



Missouri Whitewater Association
www.MissouriWhitewater.org





MISSION

- Encourage the growth of paddling as a recreational sport
- Teach paddling skills, river safety, first aid, outfitting and conservation
- Encourage the development of state-of-the-art paddling equipment
- Educate members and the public through a club newsletter and bi-monthly meetings
- Sponsor river trips and outdoor activities
- Practice conservation and preservation of free-flowing rivers and wilderness areas, and work with other groups who share similar interests in supporting environmental issues that protect our natural resources
- Promote paddling interest through cooperation with governmental departments, bureaus, and agencies, and private and public organizations that share similar interests
- Organize and sponsor the annual Missouri Whitewater Championships

ABOUT THE MWA

As seen in our mission, the Missouri Whitewater Association is a public organization which exists to teach safe paddling skills, promote conservation efforts, and encourage the growth of whitewater paddling.



Whether you want to learn class II riffles or find friends to run some raging class V runs, the MWA attracts many different types of paddlers, ranging from canoe, kayak, flatwater and whitewater boaters.

The proceeds of membership (only \$15 per year) help fund our instruction and conservation efforts, as well as help us host the Missouri Whitewater Championships—the longest-running whitewater races in the country. Members and non-members can attend club courses, trips, meetings, the annual club picnic, and members receive the monthly e-newsletter, The RiverLog.

INSTRUCTION

Recreational and whitewater kayaking instruction of all levels is available. Learn paddle strokes for recreational and whitewater kayaking, the Eskimo rescue and roll, proper safety and equipment. Please check our website for times, locations, and pricing.



CLINIC

The MWA offers several levels of on-the-river paddling instruction. We have several members who are experienced, ACA-certified instructors in canoe and kayak. Our annual paddling clinic for kayaks, decked canoes and open canoes is one of the most anticipated events of the year for both students and instructors. Levels range from novice to advanced, including playboating classes, and students are grouped according to abilities and experience. And if the thrill of the river isn't enough to look forward to, a full course, hot catered dinner awaits participants along the banks of the beautiful St. Francis River at the end of the day.

COMPETITION

The MWA hosts the longest-running whitewater races in the country, held the third weekend of March at the Millstream Gardens section of the St. Francis River near Fredericktown, Missouri. These weekend-long races attract paddlers from throughout the country who want to challenge their precision in slalom competition and their speed in a downriver race. The races are open to many classes of whitewater boats and skill levels from novice to expert.



CONSERVATION

The MWA participates in Missouri's Clean Stream program with annual cleanup of our adopted section of the Meramec River near Sullivan, Missouri. We also initiated the Preserve the Saint program, which involves testing the water quality of the St. Francis and reporting the results to the EPA. Naturally, no matter what river we paddle, we pick up trash whenever we can. River health and water quality are important issues to our members and we try to take every opportunity to advance awareness and participation in cleanup efforts.



SAFETY CLINICS

River safety clinics are also offered, teaching basic river safety practices and river rescue techniques. Basic first aid and CPR is also taught by certified instructors.

TRIPS

The MWA organizes many trips throughout the year for paddlers of all skill levels. Our annual Memorial Day trip to the Southeast is one of the premiere learning experiences you can find and offers safe, fun, and unforgettable adventures in the beautiful Appalachian mountains. A highlight trip of the year, our advanced boaters return year-after-year to help introduce new paddlers to the sport.



Other trips occur throughout the year to Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and West Virginia among others. Longer excursions take us east to Maryland or Maine, or west to Colorado, Utah, Idaho, or Washington. When we can't get enough whitewater in this country, we wander off to Canada, Chile, New Zealand, Europe, and other locations in search of whitewater adventures. You'll also find us enjoying the warmth of Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. Occasionally we take a break from whitewater and venture into float trips, backpacking, biking, skiing, and virtually any other outdoor excursion.



LOCAL PADDLING

The beautiful St. Francis River—located in Silver Mines State Park and Millstream Gardens Recreation Area near Fredericktown, Missouri— offers superb whitewater paddling only two hours from St. Louis. Depending on the water level, the St. Francis ranges from Class II+ to Class V in difficulty. Because “The Saint” is dependent on local precipitation, paddling is usually limited to Winter thru Spring and at other times after heavy rain. During periods of heavy rain, there are also many beautiful creeks awaiting your descent.





WANT TO LEARN MORE?

There is much more to the MWA than can be mentioned here!

General membership meetings are held at 7PM every other month (January, March, May, July, November). Check our website for more details and meeting locations. For more information about instruction, competition, conservation, or any anything else, email info@missouriwhitewater.org or visit...

www.MissouriWhitewater.org

The Missouri Whitewater Association

PO Box 300099

Saint Louis, MO 63130



The Missouri Whitewater Association operates as a General Not for Profit Corporation, registered in the State of Missouri, for educational and recreational purposes, and is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. MWA is classified as a public charity under section 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, and contributions to MWA are tax deductible under section 170 of the Code.

MISSOURI WHITEWATER ASSOCIATION **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

The membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. Dues received after October 1 apply to the following year. Membership renewals are due by February 1 to meet Directory listing deadlines. Complete this form (signatures on Agreement and applicable waivers required) and send it with a check (payable to MWA) to:

Missouri Whitewater Association, Membership Director
P.O. Box 300099
St. Louis, MO 63130

Select One:

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Please Select Your MWA membership type:

☐ INDIVIDUAL: \$15.00/Year. Entitled to one membership vote.

☐ FAMILY: \$20.00/Year. Entitled to two membership votes.

☐ SPONSORING: (Business): \$35.00/Year. Entitled to one membership vote and free advertisement in each RiverLog.

Name _____
please print

Business Name (Sponsoring only) _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____ Birth Date _____

For FAMILY memberships and DIRECTORY LISTING, list names, birth dates, paddling information (optional) of additional family members: _____

All data submitted (except birth-dates) will be shown in the Directory unless otherwise instructed. All adult members listed on the application must sign the waiver. **An adult/guardian must sign in the space indicated if any minor is listed on the application.**

Missouri Whitewater Association ("MWA") Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement ("Agreement") IN CONSIDERATION of being permitted to participate in any MISSOURI WHITEWATER ASSOCIATION ("MWA") sponsored Whitewater Activities ("Activity"), I for myself, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs and next of kin:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE, AGREE AND REPRESENT that I understand the nature of Whitewater Activities and that I am qualified to participate in such Activity. I further acknowledge that the Activity may be conducted on public waterways and other facilities open to the public during the Activity and upon which the hazards of paddling a boat, such as a canoe, kayak, or raft are to be expected. I further agree and warrant that if at any time I believe conditions to be beyond my ability, I will discontinue further participation in the Activity as soon as practicable.

2. FULLY UNDERSTAND that: a. WHITEWATER ACTIVITIES INVOLVE RISKS AND DANGER OF SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, INCLUDING PERMANENT DISABILITY, PARALYSIS, AND DEATH ("RISKS") b. These Risks and dangers may be caused by my own actions, or in-actions, the actions or in-actions of others participating in the Activity, the conditions under which the Activity takes place, or THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES NAMED BELOW: c. There may be OTHER RISKS AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LOSSES either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time. I FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES I incur as a result of my participation in the Activity.

3. HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, COVENANT NOT TO SUE, AND AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS MWA and its directors, officers, agents, members and other participants, any sponsor, advertiser, and if applicable owners and lessors of premises on which the Activity takes place, (each considered one of the "RELEASEES" herein) FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON MY ACCOUNT CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING FAILED RESCUE OPERATIONS. ALL MWA ACTIVITY PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPECTED TO WEAR HELMETS AND PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES AND TO CARRY SAFETY EQUIPMENT APPROPRIATE TO THE DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY OF THE WHITEWATER PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES ARE EXPECTED ON ALL FLOATS. I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, AND UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE SURRENDERED SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT. I HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT OR ASSURANCE OF ANY NATURE. I INTEND IT TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW AND AGREE THAT IF ANY PORTION OF THIS AGREEMENT IS HELD TO BE INVALID, THE BALANCE NOTWITHSTANDING SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

I am: 1. Over the age of eighteen (18) years old or 2. My parent or legal guardian has also signed for me

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Additional signatures of family members if you have chosen a family membership:

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SIGNATURE (REQUIRED) for any juvenile(s) listed above.

The Missouri Whitewater Association was created to serve as a forum to bring together paddlers with similar interest. Since its founding in 1974 (then known as the Arnold Whitewater Association), the club has met regularly and has sponsored activities to: Encourage the growth of paddling as a recreational and competitive sport. Enhance camaraderie among paddlers. Teach basic and advanced paddling skills and the safe use of canoes, kayaks and rafts. Practice and encourage the conservation of streams, rivers, inland lakes and waterways and to work with local regional and national organizations that have the same goals. The RiverLog, the club's regularly published newsletter sent to all members, is designed to keep members informed concerning club activities, concerns and meetings..