

NWI PADDLING ASSOCIATION ORGANIZES SANDHILL CRANE TOUR



Sandhill Cranes fly above the marshes

The [Northwest Indiana Paddling Association](#) would like to invite you to the second annual Kankakee River Sandhill Crane Tour.

On Sunday, October 23th, we are holding our 2nd Annual Kankakee River Sandhill Crane Tour. This NWIPA-sponsored trip will give paddlers and small craft recreational boaters a chance to witness one of America's greatest wildlife spectacles at the [Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area](#). Each fall, tens of thousands of sandhill cranes visit J-P's shallow marshes. It should be a very enjoyable trip that will give paddlers and small craft recreational boaters a chance to explore an 8.6 mile section of the Kankakee River, followed by a trip over to Jasper-Pulaski during the peak

migration period.

Date and time:

Sunday October 23rd, 2011 – 12:00 pm (CST) to Dusk

Schedule:

12:00 (cst) – Renters: Contact Ryan Chew for the specific meet up point

- Paddlers with own equipment: meet at the English Lake boat ramps if you would like to participate in the shuttle

1:15 (cst) – Launch canoe trip from English Lake

4:15 (cst) – Land at Dunn's Bridge & eat at our tailgate party

5:00 (cst) – Arrive at Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife area

6:00 (cst) – Sunset

Trip Route:

Start – The trip will begin at the English Lake (Yellow River Public Access Site) boat ramp located at south of the bridge at County Road S 650 W in English Lake, Indiana

Finish – The ending point is at the Dunn's Bridge Public Access Site located at S 500 E near Wheatfield, IN. The Dunn's Bridge Boat Ramps are owned by the Porter Co. Parks Dept.

Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area

5822 Fish and Wildlife Ln

Medaryville, IN 47957-8152

(219) 843-4841

Lunch & Dinner:

Paddlers should bring their own lunches and on-water drinks and snacks. For dinner, we are planning a tailgate party. We plan to provide sandwiches. Please feel free to contribute to the tailgate.

Rentals:

Chicago River Canoe and Kayak will provide rental canoes and kayaks for those who reserve them ahead of time. The number of rental canoes & kayaks are limited so it is good idea to reserve them in advance.

Please contact Ryan Chew at (312)823-3384 or ryanwc@sbcglobal.net

Shuttles:

All paddlers who bring their own canoes & kayaks should meet at the English Lake launch site to drop off boats and equipment at 12:00 CDT. We'll leave someone with the boats while we drive our Kankakee River Paddlers cars to the finish at Dunn's bridge, and car pool everyone back to the English Lake launch site.

For those who are renting from Chicago River Canoe & Kayak, contact Ryan Chew at (312)823-3384 or ryanwc@sbcglobal.net for specific directions prior to the event.

Participant Requirements:

Paddlers should be prepared for and capable of paddling 8.6 miles. For the first time, recreational boaters with small craft such as jon boats, row boats and fishing boats are invited to participate. The pace of the paddle will be around 4 mph, so it would be a good idea to use either a trolling motor or small outboard engine. Both the English Lake & Dunn's Bridge Public Access Sites have boat ramps that will be accessible.

Equipment & Other Considerations:

The trip is appropriate for canoes, kayaks, as well as small craft such as jon boats, small fishing boats, and rowboats. Wearing of personal floatation devices is mandatory for all participants throughout the event. Bringing a cell phone or VHF radio to summon assistance is a good idea, though cell coverage is spotty. Participants should also have water and a favorite snack with them. Hats, sunblock, and a change of clothes in a dry bag are a good idea as well. Depending on temperatures, cold water paddling gear may be. Absolutely no alcohol is allowed during the event. Due to the requirement to maintain close to a 4 mph pace, no stand up paddle boards are permitted. Finally, please don't forget your binoculars and a camera!

Cost:

Free, but a \$5 donation will help NWIPA to continue putting on these fine events.

Please rsvp to Gayle Macbride at gmacbride@sbcglobal.net by 10/22 so we can more accurately plan the car pooling requirements.

For more information contact:

Gayle MacBride at gmacbride@sbcglobal.net

or

Dan Plath of the NWIPA at (219) 871-9559 / dplath@nwipa.org

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) on Tuesday, October 11th, 2011
