

Late Summer Paddle Challenge

The Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA) is pleased to announce our second-ever “virtual” kayak run. We challenge all of our regular Canoe-A-Thon kayakers and newcomers to join in on this brand-new paddle sport competition on the Lackawanna River, Pennsylvania’s “River of the Year” for 2020.

The Lackawanna Challenge Virtual Kayak Run is open from Dawn on **Tuesday, August 4, 2020**, to **sundown on Wednesday, September 23, 2020**.

Competitors must follow social distancing guidelines. We suggest small groups of two to six individuals to run the course(s) within sight of one another and be prepared to render aid to fellow kayakers if necessary.

This competition is based on the honor system. We ask all competitors to honestly report their own times! Kayakers can also choose their own day and time to run one or both of the courses and report their data.

To record your time: Start time should be set as your keel leaves the shoreline. Finish time should be marked when your bow hits the landing beach. We ask that these times be marked at the closest approximate hour, minute, and second. You will then subtract your start time from your finish time and record your lapse time. You will record these times and [submit them here](https://lrca.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/late-summer-paddle-challenge) after you have completed the run. (Hyperlink URL <https://lrca.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/late-summer-paddle-challenge>)

To record river readings: You will also need to record the river gage readings on your report. Record from the USGS Archbald Gage if you launch at Maslar Park. Record from the Leggett’s Creek USGS Gage if you launch at Parker Street. You will record the date and the time, the river’s depth and the discharge rate in cubic feet per second from the graphs on the [gage webpages](http://www.lrca.org) (www.lrca.org, The Watershed, River Conditions). You must take these readings within four hours from the time that you launch.

NOTE: We strongly recommend you check the Archbald gage before doing either event. When the Archbald gage reading is between 2.6 feet and 3.6 feet the River will provide adequate paddling opportunities. Below 2.4 feet you will experience shallows and groundings. Above 3.6 feet requires advanced skills. Above 4 feet and the Lackawanna River becomes very dangerous!!

Kayakers have a choice of two courses that offer different kinds of challenges. Kayakers are required to read the **Late Summer Paddle Challenge Rules (see summary list below)** and Register through the [LRCA’s event site for](#) the specific course they choose. If kayakers wish to compete in both events, they need to register for each event separately.

The selected Lackawanna Challenge courses are: “Archbald Whitewater Challenge” and the “Scranton Sprint Challenge”. Both runs end at Sweeney’s Beach in the Pine Brook Neighborhood in Scranton.

The “Archbald Whitewater Challenge” features the traditional 12-mile Canoe-A-Thon course from David Maslar Park on Laurel Street in Archbald to Sweeney’s Beach in Scranton. **This event is restricted to experienced kayakers.** This course contains Class 2 and Class 3 whitewater in the five miles between

Archbald and Olyphant, and contains unpredictable whitewater drops over riffles and rock ledges that could lead to potential wipe outs. Please keep in mind there are some dangerous undercut bank hydraulics and strainers (overhanging shoreline vegetation and downed trees).

The “Scranton Sprint Challenge” features a short three-mile relatively flatwater run from Parker Street Landing in North Scranton to Sweeney’s Beach. The challenge here is avoiding strainers, setting a fast pace in the downstream runs, and pulling out the stops to sprint hard through the still water pools.

We are running this paddling event over a month-long period. The river will be flowing differently every day. Weather and precipitation conditions will vary from day to day and perhaps from one part of day to the next. All these variables encourage you to log the most honest and accurate times for your run. We will use the times and gage readings that you report to us to calculate the winning standings.

There is a one-time registration fee of \$25.00. For kayakers who wish to register for additional runs, there is a supplemental run registration fee of \$10.00 per run. All entrants will receive a special Lackawanna River, Pennsylvania River of the Year T-shirt.

The Late Summer Paddle Challenge is exclusive for single place kayaks. No canoes. We will award First, Second, and Third place medals in two classes, Male and Female for each course.

RULES:

Kayakers are required to read these rules for the Late Summer Paddle Challenge

- Competitors must follow social distancing guidelines. We suggest groups of two to six individuals.
- Please keep in mind that you or your group are responsible for your own safety as there will not be ambulance or safety spotters on sight.
- Wear a PFD and have a whistle or horn to signal for help if needed as per PA Boat Regulations
- Choose your own day and time to run one or both of the courses **between dawn on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, to sundown on Wednesday, September 23, 2020.**
- Register through the LRCA’s [event site](#) for the specific course they choose.
- If kayakers wish to compete in both events, they need to register for each event separately
- Report your data honestly.

To record your time:

- Start time = as soon as your keel leaves the shoreline
- Finish time = when your bow hits the landing beach.
- Lapse time = Subtract your finish time from your start time
- Record River gage at launch site (see information below for details)
- Times to the closest approximate hour, minute, and second
- Record times on the contest registration and entry form [found here](#)

To record River gage information:

Visit www.lrca.org. Then, hover over The Watershed in the dropdown main menu and click River Conditions, or [click here](#).

David Maslar Park Archbald launch: Record from the USGS Archbald Gage

Parker Street Launch: Record from the Leggett's Creek USGS Gage

Here's what to record within an hour from your launch:

- Date
- Current time
- River's depth
- Discharge rate in cubic feet per second from the graphs on the gage webpage

Two Run Courses Available:

1. "Archbald Whitewater Challenge" – 12-mile course from David Maslar Park on Laurel Street in Archbald to Sweeney's Beach in Scranton. **FOR EXPERIENCED KAYAKERS ONLY!** This course contains Class 2 and Class 3 whitewater in the five miles between Archbald and Olyphant
2. "Scranton Sprint Challenge" – 3 miles. Relatively flatwater run. From Parker Street Landing in North Scranton to Sweeney's Beach

Both runs end at Sweeney's Beach in the Pine Brook Neighborhood in Scranton.

Prizes:

- All entrants will receive a special Lackawanna River, Pennsylvania River of the Year T-shirt
- Metals presented to First, Second, and Third place winners in each Male and Female class for each course.