

## 2026 SUMMER PADDLE SEASON

Friends of Dragon Run (FODR) welcomes you to one of the most beautiful rivers in Virginia. We are dedicated to preserving this waterway and want to show you how special it is. In the Summer, the Dragon Run swamp is particularly beautiful with flowers (especially the pickerelweed, spatterdock, buttonbush, and swamp rose). Though the air may be hot, the water is cool. This season we are expecting to offer a new venue for our paddle trip from a newly acquired property downstream of the Teta Kain Nature Preserve. We thank you for your interest in Dragon Run and look forward to meeting you on the day of your paddle trip.

**Dates:** July 15<sup>th</sup> through July 26<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. Nine guests will be assisted by five crew members each day. We will paddle by reservation only. **Every paddler must be at least 18 years old and we can not accommodate guests over 275 pounds** (this is our kayaking safety standard).

**Route:** The meeting location will be a new FODR's launch site on our Rhodes Property. Paddlers will launch from this location and return there after 2.5 - 3 hours. Part of the route is against the current and may be somewhat strenuous if we have lots of rain.

**Start times:** The meeting time for all the paddlers is **8:30 am (allow 10 extra minutes for the dirt road portion of the drive)**. We will be off the water by 12:00 pm. Directions and a map are provided below.

**No lunch break:** We will not stop for an extended group lunch break, but we will take several short breaks for folks to hydrate, so bring water and snacks.

**Reservations:** Reservations will open on **6/13/25 at 9 am**. Go to [www.dragonrun.org](http://www.dragonrun.org) to register. You must provide for each participant: their cell phone number, their email address, and their mailing address. Donations must be made at the time of reservation. The suggested amount is \$60.

**REFUND POLICY:** Refunds will only be offered if FODR has to cancel the paddle due to weather or water conditions. If we must cancel a paddle or make any changes, we will email and call the phone number that you give us when you make your reservation.

Any time you have questions, you may email [paddlemasterdragonrun@gmail.com](mailto:paddlemasterdragonrun@gmail.com).

We provide a kayak for each paddler, a paddle, and a PFD (Personal Flotation Device). DO NOT bring your own boat. The kayaks are sturdy 9.5-foot kayaks designed for slow moving rivers and streams that are ideally suited for navigating the Dragon Run's narrow, twisting channels. We will "fit" you with a kayak and adjust your boat's seat and foot braces to ensure your comfort.

You may bring your own paddle and PFD. However, your PFD must be a standard U.S. Coast-Guard approved PFD, not inflated by a cartridge. WE REQUIRE PFDs TO BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON THE DRAGON RUN. PFDs MUST BE ZIPPED AND/OR BUCKLED AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON THE WATER.

We will be on the water about 2.5 - 3 hours, depending on water levels and the overall ability of the paddlers. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, trips usually end around 12:00 p.m. It is

not wise to schedule other events on the day of the paddle because of the uncertainty of trip length.

Parts of the trip will require paddling upstream against a current as this is a round trip paddle. For this reason, the trip may be a bit more strenuous. Spills can and do rarely occur; so be prepared to get wet. Dress for the weather on the day of your paddle. Bring rain gear and/or a jacket if rain is forecast. Other items you may want to bring include: gloves, hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses.

There are port-a-johns where we launch and takeout. However, there are NO facilities of any kind along the paddle route. Pack your food and water in a small, soft-sided bag that will fit in the kayak. Secure cameras, binoculars, phone, and other expensive items in waterproof bags that you can tether to the kayak or wear around your neck (waterproof phone and key bags are available for loan at the launch site).

**NOTE:** We strongly recommend that persons with heart problems or other serious medical conditions consider very carefully whether they should make the trip. Remember, we will be in the wilderness. Medical help and transportation are a significant time and miles away. If you have a physical condition that would require treatment while you are on the water, be sure to bring necessary medications and equipment you normally use to treat the condition. If you are allergic to stings, be sure to bring whatever medication you use to counteract a reaction.

**Please notify your Crew Leader if you have an existing medical condition that we should know about.**

**What about bad weather?** We will definitely cancel in case of thunderstorms or if the river is running too fast or the water level is too low or too high. We usually cannot make the decision to go or not to go until the morning of the paddle. Therefore, it is necessary to provide a telephone number where you can be reached the night before and early on the morning of your paddle. If we decide to cancel the paddle, we will notify all those who have reservations at or before 6:30 am on the day of the paddle.

If you feel ill on the day of your paddle, stay home! And, if you have to cancel for any reason, **PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!** That will enable us to fill your seat with someone else.

We will sell FODR merchandise each day after the paddle. We have T-shirts, long-sleeve t-shirts, long sleeve solar vapor shirts, quarter-zip long-sleeve performance t-shirts, long-sleeve performance hoodies, hooded sweatshirts, caps, and bucket hats for sale, with all proceeds benefiting FODR. We will also be selling limited edition prints of the Dragon by a local artist (\$60 / \$90 framed). We take cash, checks, or credit cards (cash and checks are preferred).

A few days before your paddle trip each participant will receive an email (from [Presidentdragonrun@gmail.com](mailto:Presidentdragonrun@gmail.com)) with information about your paddle trip including weather forecast and any changes. Please read this email carefully. The email will also include a link that you MUST use to complete a Friends of Dragon Run Liability Release Form.

The above information is intended to help you have a safe and happy trip and to enjoy the special wonders of Dragon Run. We look forward to escorting you on this exciting adventure.

**GENERAL DIRECTIONS to the FODR Meeting Place:**

**We will be launching from the FODR Rhodes Property. The Launch site is at the end of a 0.75 mile dirt road. Please drive slowly especially if you have a low ground clearance vehicle!**

The entrance to the launch site for our Summer Paddle Season is across the road (Farley Park Rd - Rt. 603) from the Teta Kain Nature Preserve. A search on Google Maps for Teta Kain Nature Preserve (TKNP) will get you to the location. On Apple Maps use the address 2994 Farley Park Road, Churchview, VA. The entrance to our launch is on the left about 25 feet before the TKNP entrance if you are heading west on Rt 603 (it is 25 feet after the TKNP entrance if heading east on Rt 603). The entrance is between two sections of metal guard rails. There will be yellow FODR signs with arrows on each side of the road indicating the entrance.

Once on the dirt road, continue to a gate where one of our volunteers will greet you (the gate is approximately 300 feet from Farley Park Road).

After checking in you will pass a corn field, go through another gate, and then arrive at a yellow FODR sign with an arrow to the right. Follow the arrow and arrive at the launch site.

Maps are attached to help with the location.



Our Launch site is North of Saluda, South of Tappahannock, and East of West Point.



Heading North on Route 17: Approximately 6 miles north of the Rt 33 and Rt 198 intersection, turn left onto Farley Park Road (Rt. 603). Travel about 3 miles until you see the Yellow FODR sign pointing to the left.

Heading South on Route 17: Approximately 19 miles south of Tappahannock, turn right onto Wares Church Road (Rt 602). Almost immediately after turning onto Wares Church Road, take the first left hand turn onto Edgehill Road. Follow Edgehill to the intersection of Farley Park Road and then turn right at the stop sign. Travel about 2 miles until you see the Yellow FODR sign pointing to the left.

Heading from West Point: Travel East on Rt 33 for about 4 miles, turn left onto The Trail (just after the Dragon Run Brewing Co). In 2 miles, turn right onto Elsom Mascot Road (Rt 610). Continue until Elsom intersects with New Dragon Bridge Road (Rt 603). Turn right onto New Dragon Bridge Road (which becomes Farley Park Road after crossing the Dragon Bridge). You will see the Yellow FODR sign pointing to the right just after the bridge.

**On the day of the paddle, if you get lost or expect to be late,**

**please call our Summer Paddle Master: Jack Kauffman 267-733-3670 or  
The FODR President: Carol Kauffman 267-733-3667**