

FAQ's



ALL TRIPS

1. How will I know that I've registered?
 - You will get an email from The Georgia Conservancy confirming your registration. If not, have a look in your junk mail folder.
2. If registered through a MeetUp site, does that mean that I've completed the registration process?
 - No, you need to register through the Georgia Conservancy's website. Look for the link on the MeetUp page.
3. What should I expect after I've registered for a trip?

Upon completion of your registration you will receive a series of emails, including:

- **Confirmation of registration:** this email is sent by our payment provider and serves as your payment receipt for the trip and lets you know you're on the list!
 - **2 weeks away:** A reminder to start getting excited for your upcoming adventure and will include any remaining details or specifics concerning the trip if not explained before (ex. waivers, medical forms, gear checklist, ferry schedule, service work choices, all logistics, ect.)
 - **1 week away:** We are all set and looking forward to seeing you! We may provide updates on any minor trip changes. If it is a service trip, for example, we will provide lists of elected service work or sleeping locations.
4. What are the typical menu items or food options available on trips?

We typically have one hot (grits, eggs, etc) and one cold breakfast (yogurt, granola, fruit, cereal, etc.) on trips, PB&J and chips deluxe for lunch, and several options for dinner. Past dinner meals have been: Burrrito fiesta night, Campfire Chili, Fox Bro's catered BBQ with all the fixin's, Pasta night, Low Country Boil, and more!
 5. Can I bring my kids?
 - For most trips, yes, absolutely! If it's not okay, it will be expressly stated. You're responsible for your kids. Please also refer to our "Recommended Experience Levels" when considering what trip is best and the safest for your family.
 - Please know other than the Flint River Family Adventure and the Yellow River Paddle & Jam, these trips aren't inherently catered towards children.
 - We are sponsored by SweetWater Brewery so there will be a presence of alcohol on trips

Recommended Experience Level Breakdown

Beginner:

- No previous experience necessary. All basic skills will be taught during the trip. Great for newcomers to outdoor adventures that are ready to move.
- Requires a minimum level of physical exertion/fitness or offers optional levels of participation/physical exertion.
- Short distances at a slow pace; generally flat terrain, well defined trails. In hiking terms, this is usually a day hike (or car camping trip) with less than 4 miles, with minimal elevation change and flat terrain. Sneakers or running shoes are appropriate footwear.

Family Friendly:

- All family friendly labeled trips are Beginner as well. However, any trip with a family friendly label is specially planned to accommodate children and adults. In general, a family friendly label will include kid appropriate activities, shorter paddle route miles, easy camp set-up or lodging arrangements, shorter trip itinerary, etc.

Novice:

- Prior experience with activity involved in trip. Confident participating with minimal instruction or quick refresher.

Intermediate:

- Knowledge and practice of basic skills for the activity are necessary. For active outdoor novices that are comfortable with regular exercise.
- Requires a moderate, unavoidable level of physical exertion/fitness.
- Varying distances at a steady pace; Varying terrain, generally established trails; Some prior experience in the activity is helpful; Designed for those in good physical condition; At times, will be physically challenging.
- In hiking terms, this is usually a day hike (or camping trip) with less than 10 miles, with a significant elevation change (>1,000 ft), and a slightly rocky terrain. In paddling terms, this is usually a day paddle with long mileage, strong or swift tidal currents, ferrying across rivers, and/or tight turns.

Advanced:

- Mastery of basic and intermediate skills for the activity are necessary. Recommended for outdoor enthusiasts who are comfortable with 2-3 sessions of vigorous activity per week.
- Requires a high degree of physical exertion/fitness or takes place in remote areas over an extended period of time.

6. Can I bring my pet?
 - For most trips, no. Contact Ben Fowler for special exceptions on some of our paddle trips.
7. Do you accommodate special dietary needs?
 - In most cases, yes. We work hard to meet dietary needs. If you have dietary needs (allergies, etc.) please contact Ben Fowler or Laura Buckmaster well before the scheduled trip. Please feel free to bring your own snacks between provided meals.
8. Do you provide transportation?
 - NO, participants are responsible for their own transportation. We are not responsible for organizing carpooling, but if enough participants express interest we will facilitate communication between parties. The reality is carpooling is just a better option because it saves money, promotes the human connection, and truly lessens the automotive impact on the environment.*please note that the Georgia Conservancy DOES provide shuttle services from Atlanta on a number of trips so make sure to always ask.
9. I can no longer attend the trip—can I get a refund?
 - Within 30 days before the start of the trip, you can cancel your reservation for a refund minus a \$10 processing fee. After 30 days, you can receive a refund minus a \$10 transaction fee, only if we can find someone to take your place. 2 days before a trip, we can no longer offer a refund for cancelations.
10. If I bring my own food or equipment, can I get a cheaper rate?
 - No
11. What are some good books that I can read to learn more about the place that I'll be visiting?
 - We'll provide a location specific reading list before the start of the trip!
12. It looks like it's going to be raining this weekend. Will the trip be cancelled?
 - Our trips are rain or shine!
13. I heard that you have free camping equipment, is that true?
 - It is true that we have gear provided generously by REI that members can rent for free (tents, sleeping pads, sleeping bags). Trip participants who are not members can choose to pay \$5 to access our gear bank. However, it is important that you respect the gear. Anything broken or damaged aside from normal wear and tear will be your responsibility to replace.
14. When will I receive trip information about what to wear, what to bring, where to meet, etc.?
 - You will receive your first location specific trip email about 2-3 weeks prior to departure. This email will include information about: meals, accommodations, what to bring, gear recommendations, schedule, logistics, etc.
 - More details and updates will follow via email in the weeks leading up to the trip.
15. What are the trips like?

- They are fun! The website provides full details of each trip. If you still have questions, call us at (404) 876-2900 ext. 111 or email us at bfowler@georgiaconservancy.org or lbuckmaster@georgiaconservancy.org and we'd be happy to talk with you!

16. Should I fill out the pre-trip survey?

- Yes!

17. Have you thought about zombie attacks on your trips?

- All of our staff are fully trained in the latest zombie deterrent training practices.

18. Will alcohol be provided?

- On most trips, we are fortunate enough to be sponsored by SweetWater Brewery and American Spirit Whisky. A sample of beers will be available for adults 21 and older, and folks are welcome to bring their own alcohol as well and enjoy it responsibly. Quiet time starts at 11pm.

Heartland Rivers of Georgia Paddle Series

19. I have never paddled before—can I come?

- We will provide general paddle instruction, but for some of our longer paddles on swifter water, previous paddling experience may be necessary. We will let you know in advance about the experience level of the trip.
- The Heartland Paddle Series provides people with the opportunity to enjoy Georgia's heartland rivers. Trip participants are responsible for their own safety and well-being while on the river. That being said, we will always have experienced staff and safety boaters on hand in the event of an emergency.

20. If I signed up for the trip, does it mean that a boat will be included in the cost?

- Some trips like the Okefenokee trip include boat rentals, while the Heartland River Paddle Series offers boat rentals through our partner vendors.

21. What does it mean when I read that the Georgia Conservancy provides shuttle support for paddle trips?

- It means that the Conservancy will help you organize a shuttle from the start of our canoe trip to our final destination. You may be asked to use your car to provide shuttle support.

Service Trips

22. How long should I expect to work for a service weekend?

- Plan on working between 5-6 hours. On our trips, we all want to get some good work completed, but an important part of our work is gaining an appreciation of the places that we are visiting.

23. Can I choose my own service group?

- We will ask everyone what their service group preferences are, but we sometimes cannot accommodate your first choice.

24. Where does the Conservancy get its tools?

- We have a great partnership with the Atlanta Tool Bank that provides tools for all of our service trips and volunteer days.

25. How do I know the average group size for my trip?

- There will be an expected group attendance on the 1 pager you received with trip registration

26. I see there's going to be a "Host" on my trip... what is their role?

The host program is designed to improve the quality of our trips program while offering an opportunity for our most important volunteers, partners and supporters to get involved. The number one responsibility of a host is to be an inclusive ambassador for the Georgia Conservancy and for Georgia's amazing natural places. Hosts also bring some "magic" to the weekend which usually includes a fun food or activity for social time. Hosts also help everyone settle in, clarify the schedule, and answer any questions.