



KAYAKING – OCKLAWAHA RIVER



DATE AND TIME: Friday, January 24, 2025 at 8:30am

RSVP: Please RSVP to June Benoit at 802-249-2511 or jbenoit001@aol.com. We need a preliminary headcount and rental boat count by Monday, January 13 at 9am and a final headcount and rental boat count by Tuesday, January 21 at 9am. If you are bringing your own kayaks let June know how many people are in your group and how many single and tandem kayaks need to be shuttled.

DESCRIPTION: We'll be paddling on the beautiful, twisty, wild and scenic Ocklawaha River. We'll all drive to the Ocklawaha Canoe Outpost to park and pay for our rentals and shuttles. Then we'll be shuttled to the Gore's Landing boat launch site about 9 miles upstream. We expect to be paddling downstream for about 3.5 hours, depending on the speed of the current. We'll have plenty of time to enjoy the scenery, abundant birdlife and other wildlife. We'll definitely see alligators and we may see manatees and monkeys too.

This trip is not recommended for brand new kayakers due to the length of the trip and the need to negotiate a lot of turns in the river and obstacles like fallen trees. However, new kayakers may enjoy the trip if they plan to share a tandem kayak with a friend who is an experienced paddler.

Historical note: The Ocklawaha River was originally slated to be dredged, widened and straightened to become part of the Cross Florida Barge Canal. Construction on the canal began in the early 1960's and was stopped in the early 1970's. There were several factors leading to the termination of the project but one of the main ones was saving the Ocklawaha River from destruction. Eventually the Cross Florida Barge Canal lands and waterways became the Cross Florida Greenway, our local 110-mile linear park which hosts more than 300 miles of trails of all types: paddling, hiking, mountain biking, equestrian and paved multi-use.

RENTAL FEES: The outfitter offers sit-in kayaks. Sorry, no sit-on-top kayaks.

\$42 Solo Kayak. \$62 Tandem Kayak. \$52 Canoe. Price includes shuttle, paddles and lifejackets.

If you have your own kayak, you'll pay a shuttle fee of \$25 per boat.

MEETING PLACE: Please meet at the pickleball court parking lot between 8:30 – 8:40am. Departing promptly at 8:40am. The Ocklawaha Canoe Outpost is about one hour from Stone Creek. We'll arrive about 20 minutes prior to our 10am shuttle which gives us time to check in and pay.

LOCATION: Ocklawaha Canoe Outpost, 15260 NE 152ND Place, Fort McCoy, FL 32134 (map on next page) There are bathrooms at the Gore's Landing boat launch and at the Ocklawaha Canoe Outpost.

ITEMS TO BRING: Please bring plenty of water, lunch & snacks, hat and binoculars.

PETS: Pets are welcome and are allowed in rental kayaks and on the shuttle bus.

WEBSITE: www.outpostresort.com. Everyone must fill out a liability waiver at the shop upon arrival.

See your doctor before swapping the TV remote control for hiking boots, bikes and kayaks. Then pick a hike, ride or other trip within your comfort zone and begin your adventure. Participants are personally responsible for all their decisions and risks associated with their participation in any Outdoor Adventure Club activity.

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Elan Spa at Del Webb Stone Creek, 6101 S
 Ocklawaha Canoe Outpost & Resort, 15260 NE 152nd Pl

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