

Poker Ride Hike or Paddle



Event Information

Join us for the annual Poker Ride-Hike-Paddle Event presented by the Friends of the Little Manatee River State Park. Your support of this event will go directly to help us support projects in our park

On this version of a poker run, you will search the park trails for buckets that contain playing cards sealed in envelopes. You may hike the lands trails on foot, ride the trails on horseback or take to the river trail in a canoe or kayak. Return to event central and turn in your sealed card envelopes. You may choose to try to improve your hand by buying extra cards for a donation. Turn in the best 5 card poker hand you can from your cards. Turn in the best hand and win a \$100 first prize.

There will be corn hole games and a 50/50 drawing. Lunch will be served (see menu below)

The entry fee is \$20 per participant with advance purchase, \$25 on the day of the event. Prices include one lunch. Extra lunches are available for \$7 each. You must have one paid event admission for each participant. Please visit www.FriendsOfTheLittleManatee.org to purchase your tickets. This event goes on rain or shine. Just like when you purchase a concert ticket, there are no refunds unless the event is cancelled for any reason.

Schedule

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| 8:00 | Parking lot opens for horses & hikers. Registration and check in. 50/50 drawing ticket sales open. Corn hole games open all day. Canoe Outpost opens for paddler registration and launching. |
| 9:00 – 11:00 | Riders and hikers begin trail search. |
| 11:30 – 2:00 | Lunch is served |
| 1:30 | All riders, hikers and paddlers must turn cards at registration in order to be eligible for prizes. |
| 2:00 | First prize awarded. |

Menu

Cheeseburger
Potato salad
Baked beans
Brownie

Water, ice tea (sweet or unsweet)

River Paddler Information

Participating in this event on the river by canoe or kayak is slightly different than participating on land. The river trail starts at the Canoe Outpost-Little Manatee River at 18001 US Hwy 301 S. Wimauma, FL. This is 1.5 miles north of the park entrance and the main event field.

Paddlers will come to the outpost starting at 8:00 am to register and launch. To allow time to paddle the trail and for the event, you must launch before 10:30 am. Event participation requires at least one paid participant per boat. Boats with multiple passengers may choose to have multiple paid event tickets to increase the chances of winning prizes and to get the included lunch. Extra lunches are available separately for \$7 each. We recommend that you pre-purchase your event tickets at www.friendsofthelittlemanatee.org to save \$5 per ticket. You should present your paid ticket to the outpost at check in. You may purchase day of tickets at the outpost with cash or credit card.

The paddling trail is along our normal Trip 1 and goes downstream with the current for about six miles or 2.5 hours of paddle time. You will hunt for buckets hanging from trees that contain playing cards in sealed envelopes. You take one envelope from each bucket. At the end, outpost buses will meet you at 11:30, 12:15 and 1:00 and transport you to the event field or back to the outpost. You must check in at the event table by 1:30 to turn in your sealed cards and be eligible for prizes and to purchase 50/50 tickets. If you prefer, you may take the bus back to the outpost and then drive yourself to the event field. Be sure to allow extra time.

The Canoe Outpost is providing shuttle service for boat owners for \$10 per boat. They are also offering \$10 discounts off of canoe or kayak rental rates. There must be at least one paid event participant per boat to receive these discounted rates.

On event day, please call the outpost at 813-634-2228 to check that river levels and conditions are suitable for your experience level. River levels above 6' may be too challenging for some experience levels and at river levels above 8', we close the river to all participants. Refunds will be available if these conditions exist or you may choose to participate by other means such as hiking.

Event Essential Eligibility Criteria

This event is open to all. We encourage you to review the essential eligibility criteria available in [PDF](#) form [here](#).

Florida State Parks have various levels of accessibility. If you need assistance to enable you to participate in this event, the park will strive to make any reasonable accommodation to provide access for all. Please contact the Kate Smithson at 813-671-5005 a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the event.