



For Immediate Release:
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Contact: Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, 215-369-1188, ext. 102

Delaware Riverkeeper Network to launch Annual Virtual Canoe Race for young paddlers

Bristol, PA – The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is presenting the Virtual Canoe Race, an online adventure that offers information and activities on Geography, History, and Science in a trivia contest format. Participants will go on a virtual paddle along the 330-mile main stem of the Delaware River, gaining knowledge along the way (with a chance to win prizes).

Every Monday for a period of six weeks, ten questions about the Delaware River watershed will be posted online for paddlers to answer. With every correct answer, participants will see their canoes travel down the virtual Delaware River. In addition, participants may gain bonus miles each week by completing activities suggested by Delaware Riverkeeper Network. Learn more at www.delawarerivercanoeing.org.

The Virtual Canoe Race will begin promptly at **9 am on October 1, 2018**. Don't worry if you enter late. The Virtual Canoe Race runs for six weeks. If you paddle hard, you always have a chance to catch up.

"The Delaware Riverkeeper Network created the Virtual Canoe Race to increase awareness of and appreciation for the beautiful Delaware River," **said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.** "This online activity also serves as a great curriculum supplement for educators seeking to help their students gain knowledge required under state academic standards."

Who Can Play? All young paddlers should be 14 years old or younger as of October 1, 2018. Young paddlers should play under the supervision of a parent, guardian, or educator. Young paddlers can choose to play in one of two categories: small groups (up to 15 paddlers) or classrooms/youth group (16 to 35 paddlers).

In 2017, nearly 500 young paddlers from more than 14 crews participated in the Virtual Canoe Race. Most of our paddlers were in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. We're hoping to see even more young paddlers taking part in 2018.

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
Office: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215)369-1181
drn@delawareriverkeeper.org
www.delawareriverkeeper.org

What did teachers whose classes participated in previous years say about the Virtual Canoe Race?

“My students loved learning about the Delaware River.”

“My class was enthusiastic and excited to complete each week's questions.”

“I think the benefits of being connected to other students through the competition was exciting to my class.”

“My students were exposed to a variety of subjects to explore all under the topic of the watershed in which they live.”

The registration fee is \$20 for small groups, and \$30 for classrooms. To register individuals, small groups, and/or classrooms/large groups, go to <http://bit.ly/VCR18>. The Virtual Canoe Race is made possible by sponsors, advertisers in the Guide to the Virtual Canoe Race, and members of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. These contributions make it possible to keep registration fees low. Virtual Canoe Race proceeds benefit Delaware Riverkeeper Network efforts to protect the Delaware River and its tributary streams.

To learn more about the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's Virtual Canoe Race, email canoerace@delawareriverkeeper.org.

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Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the four states of the Delaware River Watershed including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. DRN provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education, and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws.