



Paddle Trek

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How far is the trip?

A: The trip is about 15 miles if you complete the whole thing, but there are options to do one or more sections. (See below)

Q: Do I have to paddle the whole trip?

A: No. The trip is split into four parts. You may do as many or as few as you like. You may start the trip at the Minnehonk Town Beach (Mt. Vernon), the Echo Lake boat launch (West Mt. Vernon, near the Chimney), and the Lovejoy Pond dam in North Wayne. You may end the trip at the Echo Lake boat launch, Lovejoy Pond (behind the Fayette General Store), the Lovejoy Pond dam, or Memorial Park in Wayne Village.

Q: How long will it take?

A: The entire trip takes about seven hours, including breaks. Please see the schedule in the "Trip Details" for more information.

Q: What are the physical fitness requirements for participating?

A: You must be able to carry your own boat on the portages (see below) and must be able to paddle at a steady, moderate pace for the section(s) of the trip that you have chosen.

Q: What is a portage? How many are there?

A: Portage means that you must pick up your canoe or kayak and carry it from one body of water to another because of a dam or other impasse. You will be responsible for portaging your own boat. Portages are up to 300 yards long, often on rough ground, and are difficult for some people. A kayak/canoe dolly cart may be helpful if you have one; several of the portages are on even ground. Depending on water levels in the streams, there are 4-6 portages in the trip.

Q: What are typical paddling conditions?

A: We will be paddling a variety of lakes and streams. Conditions vary depending on water levels and wind. The calmest paddling tends to be on Minnehonk Lake, Hopkins Stream, Lovejoy Pond, Lovejoy Stream and Pickerel Pond. The stronger winds and larger waves are usually on Echo Lake and Pocasset Lake. If water levels are high enough, we are able to avoid two of the portages and paddle the streams at the outlets of Minnehonk Lake and Echo Lake, which both have swifter current and a few riffles and rocks, but that typically does not happen.

Q: What pace do people go?

A: There is always a wide variety of abilities but you will need to paddle at a steady, moderate pace and stay behind the leader. This event is not a race. The group will get spread out, but we are careful that no one gets left behind.

Q: Do I need to provide my own boat?

A: Yes! BUT if you need a kayak, we do have a few that we will be renting on a first come, first serve basis. The cost is \$20 for a single kayak. Please contact Lori (lori@30mileriver.org) to reserve a kayak.

Q: What kind of boat do I need?

A: Past participants have used kayaks or canoes, although standup paddle boards are welcome. We've had boats in a variety of shapes and sizes on past trips. The ideal boat is one that tracks well on open water but is also maneuverable in streams. Because of the portages, very heavy or very long boats can be more challenging. Shorter, sit-on-top kayaks do not work well on the larger lakes.

Q: How do I get back to my car at the end of the day?

A: For 2021, we will not be providing van shuttles to avoid participants being together in a close space; our focus is on ensuring that everyone feels safe and comfortable. We ask Paddle Trekkers to provide their own transportation back to their starting point by shuttling an extra vehicle. If that is not possible, because you are alone or are traveling from farther away, we will have volunteers available to transport a limited number of driver(s) in your group back to their cars. You must sign up for this in advance when you register.

Q: What do I need to bring?

A: In addition to your kayak or canoe, bring lunch, lots of water, sunscreen, a lifejacket, and sturdy footwear for portages and stream-walking (NOT flip-flops or Crocs).

Q: Will there be bathrooms along the way?

There are porta-potties or outhouses at the Minnehonk boat launch, Echo Lake boat launch, North Wayne dam and Wayne village.

Q: Will you cancel the trip if it rains?

A: We will only cancel the trip in the event of heavy rain or thunderstorms. If we do need to cancel, we will email all participants, post on Facebook, and leave a message on our voicemail, 860-4043.

Q: Do I need to register ahead of time?

A: We strongly prefer for you to register in advance, but we do allow same-day registrations.

Q: How many people go on the trip?

In past years, 50-65 people have paddled, though not everyone does the whole route. The group gets fairly spread out, so it doesn't feel crowded.