

**57TH ANNUAL
MISSOURI WHITEWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS
SLALOM, DOWNRIVER & BOATERCROSS RACES
MARCH 15-17, 2024**



Welcome to the 57TH Annual Missouri Whitewater Championships! This year's races will again be held on the Saint Francis River at Millstream Gardens, 7 miles west of Fredericktown, MO; 95 miles south of St. Louis on Hwy 72, west of US 67.

Enclosed are updates for this year's races, rules on boating safety, a schedule of race events & information on volunteering. The Missouri Whitewater Championships are organized & run by the Missouri Whitewater Association, judged by the Sierra Club, Eastern Missouri Group, and sanctioned by the American Canoe Association.

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Thanks for racing—good luck and have fun!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RACERS & VOLUNTEERS REGISTRATION

RETURNING FOR 2024: Friday Downriver event, followed by music at the D-bridge Pavilion. Food for purchase will be TBD. Plan on BYO food until further notice. Come down early, help finish set-up, race and enjoy the fun!

RETURNING FOR 2024: Registration will be for one day of racing or full weekend. If you race just one day (Fri., Sat. or Sun.), you pay only \$35. And you can volunteer the other days! Full weekend is \$45. Juniors (under 18) pay \$25. All racers receive a short sleeve t-shirt.

Late registration will be held Friday, March 15, at the Millstream Gardens Pavilion, 3:00–4:00 PM, and then CLOSE for the weekend. There will be NO SATURDAY or SUNDAY REGISTRATION. This will help things run smoother.

The ACA event fee is \$10 for non-ACA members. You WILL be charged \$10 if your ACA number is not provided.

Bibs will not be given out until the registrar has your signed ACA waiver. There is no deposit for race bibs. Bibs will be exchanged for your race t-shirt at the end of the race. Please don't lose your bib! You will be held responsible for the cost of lost bibs.

REFUNDS will only be issued if the race is cancelled, or water levels exceed personal limits/ability. \$20 will be deducted to cover service fee & t-shirt. A race t-shirt will accompany all refunds.

SAFETY

Each racer completing the course must remain afloat at the finish until relieved by the next 2 boats. Be ready to assist other boaters as needed. All boats must have grab loops, plus adequate flotation. Flotation on open boats must be below the water line & not impede water flow. All racers will wear helmets & PFD. Be prepared for cold water.

COMPETITION, SCORING & AWARDS

Slalom races will follow traditional MWC race rules (based on USA CANOE/KAYAK Slalom Racing Rules). Timing will be best of two runs with 0/5/50 second penalties for touches/misses. Awards are presented to the top three eligible racers per class.

Bib order racing. Racers will run in numerical order. **Be ready to go in bib order or you risk missing your run!**

The Race Director, on the advice of the Safety Director, Chief Judge, or Chief Official, may make adjustments to the rules or the race courses as needed, and shall be the final authority in these matters.

FREDDIE CARTER MEMORIAL DOWNRIVER RACE:

2024 Downriver classes: Kayak classes will be by length, Under 10', and 10' & over. Kayak Novice is any length. **No age groups in Downriver this year.** Paddle fast!!

The downriver racers' mandatory meeting is at Fisherman's put-in Friday, 4:00 PM. The race will be an interval start. Be ready to go in bib order or you risk missing your run!

SLALOM

Classes. Saturday AM: Eligible for a single morning class (per boat type). The Novice class is intended for racers who have never medaled in any slalom competition. The Expert class is for racers who have previously medaled in slalom. The Composite class (formerly called "Olympic" class) is reserved for official-length boats of 3.5M (K1 & C1) or 4.1M (C2) of any composite construction whether or not a paddler has medaled as Novice or Expert. Novice & Expert classes are Plastic only.

Saturday Composite Classes: Boats can be of any construction, including fiberglass, kevlar or carbon fiber. **No exceptions on minimum length will be allowed, even if low water levels exist.**

	K1	C1	C2
MIN. LENGTH	3.50 m (11.48')	3.50 m (11.48')	4.10 m (13.45')
MIN. WIDTH	0.60 m (23.62")	0.60 m (23.62")	0.75 m (29.53")
MIN. WEIGHT	9 kg (19.8 lbs)	9 kg (19.8 lbs)	15 kg (33.0 lbs)

NEW FOR 2024: OC2-Mixed moved to Saturday with OC1 and C1 added to age groups. K1 long and short moved back to Sunday.

Saturday PM: Age groups (K1, C1 and OC1) and OC2 Mixed.

Sunday Slalom: K1 long & short. open canoe & SUP. **Note:** OC1 Novice Men & Women, for slalom (and downriver). This class is open to any racer who has NOT previously placed in OC1, regardless of how many times they've raced OC1 in the past. Racers may only enter either Novice or Expert, Long and Short K1, Men and Women OC. K1 Plastic Long/Short classification: Long is 7'6" and over. Short is under 7'6". Racers may only run either one or the other, not both. We will confirm boat lengths on site, so please measure your boats carefully to avoid reshuffling!

DODGEBALL

Course Description & Rules: This race is designed to be fun for racers, spectators and even slalom race Judges. At 4:30 PM Saturday afternoon up to 20 advanced whitewater kayakers with solid rolling skills will gather in the pool near the slalom race start position. Judges and spectators will be given dodgeballs that they will toss from secure locations along the rivers edge in an attempt to tag out kayakers. The winner of the race will be the first one to cleanly run through the gate below big drop without getting tagged out. This is the only gate that needs to be negotiated.

Rules: Racers are allowed to knock the ball away with their paddle only, but knocked away balls remain live. Floating balls are live while on the course between the starting pool and big drop. Any contact with a live ball will result in that racer being considered tagged out even if it was the racer who knocked that ball away. Racers will be disqualified for any of the same reasons listed in the Boatercross Safety section below, etc.

BOATERCROSS

NEW FOR 2024: Boatercross will be first-thing Sunday morning to improve race scheduling. Be on time! Boatercross final round held at 2:30 PM Sunday

Boatercross Boats & Classes: Competitors race in kayaks (K1), or canoes (OC1), in men and women classes.

Note: since this is a head-to-head style race, timing the racers is NOT required.

Course Description & Rules: Emphasis of Boatercross is FUN, not competition! There will be multiple heats of 3–5 boats for each round. The top two finishers from each heat will advance to the next round using the same course, until just 4-5 racers remain (depending on the number of people who enter, and subsequently, the number of heats). These 4 or 5 finalists will race to decide the overall winner. Actual course length, starting line, schedule of heats and final round will be determined at the time of the race since these are dependent on water level and racer participation. The course will start at the designated Boatercross start line.

Competitors will be assigned to heats of 3–5 boats. The Boatercross director will explain the course (negotiation of gates, buoys, obstacles, etc.) before the start of the first heat. When announced by the Starting Judge, each heat of racers will line up side-by-side, bows facing downstream. The start will be a "rolling start" so that when the Starting Judge determines that all racers in a heat are lined up EVENLY, he/she will immediately announce "GO!" as the start of the race.

When lining up competitors, the Starting Judge may ask racers to "Back-up," "Move Forward" to ensure that the boats are lined up and no one has an unfair advantage. Racers should pay close attention to the Starting Judge, as he/she may announce "GO!" at any moment after deciding that the boats are lined up evenly. Any racers who fail to respond to the commands of the Starting Judge's orders may be disqualified from the event.

When the Starting Judge says "GO!" racers will paddle into the main flow of the river, negotiate the course, and cross the main finish line at the end. Each heat will be completed before the next one begins. When the top two finishers of a given heat are identified by the Finishing Judge, they will be required to follow the instructions regarding who they will be paired up with for the next round.

Boatercross Safety: There will be strict disqualification for ANY intentional harm to another paddler or "skirting" the gates. No slashing with paddles, punching, grabbing or pulling on another PERSON, their helmet or PFD. Boat loops may NOT be taped down. Competitors should keep their hands on their paddles as much as possible. Paddlers can reach across the deck of a competitor in order to plant a stroke in the water. No pulling on grab loops, skirt loops, cockpit rims, etc

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

Your help is appreciated Race Weekend—please pitch in! See Volunteer Coordinator Saturday AM for volunteer needs. Email racevolunteer@missouriwhitewater.org for more details. Thanks!

- **Safety Boaters:** Must be proficient in on-water rescue. Selection determined by Safety Chair.
- **Sales:** Selling shirts, banquet tickets. Must be MWA member in good standing & over 18 years old.
- **Public Address:** Announce races and other events over PA system.

The following require pre-event training...we're happy to train!

- **Start Line:** Organize racers in correct order, relay start times to scoring tent.
- **Finish Line:** Record and relay finish times to scoring tent
- **Communications:** Send times, gate scores, other data between start/finish, judging stations and scoring tents via radio.
- **Timing:** Operate one of the following: start or finish timing, boat scheduling at start.
- **Scoring:** Operate computer scoring, organize times, gate scores or post scores.
- **Judging:** Observe racers passing through gates & mark penalties, communicate scores via radio.
- **Registration Area:** Check in registered racers, verify waiver signature, adjust racer classes, hand out bibs, trade bibs for t-shirts.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Race Banquet** will be SATURDAY at the Fredericktown Eagles Lodge, 411 Burriss, Fredericktown, MO (see map following page). Banquet doors open at 6 PM, dinner served at 7 PM. Saturday racing awards after dinner. Tickets are sold Saturday at the sales table until the event is sold-out.
- **Parking** at the Millstream Gardens Pavilion is limited to those racing that day due to limited space—please follow this request. There is a separate parking lot for spectators.
- **Concessions** will be available near the Millstream Pavilion on race weekend. There will be no lunch break during races.
- **Camping** is available at Silver Mines Campground, 5 miles east of Millstream Gardens at Silver Mines (South on Hwy. D).
- **Food, gas, and other lodging** is available in Fredericktown, Ironton, and Arcadia. Please support the local economy!
- **Pets** must be leashed.
- **No Solicitations or unauthorized sales.** Also, *please don't litter! Instead, pick up litter!*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday 3/09/24	Start 10:00 AM	Initial course setup. Meet at Millstream Pavilion. Bring gloves, wire cutters, eye protection, lunch and water to drink.
	Post Setup—5:00 PM	Slalom Clinic. Free to Volunteers, \$20 to others. Fees benefit the MWA and help pay for the races.
	Evening	Camping and party for the setup volunteers that evening! Please help out & have some fun!

Thursday 3/14/24	10:00 AM	Meet at storage shed to load race gear & signs
	11:00 AM	Course set up—please help! Gate hanging, followed by open practice

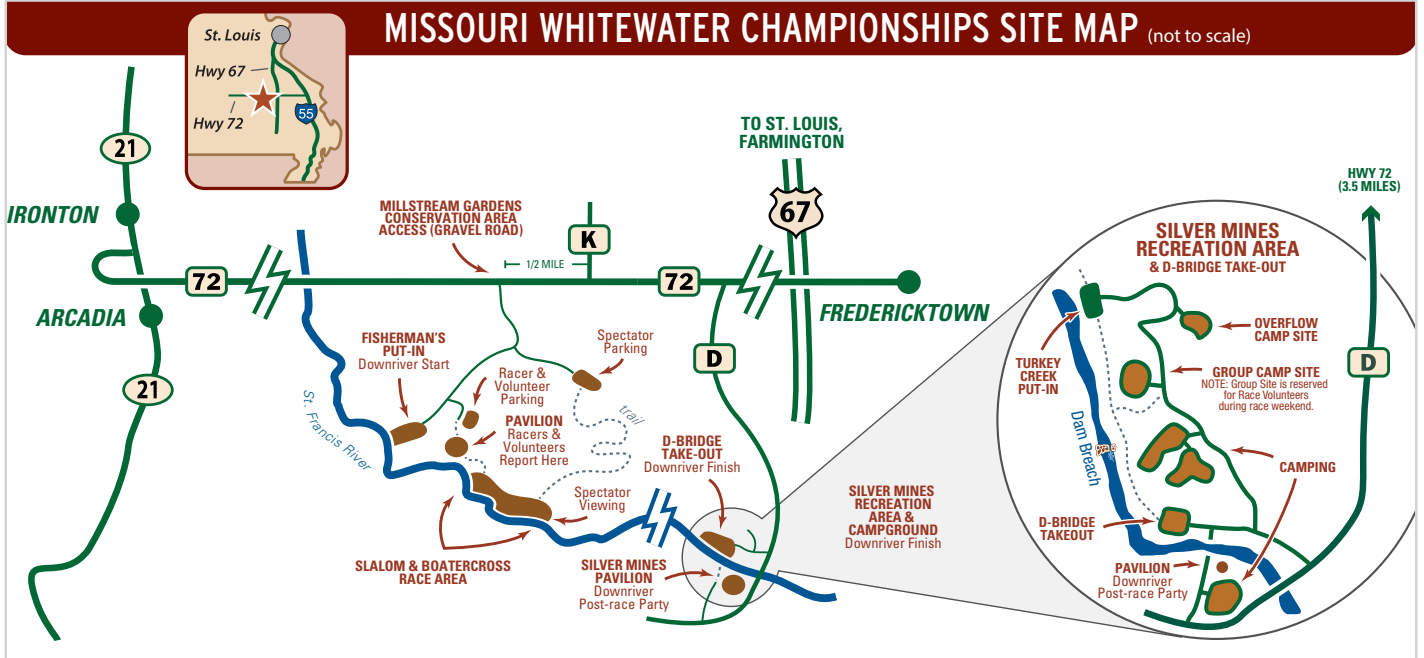
Friday 3/15/24	3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Early check-in / late registration at Millstream Pavilion
	4:00 PM	Downriver race meeting at Fisherman's put-in
	4:30 PM	Downriver race begins
	6:00 PM	Music at D-bridge Pavilion after the race. Food availability TBD, Downriver awards presented at the Saturday banquet.

Saturday 3/16/24	6:30 AM – 8:00 AM	Open practice AFTER gates are set
	7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Check-in, boat inspection at Millstream Gardens Pavilion
	8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Paddler's mandatory race meeting at Millstream Gardens Pavilion
	8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	National Anthem, Veterans Big Drop Run
	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Morning Slalom: Composite & Expert 2 runs, then Novice-K1, C1, C2
	12:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Afternoon Slalom: Age groups (K1, C1, OC1), OC2 mixed
	4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Dodgeball race (last slalom racers help with safety and ball retrieval)
	6:00 PM	Race Banquet at Fredericktown Eagles Lodge, 411 Burriss, Fredericktown, MO 63645

Sunday 3/17/24	6:30 AM – 7:45 AM	Open practice AFTER gates are set
	7:00 AM – 7:45 AM	Check-in, boat inspection at Millstream Gardens Pavilion
	8:00 AM – 8:15 AM	Paddler's mandatory race meeting at Millstream Gardens Pavilion
	8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Boatercross K1, OC1 heats. BE ON TIME to help make the day run smoothly!
	9:30 AM – 2:30 PM	Men's and Women OC1/OC2, SUP, K1 Long, K1 Short
	2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Boatercross final
	3:00 PM	Course takedown. ALL racers must help!
	3:30 PM	Awards, raffle for Volunteers.
	4:00 PM	Return race gear to storage shed. Please help out!

RACE SITE MAP

MISSOURI WHITEWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS SITE MAP (not to scale)



BANQUET MAP

