

2022

CAPTAIN'S MANUAL



ANNUAL UNITED WAY
DRAGON BOAT RACE

Kathy Voncannon, Team Liaison

Revised 5/1/2022

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2021 FESTIVAL CALENDAR

Thursday, July 14

Team Captain's Meeting
5:30 pm – 7 pm
Sevierville Civic Center
120 Gary Wade Blvd
Sevierville, TN 37862

Friday, July 23

All registration fees due

Wednesday – Friday, August 3-5

Team Practices – Mountain Cove Marina, 1590 Dyke Road, Sevierville, TN 37876.
Practice times begin at 4 pm with the last practice at 7 pm.

Saturday, August 6

RACE Day!
Douglas Dam Headwater Campground – 1680 Boat Launch Rd, Sevierville, TN 37876.
Public parking available.

Opening Ceremonies at 8:30 am

Drummer's Parade – each team's designated drummer is dressed in costume. Drummers will parade through the crowd with collection jars asking people to vote for them by giving a donation. The drummer with the most donations will win the Drummer's Award plaque.

Steerer's Auction – This is a high energy bidding war between teams to bid for their favorite steerer in the hopes of gaining an advantage over the other teams in the last race. Bids are paid either by cash, check or credit card and are collected following the auction. Be sure to tell your friends, co-workers, and company.

TO DO LIST

BEFORE THE EVENT:

- Recruit Team Members
Minimum of 16 paddlers (8 female), maximum of 25 paddlers (including substitutes). Must be 12 or older by race day. Paddlers between the ages of 12-18 must have a guardian signature on the waiver.
- Be sure to pay your Registration Fee by July 23, 2022.
- Watch for an email from Kathyvoncannon@uwosc.org regarding the team practice schedule and signup. The schedule can be found on the Captain's Corner page of our website **DrumsontheDam.com**. Practice slots are limited, so the earlier you respond with your preferred time, the more likely you will get your number one choice! More information about practices can be found on page 11 of this manual.
- Plan your team tent decorations, team uniform/t-shirts (please wear appropriate clothing for this event. (You are representing United Way as well as your business and family/friends.)
- This is optional, but remember, there is a prize for the team with the most spirit – your tent, t-shirts, and smiles will be factored into our decision!

EVENT DAY:

- Make sure all team members have signed their waivers ahead of time. Any last-minute substitutes can get a form at registration.
- **Your team members should arrive between 7:30 am to 8:00 am to check in at Registration. Captains MUST come to the registration table upon arrival.** Allow ample time to unload your belongings, park, and meet at your tent as **races will not be held for late teams.** All team members will be provided a wristband which MUST be worn throughout the competition.
- Based upon space, all teams have a designated team area at the event and may erect one 10' x 10' tent. Your tent assignment will be provided to you by Kathy Voncannon, and you may set up on Friday after 1:00 pm. Look for your team number on the lawn and refer to the event program to find your team's area.
- After the event, you must clean up your team tent area and place all trash in the provided trash bins/dumpster! Please be sure to pick up any cigarette butts, gum wrappers, etc.

EVENT DAY PREP LIST

WHAT TO BRING TO THE FESTIVAL (**these are critical for your team)

- 10 x 10 tent for your team
- Table(s)
- Folding Chairs
- Decorations
- Towels
- Games (football, corn hole, etc.)
- Sunscreen **
- Garbage bag(s)
- Extra set of clothes
- Comfortable shoes
- Food & Drinks (Lots of Water) **
- Sunglasses
- High energy snacks **
- **DO NOT BRING ALCOHOL** – Alcoholic beverages and fireworks are not permitted on TVA property.
- It is highly encouraged that you bring a backpack with you to hold keys, cell phones, glasses, etc. for the team during practice/races.
- NO PETS ALLOWED

WHAT TO WEAR TO THE FESTIVAL:

- Comfortable shorts & dri-fit shirts
- Sport sandals or water shoes
- Personal flotation device (optional, but recommended due to COVID concerns)
- Hat-Visor
- Sunscreen

WHAT YOU WILL BE PROVIDED:

- Professional Steerer
- Team tent space
- Dragon Boats
- Paddles
- Life Jackets/PFD provided by Dynamic Dragon Boat Racing (*With continued COVID concerns, you are encouraged to bring your own life jacket to avoid wearing one that has already been worn by someone else*)

FOOD & BEVERAGE

On site vendors with food and beverages you may purchase: The Chicken Coop, Gringo's Tacos and Kona Ice.

AWARDS

2022 Grand Champions – Trophy Cup and team medals

2nd Place – Silver Medal

3rd Place – Bronze Medal

Anchor Award (for team with the slowest time)

Best Dress Drummer Award – plaque

Spirit Award (for the team that reflects the best spirit)

Thank you for participating in this year's Drums on the Dam Dragon Boat event!

The United Way Dragon Boat Festival celebrates the importance of the United Way of Sevier County and is a fundraiser benefitting the United Way of Sevier County. Your donations will support the United Way's mission to enhance the health and lives of the citizens of Sevier County.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Official Race Rules:

The officials follow US Dragon Boat Federation (USDBF) race rules. Please refer to <http://www.usdbf.comm/> for the full list of rules. In addition, please also consult the Festival Rules and Regulations (located on drumsonthedam.com) provided by Dynamic Dragon Boat Racing. The bottom line is good sportsmanship and safety.

Penalties will be given for the following:

- Each team is required to have a drummer. For safety reasons, the drummer cannot weigh more than 160 pounds. A (5) second penalty will be given to a team without a drummer.
- Each team is required to have 8 female paddlers. A (3) second penalty will be given for each female the team is short and fills with a male. If the team leaves the missing female spot open, the team will not receive the penalty.
- Each team member **MUST** wear a wrist band, signifying they have signed a waiver. Participants will not be allowed in the boat without the wristband.
- Wake riding, crossing lanes (if it impedes or endangers others), and general misconduct on land or in the water will also result in penalties.

Authority: The Chief Official will judge, stop the race under any circumstances, caution or disqualify any team or team member at his/her discretion. All rulings by the Chief Official are final.

Conduct: Team Captains are responsible for the conduct/sportsmanship of his/her team and complying with race rules. A team is subject to disqualification from competition if any team member purposely exits the dragon boat into the water, or in any way endangers the crew.

- You can race with a maximum of 20 paddlers and a minimum of 16.
- Paddlers must be 12 years or older by race day and have had their parent/guardian sign the waiver.
- Drummer must weigh 160 pounds or less for safety reasons.

Please make arrangements with guest paddlers before 10:00 am on Race Day. Their names and signatures must be on your waiver/team roster before the first race of the day.

Costumes are great as long as they do not compromise your personal safety, the safety of the crew, or the safety of others.

Life Jackets will be provided for each team, but in the wake of the COVID pandemic, you are urged to bring your own regulation vests.

Have fun, but please remember, this is a FAMILY EVENT.

RACE DAY INFORMATION & SCHEDULE

- Opening Ceremony – 8:30 AM
 - The origin of Dragon Boat racing – Penny Sandberg, Dynamic Dragon Boat Racing
 - “Awakening the Dragon” – dotting the eye of the dragon
- Drummers Parade

Drummers will march in their costumes with buckets and encourage spectators to vote for them by giving a donation. The Drummer with the most money wins the Best Dressed Drummer award.
- Steerers Auction

The Steerers Auction will take place after the lunch period under the main tent. Please be sure to have cash, check(s) or credit card with you prior to beginning the bidding war. **Monies will be collected immediately following the auction before the next heat.**
- Have your team to the Marshalling Area 20 minutes before your race in Round 1 for your team photo, then 15 minutes before the rest of your races.
- We must stay on schedule. Please advise your team that if they leave the race venue it is their responsibility to be back before your scheduled race time. Races will not be delayed for late paddlers.
- Racing will be delayed if there is lightening. If there is a storm with lightening, please have team members go to their cars – there is not suitable cover for all teams outside. We will use the mobile app to signify when we’re ready to race again. If it is safe, Team Captains should meet at the main tent/stage area for race updates. This is where Race Officials will be.

TEAM MEMBER'S INFO & FAQS

Where to stay?

If you are traveling to Sevierville for the Festival, there are several nearby hotels and RV parks.

- Hampton Inn & Suites, 105 Stadium Dr, Kodak, TN (865) 465-0590
To receive discounted rates, please call hotel directly (Aug. 6 & 7; \$169/night + tax)
(Aug. 8; \$99/night + tax)
- Comfort Suites East, 161 W. Dumplin Valley Rd, Kodak (865) 933-3131
(Aug. 6 & 7; \$159/night + tax. Aug 8; \$99/night + tax)
- Riverside RV Park & Resort, 4280 Boyds Creek Hwy, Sevierville, TN (865) 453-7299
- Two Rivers Landing RV Resort – 2328 Business Center Cir Sevierville (866) 727-5781
(located close to Smoky Mountain Knife Works)

Where should we park?

There is ample parking at the Campground. Parking attendees will direct parking traffic. Do not park in the upper parking area. This area is for the general public. Please share this information with your family/friends.

Is there food at the festival?

Yes! There will be food vendors at the festival serving lunch, coffee, snacks, treats, etc. You may want to pre-order lunches for your team. (The Chicken Coop, Gringo's Tacos and Kona Ice)

What is the format of the race?

The race is 250 meters. Each team is guaranteed (3) races. The top three teams in the third round will win Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals. First Place will receive the Trophy Cup. The team with the slowest time will receive the Anchor award.

Can I bring my dog?

No! Pets are not allowed at the campground.

AERIAL OVERHEAD OF VENUE



View of race area- team will start race to the left of the campground and finish at the Beach.



Parking area located to the left when entering the Campground

TEAM PRACTICE INFO

Practices are vital to the dragon boat experience. Practice time will help your team become familiar with the boat and learn the techniques, as well as mastering timing. The more team members that are at practice, the better your team performs on race day. Each team will be given one hour practice during the week before the festival.

Requests will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Team Captains will be notified via email prompting them to register online at **DrumsontheDam.com** for their preferred time slot or if you have questions, you may email Team Liaison kathyvoncannon@uwosc.org.

Team Practices will be held Wednesday (8/3), Thursday (8/4) and Friday (8/5) before the event at Mountain Cove Marina, 1590 Dyke Road, Sevierville, TN 37876. Practice times begin at 4 pm with the last practice at 7 pm.

No more than two teams may register for a particular time slot. If there is a conflict, please contact Kathy Voncannon (865) 366-3335 to make other arrangements with Race Management.

Remember.....hydrate, hydrate, hydrate.

Please arrive at least 20 minutes prior to your scheduled practice time. Steerers will cover important safety information with you before loading the boat.

THE HISTORY OF DRAGON BOAT RACING

According to legend, Dragon Boat racing originated in China more than 2,300 years ago. Chinese history describes the fourth-century B.C. as a Warring States period, a time of shifting alliances and treachery.

The patriot and poet Qu Yuan championed political reform and truth as essential to a healthy state. The King, who had fallen under the influence of corrupt ministers, banished his most loyal counselor, Qu Yuan, from the kingdom.

Left to wander the countryside, Qu Yuan composed some of China's greatest poetry expressing his fervent love and loyalty for his country, and his deep concern for its future. Upon learning of his kingdom's devastation at the hands of a rival kingdom in 277 B.C., Qu Yuan threw himself into the Mei Lo River.

The people loved Qu Yuan. They raced out in their fishing boats to the middle of the river in a vain attempt to save him. They beat on drums and splashed their oars in the water, trying to keep the fish from his body and ward off evil spirits. To honor his soul and ensure it didn't go hungry, they scattered rice into the water.

The popularity of Dragon Boat Races are primarily a form of amusement and fun, while also highlighting the history and culture of this colorful event. This activity has exploded in North America and across the world with an estimated 50 million participants in 67 countries. There are about 175,000 participants in the U.S. and 150-plus recreational dragon boat clubs regularly compete in festivals and championships.

This publication can be found online in the Captain's Corner at www.DrumsontheDam.com.



**United Way
of Sevier County**

Amy S. Harper, Executive Director
P O Box 6458
Sevierville, TN 37864
Phone: 865-366-3335

OUR MISSION

Uniting people and resources in building a stronger, healthier, safer community that will have a lasting impact on improving people's lives.

United Way of Sevier County was established in 1984. For more than 36 years United Way has served the citizens of Sevier County.

Since its beginning, United Way of Sevier County has awarded over **5.5-million dollars** in grants and other assistance to more than 40 local non-profit service organizations.

We work with local non-profit service organizations that directly work with the needs of low-income and medically uninsured individuals who are struggling with addiction, homelessness, abuse, loss of employment and more.

The following organizations are supported through grants made possible by events such as the Dragon Boat Festival:

Big Brothers Big Sisters
Boy Scouts
Boys & Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains
Douglas Cherokee Economic Authority
Epilepsy Foundation
Heartland Services
Lakeway CASA
Legal Aid
McNabb Center

Mountain Hope Clinic
Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center
SafeSpace
Senior Citizens Home Assistance Service
Sevier County Office on Aging
Sevier Co. Youth Ctr/Women's Recover Home
Seymour Volunteer Fire Department
The Salvation Army
Pregnancy Resource Center*

**Formerly the Women's Care Center of Sevier County*