2026 FALL 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 fall, the Dragon Run swamp is particularly beautiful with the changes in foliage. We thank you for your interest in Dragon Run and look forward to meeting you on the day of your paddle trip.

Dates: October 14th through November 1st, weather and water levels permitting. We will paddle by reservation only.

Limited group size: 9 Guests maximum each day. Every paddler must be at least **18 years old**. **At the time of registration, you must provide the name, email address, and cell phone number of each individual.**

Route: The meeting location will be FODR's launch site at its **Dragon Flats property**. Paddlers will launch from **Dragon Flats** and return there after 3 hours. Part of the route may be against a current. Directions and a map are provided below.

Start times and place: 9:00 am, 2580 Farley Park Rd.

REFUND POLICY: Refunds will only be offered if FODR has to cancel the paddle due to weather. Many paddlers whose trips have been canceled by FODR donate their registration fee. Since this is our principal fundraising activity, we hope that you will consider this option, if possible.

If we must cancel a paddle or make any changes, we will call the phone number that you give us when you make your reservation.

Any time you have questions, you may email PaddleMasterDragonRun@gmail.com.

We provide a kayak for each paddler, a paddle, and a life vest. 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 can not accommodate guests over 275 pounds (this is our kayaking safety standard). At the time of registration, you must provide the name, email address, and cell phone number of each individual.
You may bring your own paddle and life vest. However, your life vest must be a standard U.S. Coast-Guard approved PFD, not inflated by a cartridge. **WE REQUIRE LIFE VESTS TO BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON THE DRAGON RUN. VESTS 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 12:15 p.m. It is not wise to schedule other events on the day of the paddle because of the uncertainty of trip length. No lunch break: We will take several short breaks for folks to hydrate, so bring water and snacks

Parts of the trip may require paddling upstream against a current. For this reason, the trip may be a bit more strenuous. Spills can and do 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, waterproof bag for electronics, 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. Bring enough food and water for your time on the water. No potable water is available along the route. We will take frequent water and snack breaks; but we will not stop for lunch. 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.

If you are allergic to stings, be sure to bring whatever medication you use to counteract a reaction.

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 hope to sell FODR merchandise each day after the paddle. We have T-shirts ($25), long-sleeve t-shirts ($35), long sleeve solar vapor shirts ($35), quarter-zip long-sleeve performance t-shirts ($45), long-sleeve performance hoodies ($45), hooded sweatshirts ($40), caps ($25), and bucket hats ($15) for sale, with all proceeds benefiting FODR. We have limited edition prints of the Dragon by a local artist ($60 / $90 framed) and anniversary merchandise available. We take cash, checks, or credit cards.

Each person will need to sign a liability waiver. 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.

Directions are below:

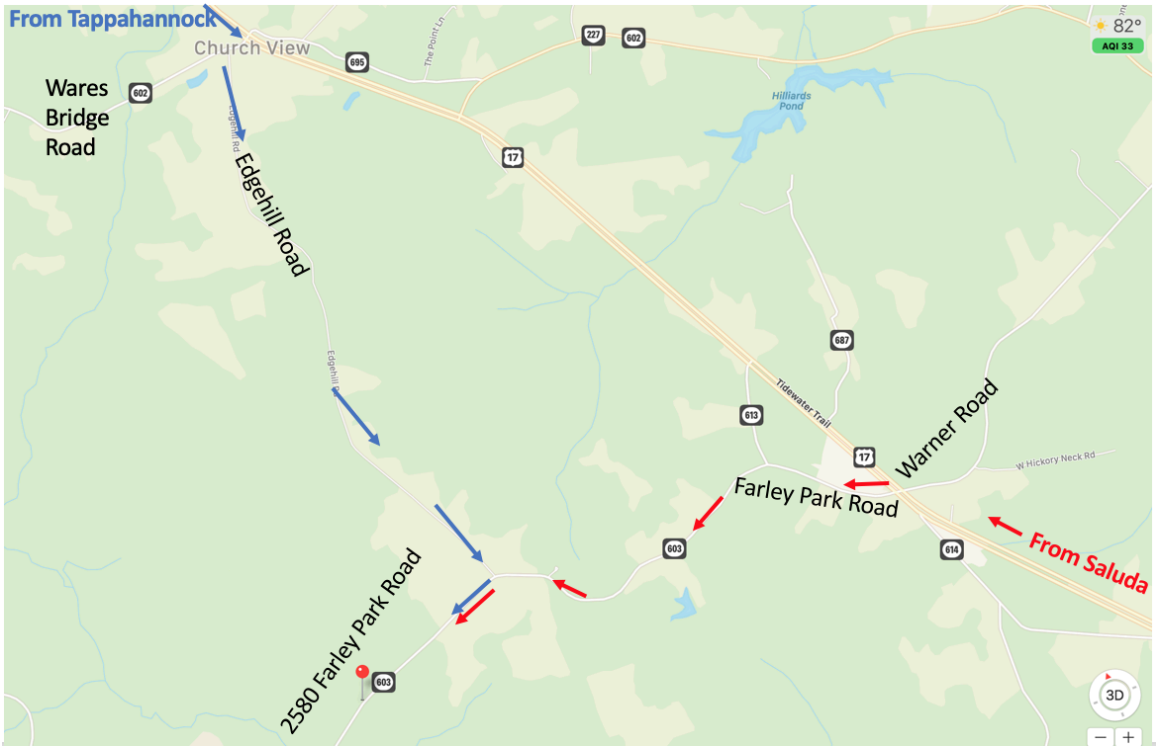
GENERAL DIRECTIONS to the FODR Meeting Place:

We will be Launching from the <u>Dragon Flats property</u>. We will have you drive directly to the launch site. **The Launch site is at the end of a <u>one and one half mile dirt road</u>. Please drive slowly especially if you have a low ground clearance vehicle!** Use the following GPS location: 2580 Farley Park Road, Church View, VA to get you onto the dirt road. There is no street number posted. There will be FODR signs and a FODR Crew member stationed near the entrance. Please add an extra 10 minutes to your GPS time to drive to the launch.

If you have problems with GPS, directions are as follows:

Heading North on Route 17 from Saluda: Approximately 6 miles north of the Rt 33 and Rt 198 intersection, turn <u>left</u> onto Farley Park Road (Rt. 603) (603 on the right is Warner Road). Travel 2.6 miles to the entrance on the right.

Heading South on Route 17 from Tappahannock: Approximately 22 miles south of Tappahannock, turn <u>right</u> onto Wares Bridge Road (Rt 602) and then take an almost immediate left turn onto Edgehill Road. Follow Edgehill Road to Farley Park Road (first stop sign) and turn right. Travel less than 1 mile to the entrance on the right.



Heading Northeast on Rt 33 from West Point: Approximately 3.9 miles from the York River bridge turn left onto the Trail. After 2 miles, turn right onto Eldon Mascot Rd (610). After 2 miles turn right on New Dragon Bridge Rd (603) which changes names to Farley Park Rd. Yellow FODR signs about ½ mile from the bridge will direct you to turn left.

On the day of the paddle, if you get lost, please call our Paddle Master: Jim Ewan (804) 577-7259; or Carol Kauffman, guest relations (267-733-3667)