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A river runs through it: Sojourn draws tourists to area

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Wet and soggy.

Those were the words Hamilton family members from Dawson, Chambersburg and Ithaca, N.Y., used Monday to describe the first five miles of their journey down the Youghiogheny River. They were participating in the 1998 Youghiogheny River Sojourn.

Dave and Dorothy Hamilton were joined by their daughter, a sister and several nephews and a great-great-niece who were so far having a lot of fun.

The six-day trip officially began Sunday in Confluence where approximately 60 people gathered at the Army Corps of Engineers Campground.

Originally, the trip was supposed to launch with canoes below the Youghiogheny Dam, but with Monday's heavy rain, inflatable duckies also known as mini kayaks, were used instead.

From here, the trip consisted of 11.8 miles where sojourners paddled to the middle portion of the Youghiogheny at Ohiopyle.

According to Eric Martin, owner of Wilderness Voyageurs who is a partner in the sojourn, the trip was going great during the first four hours at which time the group stopped half-way for lunch.