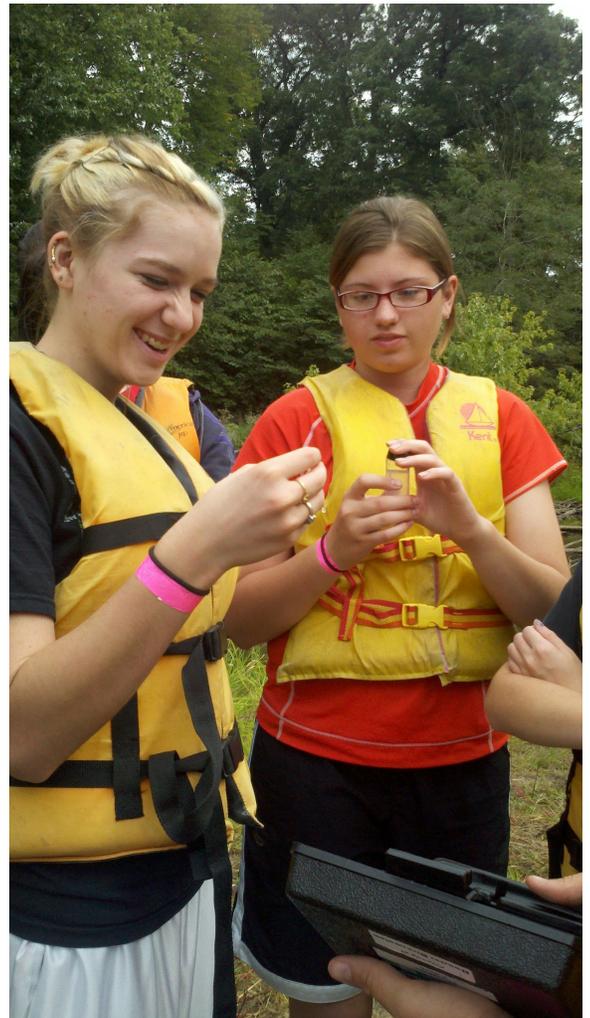
ENV. 1.1, ENV.1.2, ENV.1.3, ENV.1.4, ENV.1.10, ENV.1.13, ENV.1.14, ENV.1.21, ENV.1.23, ENV.1.24, ENV.1.27, ENV.1.28, ENV.1.29, ENV.1.30, ENV.1.35

Natural Resource Management

NRM.B.2, NRM.B.3, NRM.B.4, NRM.C.1, NRM.C.2, NRM.C.3, NRM.C.4, NRM.D.1, NRM.D.2, NRM.D.10, NRM.H.2, NRM.I.1, NRM.J.1, NRM.J.2, NRM.L.1, NRM.L.2, NRM.L.4, NRM.L.6

Earth and Space Science

ES.1.20, ES.1.25, ES.1.26



Overview of river and history

While paddling or on land, an overview of the river will give the students a better overall picture of the river. Explain to the students how humans impact the river (past and present).

Possible presenters: Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks and Reservoirs

Education Stops and Talks

Float your river in advance of your trip. Look for good places for students to get out of the rafts for different talks. Consider what can be seen from the river and then tailor your talks to these areas and topics.

Based on your river and places to stop, decide where the talks should take place and if some talks should be combined. Some talks can be done by the guide in each raft while passing some key feature. Quizzes can be taken where practical, such as directly after a talk or save several quizzes for the end of the raft trip.

Watershed

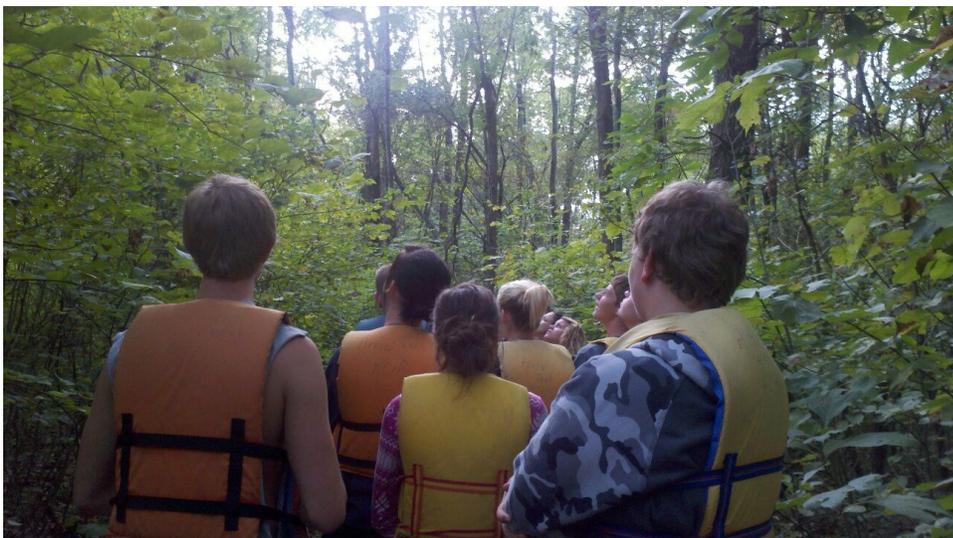
A good way to start the raft trip is a presentation about the watershed. This can be done with a watershed demonstration using an Enviroscape (www.envirosapes.com) or a plastic table cloth set-up. It is important to emphasize that no matter where you are in the watershed, what you do impacts the watershed.

Possible presenters: local Soil and Water Conservation District, Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

Water quality testing with chemical tests and inventory of macro invertebrates

This can be done at one stop, split into two stops, or done by the raft guides on the river.

Possible presenters: Hoosier Riverwatch instructors



Plants

Many topics can be covered at the plants stop. If you have forest along your river, the talk could center on forestry and the impact of invasive plant species. If you have prairie areas along your river, the talk could center on native prairie plants.

Possible presenters: Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry or Division of State Parks and Reservoirs

Best Management Practices and Land Use

Be sure to highlight any best management practices that can be seen from the river or show areas that would benefit from these practices.

Possible presenters: local Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and/or Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Point and Non-Point Source Pollution

This would be a good talk to do after the water quality testing stop. You could discuss pipes emptying into the river. You could also discuss how it is difficult to determine which field the fertilizer that you measured in river came from.

Possible presenters: your local Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and/or Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Soils

Our soils are important for many reasons; they grow our food, they filter our water, and we live on them.

Possible presenters: your local Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and/or Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Threatened and endangered species

Tailor this talk to threatened and endangered species that previously or currently can be found in the area, such as mussels or river otters.

Possible presenters: Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks and Reservoirs or Division of Fish and Wildlife

