

Spring Canoe Races 2012

Spend a day on the Brazos River! Parent and Youth Teams are Welcome.

Choose one of two Races on the Scenic Brazos River: A 6-mile Intermediate Canoe Race for any swimmer or a 14-mile Advanced Canoe Race for experienced canoeists only, age 14 and older. Fee includes Boats, Gear, T-shirts, Lunch, Awards, & Dinner! Any registered Boy Scout, Venture Crew/Varsity Team/Exploring/Learning for Life member or Adult may enter. All must be swimmers.

WHEN:	Race 1: Saturday, April 21st, 2012	Race 2: Saturday, April 28th, 2012
WHERE:	6-Mile Intermediate Race: Worth Ranch to Dark Valley Bridge (<i>average easy paddle time is 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 hours</i>)	14-Mile Advanced Race: Possum Kingdom Dam to Worth Ranch (<i>average easy paddle time is 3 1/2 - 6 hours</i>)
REGISTRATION:	Early Registration Deadline is 5:00 PM on the Wednesday before your race date. Final Payment must be received by Wed. Full fee for all Registrations after 5:00 PM on the Wednesday before your race date.	
RACE TIMES:	8:00 a.m. – 3:30 PM	14-mile race
	10:30 a.m.-3:30 PM	6-mile race (To avoid crowding, times are assigned for 6-mile race heats and for supper)
	2:30 PM - 5:00 PM	War Canoe Team Race - timed heats, the canoe race afternoon activity!
FEES:	Early Registration Discount: \$26.00 through the Wednesday prior to the race; \$31.00 after 5 PM on the Wednesday prior to the race. Fee includes boats, paddles, PFDs, race numbers, lunch, dinner, race T-shirt, medals & awards	
CHECK-IN:	6:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Saturday	

General Information

Any Boy Scout, Venturer, Varsity Team member, or adult who is a swimmer may enter the 6-mile race. You'll complete the 6-mile course in 1½–2½ hours with an easy paddle. The 14-mile race is open **ONLY** to experienced canoeists, **age 14 and older** (Boy Scouts must have Canoeing Merit Badge and good boat control). The 14-mile course will take 3½–6 hours and is **NOT** an easy paddle - especially when there are strong headwinds in the canyons. **DO NOT TAKE INEXPERIENCED CANOEISTS** on 14-mile race!!

Race and supper times will be assigned. Leaders are encouraged to help with shuttle of drivers and canoe trailers (2" hitch ball) after the race.

In order to provide safety assistance on the river, each unit must provide one adult safety boat for every 10 youth race boats. All adults are considered safety boaters for the purpose of monitoring safety. Bring your Troop first aid kits and medical forms to this event.

Awards go to both paddlers in the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place boats in each division in each race. Adults can race in the Parent/Youth, Men's, Women's, or Mixed Adult race divisions. Only experienced kayakers may race in the kayak class. Racers are welcome to paddle their own canoes (or kayaks). Both individual teams and unit contingents are welcome. From 3:00 - 5:00 PM groups of 4 to 12 paddlers can do timed heats in the 100-yard War Canoe Team Race! War Canoe Finals for qualifying teams at 5:00 PM.

All boaters, and staff will receive boats, paddling gear, race T-shirts, snack lunch, and an awards dinner. We'll end the event with awards for the racers and units at the Awards supper. Participants are welcome to camp Worth Ranch.

Water Levels

Possum Kingdom Dam controls water levels. Race times will vary with water levels and wind speed and direction. At low water you can expect to drag your boat through shallow gravel bars at least once on the 6-mile race and several times on the 14-mile section.

Teams

Each race team should be 2 paddlers from one of the following classes. Any unit entering 3 or more teams (boats) should provide at least one safety boat to assist in staffing the race heats their youth have entered. Except for parent/youth teams, all unit contingents must be accompanied by at least 2 adults on the river.

Race Divisions

Awards to paddlers in the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place boats in each division:
 Boys Teams-up to 100 lbs. Female Youth Teams
 Boys Teams-101 to 150 lbs. Co-ed Youth Teams
 Boys Teams-151+ lbs. Co-ed Adult Teams
 Parent/Youth Teams Adult – Men
 Kayak – male (experience required) Adult – Women
 Kayak – female (experience required)

Safety Boaters and Sweep Boats

Units must provide 1 adult "safety boat" for every 10 youth boats. All adults are considered safety boaters for the purpose of monitoring safety, and are expected to assist or intervene as needed with emergencies and safety concerns. Adults who are primarily serving as safety boaters, rather than racing, must register like all other boaters and will still receive a race number and start and finish race time. All adults should take "Safe Swim Defense" and "Safety Afloat" training, offered online at the BSA Online Learning Center website. **14-Mile Race Sweep Boaters:** Each unit on the 14 mile race must send at least 1 adult "sweep boat" on the river to remain behind all of their unit's paddlers, **including at least one already certified in Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense.** The race staff provides a final sweep boat at the back of each race section.

The Race

6 MILE RACE: Designed to be a fun challenge or just a fun river paddle. You'll paddle 6 river miles from Worth Ranch to the Highway 4 bridge and race for 1 to 2½ hours. Race times will be assigned at check-in, along with matching supper times (to avoid dining hall crowding). Equipment can be checked out from 9:30 A.M. to 1:00 PM. Boaters who check out gear early may practice on the river at the put-in until race time (must follow Safety Afloat rules!). You must be at the Worth Ranch put-in, lined up and ready to go 30 minutes **BEFORE** your scheduled race start. Racers will depart in heats that include adults. Plan a nice easy paddle or paddle hard and fast. Either way: enjoy the race!

14-MILE RACE: This is designed to be a difficult river challenge – racers **MUST** be strong canoeists, age 14 or older! Weak or inexperienced canoeists will be very hard pressed to do the 14-mile race. You'll paddle 14 river miles from Possum Kingdom Dam to Worth Ranch and race for 3 ½ to 5 hours. Be at the Dam put-in by 8:00 A.M. for equipment checkout and race start. **Each 14 mile boat is required to carry at least 4 liters of water per person in the boat and a personal 1st aid kit.**

Equipment

RACE NUMBERS: Each team will have race numbers to wear. Start and finish times will be recorded for each boat. Racers **MUST** check in at the finish line..

BOATS: The camp has over 250 canoes available. Boats are available on a first come-first served basis by order of signup. Experienced kayak paddlers can request camp kayaks. Personal boats may be used with approval. Teams must use the same boat throughout the entire race.

LIFE JACKETS & PADDLES: Provided to all participants. Any personal single-bladed canoe paddle (including bent shaft and curved blade paddles) may be used. Personal PFDs must be U.S. Coast Guard approved and checked by the race staff. Kayak paddles can be used in kayaks only.

PERSONAL GEAR: All participants must wear shirt, pants/shorts, shoes, and a USCG approved PFD at all times while on the water. Bring water, sunscreen, hand bailer, kneepads.

WATER: 14 Mile: Each boat is required to carry at least 5 liters of water in the boat and a personal 1st aid kit. **6-Mile:** Each boat is required to carry at least 2 liters of water in the boat.

