

Chestertown Tea Party Raft Race

Procedures, Rules, and Registration for Participants

The Event

Date: The Sunday of Memorial Day weekend (please check your calendar!)

Location: Wilmer Park, Chestertown, Maryland. Rafters are to arrive in the lot of the Washington College Truslow boathouse: <https://goo.gl/maps/fqJRgu1tXzo>

Arrive: 1:30 PM (Don't be late- we won't wait!)

Starting Gun: 2:30 PM – SHARP!

The Awards

The Tea Cup: awarded to the raft with the best synthesis of creativity, engineering, and speed – chosen from the first five finishers of the race.

The Fabulous Flotsam Award: presented to the raft more likely to cause a spectacle than win the race.

The DaVinci Award: presented to the raft with the most unorthodox form of locomotion.

The Van Gogh Award: presented to the most artistic raft.

The Flop Award: presented to the raft with the most impressive failure.

The Junior Cup Award: presented to the raft with the best synthesis of creativity, engineering, and speed – chosen from the first three finishers of the Junior Division (entire crews 15 years of age or younger). Those in the Junior Division are not excluded from winning in the Adult Division.

The Congressional: presented to the raft with the Best Bribe.

Raft Race Rules

IMPORTANT: Rafts and any of their debris must be removed from the premises before or immediately following the awards presentation.

It is recommended that you test the buoyancy of your raft prior to the race. It is not required, but it may save you some embarrassment.

COMPETITION

1. "Boats" are prohibited. All rafts should be made by hand or modified for the purpose of the race. Handmade boats are prohibited. Vessels made by hand to resemble boats must have clear features or functionality that differ from traditional boats, in keeping with the spirit of the raft race.
2. Each raft must carry a minimum of 4 passengers. There is no maximum limit, but must follow rule #6.
3. Non-human powered engines are prohibited.
4. Parts and materials commercially manufactured specifically for nautical purposes are prohibited.
5. Commercially manufactured paddles are prohibited.
6. Each competitor must have at least half of their body above the water while propelling the raft.

SAFETY

- All participants must wear shoes or sandals at all times before, during and after the race. This includes support crew as well as racers. Those who do not comply will be disqualified.
- All rafters must wear life jackets during the race.
- Anyone acting without regard for the safety of others or themselves will be disqualified and required to leave the race area.
- All rafters must always have multiple options for easily exiting the vessel, regardless of its orientation in the water.

COURSE

- Rafts must enter and exit at the base of the Pavilion launch ramp, located behind the Washington College boathouse.
- All rafts must round the outside of course markers in the directions proscribed by the rafft committee on the day of the race.
- Rafts and their crews will not be permitted to enter the water without registering.

Chestertown Tea Party Raft Race Registration

Name of Raft: _____

Raft Captain: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____
(Street) (Town) (Zip)

Team Members:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

In order for a raft team to participate, the captain's signature is required below.

I hereby state that all members of my raft team understand and will abide by the rules of safety and competition stated on this form, and agree to the following Waiver of Responsibility.

WAIVER OF ALL RESPONSIBILITY:

FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE, I AGREE AS FOLLOWS: I AGREE AND UNDERSTAND THAT ORGANIZERS OF THE RACE HAVE LAID OUT THE RACE COURSE AND MADE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EQUIPMENT, RACE VEHICLES, ETC., AND THAT THEY DO NOT, IN ANY WAY, GUARANTEE OR WARRANT THE SAFETY OR CONDITION OF THE COURSE OR OF ANY RACE VEHICLE OR PARTICIPANTS WHATSOEVER.

I ASSUME FULL AND COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MYSELF, FOR THE COURSE COVERED BY ME AND/OR MY VEHICLE DURING THE RACE AND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPPING, AND CONDITION OF MY VEHICLE WITH WHICH I PARTICIPATE.

I SPECIFICALLY WAIVE THE ORGANIZERS OF SAID RACE, THE SPONSORS OF THE RACE, AND OWNERS OF THE FACILITY (WASHINGTON COLLEGE) OF ALL COMPLAINTS AND CAUSE OF ACTION OF ANY KIND, WHETHER FROM NEGLIGENCE, CONTRACT, WARRANTY, OR WHATEVER CAUSE.

Raft Captain Signature: _____ Date: _____