



## **RiverTrek 2023: Overview**

The annual RiverTrek fundraiser-awareness campaign supports the advocacy, education and outreach work of Apalachicola Riverkeeper (AR), a member based non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Apalachicola River and Bay. AR staff and volunteers organize RiverTrek.

*This year's RiverTrek paddling trip occurs **October 4-8, 2023** with backup time period (in case of high water or severe weather) October 18-22, 2023. Participants need to be available during both time periods.*

Volunteer kayak paddlers are selected by May 1, 2023. Fundraising begins in early summer.

A limited group of 12-15 kayak paddlers travel the 107-mile length of the Apalachicola River in 5 days, averaging 20+ miles per day with additional side-trip options. Each night paddlers camp along the river's bank. *Prior to launch, the volunteer paddlers seek donations in their respective communities from friends, family members, businesses and community members.*

The team works with staff and the board to leverage the RiverTrek campaign collectively. The fundraising goal is a team (staff, board, volunteer paddlers) effort. Events and other activities will develop with each team. Previous Trekkers will also assist in this effort.

***RiverTrek volunteer paddlers are asked to set a minimum individual fundraiser goal of \$1,000.*** Most previous volunteers far exceeded the minimum donation goal. For example, the 2019 and 2020 RiverTrek teams collectively raised more than \$60,000 each. The 2021-2022 teams raised \$85-100,000.

To ensure that RiverTrek is fun and successful, selected volunteer paddlers must be in good physical health, capable long-distance paddlers (including demonstrated self-rescue skills), and experienced (self-supported) primitive campers knowledgeable of Leave No Trace ethics. Additionally, paddlers trained in Wilderness First Aid are encouraged to apply. Paddlers must agree to wear a life jacket at all times while on the water.

**Paddlers are responsible to provide their own sit-inside touring kayak of at least 15' in length, camping gear, transportation to and from the launch site, breakfast each day, lunches and one dinner on the first night on the river.**

*Questions and completed application should be sent by email: [info@apalachicolariverkeeper.org](mailto:info@apalachicolariverkeeper.org).*

Application deadline is April 15, 2023

### **RiverTrek 2023: Volunteer Paddler Application**

*This annual volunteer-based fundraiser and awareness campaign benefits Apalachicola Riverkeeper, a member based non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and stewardship of the Apalachicola River and Bay.*

**Application deadline is April 15, 2023**

*Send this application to [info@apalachicolariverkeeper.org](mailto:info@apalachicolariverkeeper.org)*

**Name:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Mailing Address:**

**1) How did you find out about the event?**

**2) Have you applied for or participated in RiverTrek in the past?**

**3) Are you an Apalachicola Riverkeeper member?**

**4) Have you volunteered with an Apalachicola Riverkeeper event before?**

**5) Please describe your interest in RiverTrek. Why do you want to participate in this fundraising and awareness-raising event?**

**6) Please describe your kayak camping experience.**

**7) Please describe the kayak (including make and model) you plan to bring and your kayak camping gear (paddle, tent, life jacket).**

**8) Please describe your paddling experience, including typical mileage per day and your longest self-supported trip.**

**9) Please describe your overall health and any health issue and recent surgeries that may impact your participation in RiverTrek.**

**10) Please describe your volunteer-fundraising experience and how you plan to raise money for this RiverTrek fundraising effort. If you're a past RiverTrekker, please list your previous fundraising totals.**

**11) What is your fundraising dollar amount goal? (*The minimum expectation is \$1,000.*)**

**Please list 2 references and contact information familiar with your outdoor or volunteer experience.**

**#1 Reference Name:**

**Reference Contact:**

**#2 Reference Name:**

**Reference Contact:**

**Additional comments that may contribute toward your selection for this year's RiverTrek:**

***Thank you for your application! Your interest in supporting Apalachicola Riverkeeper is sincerely appreciated.***