



ROYAL GORGE REGION, COLORADO  
JULY 21-22, 2023  
BOATS | BANDS | BIKES | BEER



Produced by these community partners:



Supported by community sponsors and presented by:







# MERCHANDISE

ACCEPTING CASH OR CREDIT

**\$25**



**Assorted T-shirts**

**\$25**



**Nalgene Water Bottle**

**\$35**



**Ball Cap**

**\$20**



**Limited Edition 2023  
RGWF Poster**

**\$120**



**Limited Edition 2023 RGWF  
Numbered & Framed Poster**

**\$3**



**Assorted Stickers**

**\$2**



**Assorted Stickers  
(with purchase of \$10 or more)**

**\$1**



**Bottled Water**

**\$1**



**Commemorative Pins**





# WELCOME TO THE ROYAL GORGE WHITEWATER FESTIVAL

Welcome, festival-goers! On behalf of Royal Gorge River Initiative Organization (RG-RIO), Fremont Community Foundation, and the Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance Foundation, we invite you to join us for a weekend of boats, bands, bikes and beer – and loads of family fun – at this year's Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival (RGWF). Now in its 14th year, RGWF will be an event like no other.

Fremont County's section of the Arkansas River includes both world-class whitewater and beautiful, scenic stretches. Recently, we've added a whitewater park - complete with play waves - to the list of amenities. Our events feature the best of the river - from class IV to family-friendly demonstrations and contests. We're also proud to feature our local trail systems and have five separate events for those who would rather stay dry - both trail runs and mountain bike events. Whether you are a "river rat" from way back when, a family learning to enjoy recreational activities like river surfing and paddling, or someone who enjoys a leisurely float through town...we have an event for you. You'll also be treated to a full lineup of bands throughout the festival at two stages. Enjoy the shows!

We are committed to a community that respects the recreational, agricultural, and ecological potential of our river. Its future is ours to write - with consideration and reflection. Thank you for being a part of this festival - which celebrates all aspects of the Arkansas and its surrounding communities. We hope you have a wonderful time this weekend and plan to return to our community to enjoy more fun throughout the summer. Don't forget to visit our beautiful, historic downtown to see the heart of our small town. Please say "hello" to our festival sponsors when you stop in! Be safe, have fun, and we'll see you on the river!

*Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival Committee*





# TICKETS AND INFORMATION

## GENERAL ADMISSION / XPRESSPASS

### GENERAL ADMISSION

Purchase tickets at the gate!

Adults - \$5 per day, Children 12 and under - FREE

Buy your ticket at the festival gates (see map for locations) on Friday or Saturday. **Adults, please remember to bring your ID!**

*Please note that with the exception of Weenie Dog Race participants, dogs are NOT allowed at the festival.*

### 2-DAY XPRESSPASS

Skip the lines at the festival by purchasing a 2-Day XpressPASS wristband - \$10

Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance (424 Main St.) - Cash or credit card

Kaleidoscope Inspiration (602 Main St.) - Cash or credit card

My Brother's Place (625 Main St.) - Cash only

Gift Chateau (731 Main St.) - Cash only

## ARY CORP. KIDS ZONE



Bring the kids! The Ary Corporation Kid Zone will feature a bounce house, face painting, cotton candy booth stand, and kettle corn. Additional fees to apply for kid zone activities and food. Also available in this areas is a Lactation Station for nursing mothers as well as a changing table area for little ones. Additional fee applies.



## BIKE PARKING AND GEAR STORAGE

### HOSTED BY LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Friday, 3:00 pm to close of festival

Saturday, 9:00 am to 11:00 pm

FREE, donations accepted

Ride your bike or scooter to the Whitewater Festival and park it in the 'Gear Storage' area. This will be a secure location staffed by volunteers from local organizations (donations accepted). Find the storage area in the basketball court area at Centennial Park - located at the westernmost portion of the park. **Bring your own lock for added security.**

Event participants: You can also store paddle boards and kayaks in between events. You'll receive a tag for each item which will be required to check the items back out. **Bring your own lock for added security.** Volunteers will monitor the fenced area and facilitate check in / check out.



## FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS

*Proceeds from the Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival benefit these three local non-profit organizations.*



**ROYAL GORGE RIO**  
Through water safety education, river conservation, and whitewater recreation we will positively impact our community.



**FREMONT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
Fremont Community Foundation is a "high energy" 501c 3 that has been sponsoring BIG events in Fremont County since 1999. We do this with no paid staff and all profits go back to the community.



**ROYAL GORGE CHAMBER ALLIANCE**  
We are proud to support and connect our 400+ member businesses throughout Fremont County. Since 1935, our organization has been a trusted partner to provide the tools to thrive and boost the abundant opportunities that enhance the quality of life in our beautiful region.



# SCHEDULE

There's something for everyone at the Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival! Check out live bands both days, whitewater events for varied experience levels, trail events, and plenty of activities for the kids.

## FRIDAY

4:00 pm	<b>Benjamin Dakota Rogers River Stage</b>
4:00 pm	River / Play Wave Demos Play Wave
5:00 pm	SUP Parade Pink House to Pedestrian Bridge
5:15 pm	All Hands on Deck River Float Pink House to Pedestrian Bridge
5:30-7:30 pm	Packet Pickup for Great Escape Trail Events Centennial Park - West Entrance
6:00 pm	<b>6 Bucks &amp; A Flight River Stage</b>
6:00 pm	Royal Gorge Kayak Race Pura Vida Beach to Centennial Park
6:10 pm	Royal Gorge Raft Race Pura Vida Beach to Centennial Park
7:30 pm	<b>Leadville Cherokee Main Stage</b>
9:00 pm	<b>The Martini Shot Main Stage</b>

Please note that all events are subject to change due to weather, water conditions, etc. Please check the schedule online to see the most updated information!



## SATURDAY

7:30 am	Yoga Veteran's Park
7:00-9:30 am	Packet Pickup for Great Escape Trail Events Centennial Park - West Entrance
7:30 am	27K Grinder MTB Race Start Centennial Park to South Cañon Trails
7:45 am	5K/10K Trail Run Start Centennial Park to South Cañon Trails
8:00 am	Rafting Sprints Centennial Park
9:30 am	10K Mountain Bike Ride Start Centennial Park to South Cañon Trails
9:45 am	5K Mountain Bike Ride Start Centennial Park to South Cañon Trails
12:30 pm	<b>Doctor Fine River Stage</b>
2:00 pm	Rafting Head 2 Head Ice House
2:00 pm	SUP Head 2 Head Centennial Park
2:00 pm	Kayak Head 2 Head Ice House
2:00 pm	Duckie Dash Head 2 Head Centennial Park
2:00 pm	<b>Tiffany Christopher River Stage</b>
3:00 pm	Weenie Dog Race Southeast corner of Centennial Park
5:00 pm	<b>Blue Recluse River Stage</b>
5:30 pm	Build Your Own Boat Race Green Gate / River Station
6:00-7:45 pm	Raft Rodeo Announcing Main Stage
6:15 pm	Raft Rodeo WKRP Wave, Centennial Park
7:00 pm	<b>Adam Ashley Main Stage</b>
8:00 pm	Awards and Live Auction Main Stage
9:00 pm	<b>The Tejon Street Corner Theives Main Stage</b>



# WHITEWATER EVENTS

## BEGINNER / FAMILY FUN

Join in on the fun! These events are designed for those who are interested in participating in a non-competitive event or an event that requires little experience on the water. Note that children should be accompanied by an adult, and the ability to swim is required. Day-of registration is available. See the registration tent at the center of Centennial Park. *Please note that Colorado law requires that all occupants of an inner tube, air mattress, or similar device must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved type I, III, or V PFD (personal flotation device). All persons under the age of 13 swimming in the Arkansas River within the AHRA must wear a U. S. Coast Guard approved PFD. All event participants must wear a PFD.*

## FRIDAY

### RIVER PLAY WAVE DEMOS

4:00 pm - Play Wave

Show off your SUP, kayak, raft or duckie skills on the Centennial Park play wave.

### SUP PARADE

5:00 pm

This is a SUP show of force. If you SUP come show the town. Interesting outfits and costumes are encouraged. You must have your own board and equipment.

### ALL HANDS ON DECK!

5:15 pm

Anything in town that floats, get on the water! Bring your SUP, your tube, your floatie, your canoe, your barrel, your store-bought raft, BRING ANYTHING! This is a show of force. Get on the river and show the town how many people float.



## SATURDAY

### BUILD YOUR OWN BOAT (BYOB)

5:30 pm

Show off your craftsmanship and engineering skills in this crowd favorite event! First place is awarded a pure gold coin (\$1000 value) donated by Cañon Signature Mortgage, and cash prizes awarded to second and third place.



### REGISTER NOW!

Register online early, or at the registration tent at the festival. Registration fees, start times, and qualifications vary by event. Know your ability level.





# WHITEWATER EVENTS

## INTERMEDIATE / ADVANCED

If you love playing in the river - from boating to SUPing to floating in an inflatable kayak - these events are for you! The following events are suggested for those with experience on the river. Registration fees apply and vary by event. Please see the festival website for registration information. Registration for most events is available on the day-of at the registration tent at the center of the park. *Please note that Colorado law requires that all occupants of an inner tube, air mattress, or similar device must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved type I, III, or V PFD (personal flotation device). All persons under the age of 13 swimming in the Arkansas River within the AHRA must wear a U. S. Coast Guard approved PFD.*

## SATURDAY

### RAFTING HEAD 2 HEAD

2:00 pm

Two rafts start at the same time. You must go around one buoy on each side of the river. First one to finish moves on to the next round. Tournament style scoring.

### KAYAK HEAD 2 HEAD RACE

2:00 pm

Kayaks will start at the same time, each kayak must navigate around a buoy on each side of the river. Enough sign ups will turn this into a tournament with multiple heats.

### RMR STORM HEAD 2 HEAD - R2

2:00 pm

Two rafts start at the same time. You must go around one buoy on each side of the river. First one to finish moves on to the next round. Tournament style scoring.

### RAFT RODEO

6:15 pm

The classic Whitewater Festival event. Who can control the wave? Will be judged by the crowd and a neutral panel of judges who use established criteria. Located at the lower feature in Centennial Park. Winners receive a beautiful custom RGWWF belt buckle.

### SUP HEAD 2 HEAD RACE

2:00 pm

This is a mass start event. Competitors will navigate around two buoys, one on each side of the river. If enough sign up, this will become a tournament.

### DUCKIE DASH HEAD 2 HEAD

2:00 pm

Grab your inflatable duckie (or borrow one) and head down the slalom course from 1st street to Centennial Park. Battle head-to-head with others. Must be at least 10 years old to participate in this event.

### SURFING COMPETITION

5:00 pm

Can you surf the features in the Centennial Park? Boogie Boards, Surf Boards. This is not the raft surfing competition.



REGISTER NOW!





# WHITEWATER EVENTS

## ADVANCED / COMPETITIVE

Competitive boaters, boating teams, and kayakers will enjoy the following events. Prizes include cash payouts and swag. The Raft Rodeo winners receive cash and a commemorative belt buckle. Please see the festival website for registration information. Registration for most events is available on the day-of. See the registration tent at the center of the park. *Please note that Colorado law requires that all occupants of an inner tube, air mattress, or similar device must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved type I, III, or V PFD (personal flotation device). All persons under the age of 13 swimming in the Arkansas River within the AHRA must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD.*

## FRIDAY

### ROYAL GORGE RACE - KAYAK

6:00 pm

This race is for boaters experienced in the Gorge. Start at Pura Vida beach and end at the lower feature in Canon City. This race is a mass start and is over 12 miles of hard paddling.

### ROYAL GORGE RACE - RAFTS

6:05 pm

This race is for people experienced in the Gorge. This event is for a team of 6 individuals. Start at Pura Vida beach and end at the lower feature in Cañon City. This race is a mass start and is over 12 miles of hard paddling.

### ROYAL GORGE RACE - RAFTS

6:10 pm

This race is for people experienced in the Gorge. This event is for a team of 6 individuals. Start at Pura Vida beach and end at the lower feature in Cañon City. This race is a mass start and is over 12 miles of hard paddling.

### ROYAL GORGE RACE - RAFTS

6:05 pm

This race is for people experienced in the Gorge. This event is for a team of 6 individuals. Start at Pura Vida beach and end at the lower feature in Cañon City. This race is a mass start and is over 12 miles of hard paddling.



**REGISTER NOW!**

Register online early, or at the registration tent at the festival. Registration fees, start times, and qualifications vary by event. Know your ability level.





# TRAIL EVENTS

## BEGINNER / INTERMEDIATE / ADVANCED



*Not ready to get wet? Join a land-based trail event on foot or on a bike. Running and biking events all leave from Centennial park and utilized adjacent trails, including the Riverwalk and South Cañon Trails.*

*Events are designed for varied ages and abilities - there's something for everyone! All events are on Saturday, July 22. The Great Escape Trail Events is a 1% for Trails contributor - giving back to local trails!*

## BEGINNER

### PIZZA MADNESS 5K TRAIL RUN

Saturday, 7:45 am

This course leaves from Centennial Park and travels along the Arkansas Riverwalk trail. You'll cross over the river at the pedestrian bridge, head toward Tunnel Drive, and turn around at the Trailhead (or go up the hill for a beautiful view and a little extra elevation gain). Return to the park for a nice, easy second half and post-run celebration at the park.

### COMING HOME REALTY 5K BEGINNER / FAMILY MTB RIDE

Saturday, 9:45 am

Bring the kiddos! Try a mountain bike event for the first time! This course follows the Arkansas Riverwalk west to Tunnel Drive and has very little elevation gain. Youth as young as 6 years old may enjoy this course (our younger on a bike seat), and kids as young as 10 are welcome to ride solo. This course leaves from Centennial Park and travels along the Arkansas Riverwalk trail to the trailhead at Tunnel Drive. Turn around at the trailhead.

## INTERMEDIATE

### PIZZA MADNESS 10K TRAIL RUN

Saturday, 7:45 am

You'll experience the best of lower South Cañon on this beautiful run. Leave from Centennial Park, climb up Wagon Trail, then make a hard right to climb all of Schepp Ridge for views of the town, mountains, and the Ecology Park. At the end of Schepp Ridge, you'll use Piñon Trail to merge onto Recycle. You'll start your descent on Mutton Bustin', where you'll then return to Centennial Park to awaiting spectators.

### COMING HOME REALTY 10K MTB RIDE

Saturday, 9:30 am

Intermediate-level riders with the ability to navigate some technical elements will enjoy this fun and fast 6-mile course. Leave from Centennial Park, climb up Wagon Trail, then make a hard right to climb all of Schepp Ridge for views of the town, mountains, and the Ecology Park. At the end of Schepp Ridge, you'll use Piñon Trail to merge onto Recycle. You'll start your descent on Mutton Bustin', where you'll then return to Centennial Park to awaiting spectators.

## ADVANCED

### 3 ROCKS ENGINEERING 27K GRINDER

Saturday, 7:30 am

Love a good grinder? From Centennial Park, you'll take crusher fine trails and some singletrack to pick up Temple Canyon Road near the Ecology Park. Head up this glorious gravel route to the top of Cañon City's local favorite descending trail - The Great Escape, for miles of techy downhill fun. You'll head back on Temple Canyon Road (where you MUST meet the 9:15 cutoff to re-enter the singletrack course) and enjoy more flowy, fun downhill on Schepp's Ridge, Recycle, and Mutton Bustin'. You'll end up back at Centennial Park for a well-deserved break and beverage.



**REGISTER NOW!**

*Register online early, or at the registration tent at the festival. Registration fees, start times, and qualifications vary by event. Know your ability level.*





# FUN FOR ALL ACTIVITIES AND VENDORS

*The Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival is designed to have something for everyone. Whether you're involved in a whitewater event, participating in a trail run or ride, or just love to come and watch all the events and listen to music, we hope you'll attend both days of the festival! Your admission includes access to bands, but bring a few extra dollars for food and drinks.*

## SATURDAY

### YOGA

7:30 - 9:30 am, Veteran's Park, FREE

Join Robin Beals (ERYT200, RYT500, co-owner of River Lotus Yoga) for an hour and a half of vinyasa style yoga. This class will include movement, breath work, and meditation. Whether you are new to yoga, an advanced practitioner, or anywhere in between, you are welcome to join us. Please bring your own mat or towel, if you have one. If not you can practice in the grass. Simply show up the morning of the event at Veteran's Park.

### CANON GROOVE MOVEMENT

9:30 - 10:30 am, Veteran's Park, FREE

Instructor Michelle will guide everyone into connecting with the space, breath and music, warming up and giving a few moves to unite the group. Groove to a large variety of songs, all family friendly.

### LOCKED DOWN MECHANICAL BULL

Throughout the weekend. Additional fee.

Try your hand at riding the toughest mechanical bull this side of the Mississippi! Visit Locked Down on the south end of the festival grounds to give it a go.

### HOT DIGGITY DOG WEENIE DOG RACES

3:00 pm, Centennial Park, \$10 per dog (\$5 additional dog)

Let your weenie dog (dachshund or dachshund mix) get all the glory in our annual race. Located in the South East corner of Centennial park.



### FESTIVAL SCHEDULE:

*Please note that all events are subject to change due to weather, water conditions, etc. Please check the schedule online to see the most updated information!*

*Additional fees are required for kids' area and mechanical bull riding.*



## 2022 PHOTOS

PHOTOGRAPHER: DAN GAUNA





# VENDORS

## FOOD, INFO, AND MERCHANDISE

*Bring your lunch money! Visit local and regional food trucks, head over to an informational booth to learn more about the Royal Gorge Region and the surrounding communities, or chat with local businesses and makers.*

### FOOD

Mimi's Shaved Ice  
Squeeze Me  
Kona Ice  
Holy Cow  
MiMi's Grill  
From The Flames Wood Fired Pizza

Smith's Snack Shack  
Lucy's Armenian-Mediterranean Grill  
Crash Site  
Musso's Restaurant  
8 yours 2 kettle corn  
Gigis Betchin Chick-N

Island Style BBQ, LLC  
Lil Smokies BBQ  
Thai Pepper  
Emergency Treats  
The Corn Hole LLC

### INFORMATION

Nature's Educators  
U.S. Army Recruiting Station - Cañon City  
Colorado Christian Fellowship  
The Reed Agency  
Leave No Trace  
Fremont Adventure Recreation  
Coming Home Realty

Royal Gorge Rafting  
Optimum Overwatch  
Auto Nation  
Pueblo Community College  
Royal Gorge Region  
Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance



### MERCHANDISE

D&J Rings  
Turco Spirit  
Happy Dogs CBD  
River Station Gear  
Burley Bees  
Eleazar Estrella Palomino  
Box of Rocks Creations  
Licorice Guy  
ZIKI Outdoors-GearUPcycle  
Brady's Garden Center  
Renewal by Andersen  
Paint Em Up Face Art

IV Therapy by Karina  
Colorado Crazy Cocktails  
Barb's Designs  
Suzi's Tote Wishes  
Crafts and Tack by Sofia  
Rich Cargill  
5280 Gourmet  
Homes + Loans Colorado LLC  
Cryo Eyes Out Sweets & Treats  
Jess A Mess Kreations  
The Gypsy Phoenix  
DewCraft Creations

Lue Outdoors  
Endless Trails  
Dyein For a Livin LLC  
Griswold LLC  
Stitchshop clothing  
Andrea's Creations  
SAK SAUN  
T-Mobile/Mobile one LLC  
Raycor Designs  
AT&T  
Colorado Hammock  
Tom & Cat Karma Studio





# FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC LINEUP

## 9:00 PM - MAIN STAGE MARTINI SHOT

THE MARTINI SHOT is a six-piece, horn-powered, Pop-Rock cover and original band based out of Southern Colorado. The Martini Shot has released four original projects with major influences of Barenaked Ladies, Reel Big Fish, Foo Fighters, 311, and many others. The band's covers are high energy pop tunes in which they add horns to give it the "Martini Shot flavor".



### Opening acts:



## 4:00 PM - RIVER STAGE BENJAMIN DAKOTA ROGERS

Benjamin Dakota Rogers wields one of those distinct, immediate, and truly wild voices. With a studied nod to old-time and bluegrass rhythms, his unvarnished sound effectively smashes the barrier between past and present.

## 6:00 PM - RIVER STAGE 6 BUCKS AND A FLIGHT

Local favorite Six Bucks & a Flight has been entertaining the Royal Gorge Region for years. Their high-energy sound will get you up and dancing as they play a variety of genres and styles.



## 7:30 PM - MAIN STAGE LEADVILLE CHEROKEE

Leadville Cherokee is defined by pure, gritty, electrifying performances that convey the Colorado mountain lifestyle in the high Rockies. With the help of a loyal following, they provide an adrenaline-fueled atmosphere that leaves you wanting more. From bluegrass, to funk, to dirty, grungy rock, Leadville Cherokee is part of Arkansas Valley's home; a voice of the mountain frontier.





# SATURDAY NIGHT MUSIC LINEUP

## 12:00 PM - RIVER STAGE

### DR. FINE

The ultimate dance band! Covering four decades of Rock N' Roll, Dr. Fine plays the hits.



## 2:00 PM - RIVER STAGE

### TIFFANY CHRISTOPHER

An inspiring display of passion, creativity, and fierce chops, multi-instrumentalist Tiffany Christopher has been electrifying stages around the country – energizing crowds with her innate power and finesse. TC engages her audience with physicality, off-the-cuff

humor, and a high impact performance; her work ranges from pop-rock and alternative-america to hip hop and rhythm and blues.

## 5:00 PM - RIVER STAGE

### BLUE RECLUSE

Blue Recluse is a five piece power blues band. They play a wide range of blues, rhythm and blues, and country blues from the '40s to the present day. Powerful, sultry vocals in combination with a hard-groovin' rhythm section and classic electric blues guitar and keys makes this band a blues lover's dream.





# SATURDAY NIGHT MUSIC LINEUP



## 9:00 P.M. - MAIN STAGE THE TEJON STREET CORNER THIEVES

The Tejon Street Corner Thieves hail from the Colorado Rockies. The outlaw blues and trash-grass pioneers forged their original brand of whiskey roots from the ground up. Honing their craft on the streets,

they swiftly gained recognition from the music community.

## ADAM ASHLEY -- 7 P.M.

Adam Ashley was born in the small town of Rifle, Colorado in July of 1984. His interest in music was started at a very young age when his father made him take piano lessons. From there, Adam went on to play both the bass and acoustic guitars. As a child in school, Adam was a member of the school band as well as a member of the school choir.

As the years passed Adam continued to play and sing. He went from career to career, but Adam never looked at singing and playing music as anything more than a hobby, until one day at a CCMA talent show in 2006. Adam met a woman named Misty Dawn. After winning male vocalist of the year. Misty pushed for him to consider singing as a career. After much deliberation, Adam decided to pursue a career as a country music artist.





# THANK YOU!

This event began as a community initiative in 2009, and continues to be funded, planned, and operated by three non-profits and dozens of volunteer event coordinators. All profits from the festival help to build our chamber of commerce, our Whitewater Kayak and Recreation Park, local trails, and community non-profits.

## WHITewater FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

The Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival is planned by a committee of local volunteers who dedicate countless hours to the planning and execution of the event. Their efforts keep the festival returning year after year. Executive committee members include:

Kris Webb  
Rich Millard

Carla Braddy  
Emmy Denehy

Chris Moffett  
Dan Brown

Ashlee Sack  
Warren Hart

Kevin Brown  
Dawn Schmittel

Sheri Trahern  
Lynda Larsen

Additional support provided by:

Travis Payne  
Keith Buswell  
Eddie Senecal  
Tom Keirstens

Heather Peterson  
Bri Gottschalk  
Jessica Unruh  
Amanda Mills

Greg Valladares  
Martin Welch  
Luke Miller  
Jesse Mills

Mary Ellen Betchel  
Eli Moffitt  
Heather Petersen  
Jon Wood

Brian Konty  
Laurie Haak  
Cooper Trahern  
Gail Dexter

Gerald Willis  
Robert Stovall  
Lori Leonard  
Kevin Williams

Kevin Mahmalji  
Erika Reedy

## SPONSORS

### PREMIER



### CLASS V



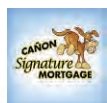
### CLASS IV



### CLASS III



### CLASS II



WAGGENER BRAKES | BRADY'S GARDEN CENTER & SPA | DARE PRINT & SIGN |  
SALON DE CHEVEUX - GIFT CHATEAU - LEONARD & SONS WINDOW WASHING | ENVISION WITHIN LLC | WALMART |  
ATTENCIO GLASS | BUILDING IDEAS | DAWN SCHMITTEL | GROUND2AIR PRODUCTIONS

## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Thank you to organizations who take part in the festival, from hosting booths, to assisting with safety, to managing the equipment area!

Ground2Air Productions  
Fremont County Search and Rescue  
City of Cañon City  
City of Cañon City Parks Department  
Fremont Adventure Recreation

Leave No Trace  
Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Schuster's Printing  
Attencio Glass (Rick Richardson)

Design Ideas (Lynn Barsky)  
Badfish SUP  
Catalyst Church  
Ravenwood Electric  
Matthews Brothers Electric



# OUR ARKANSAS RIVER

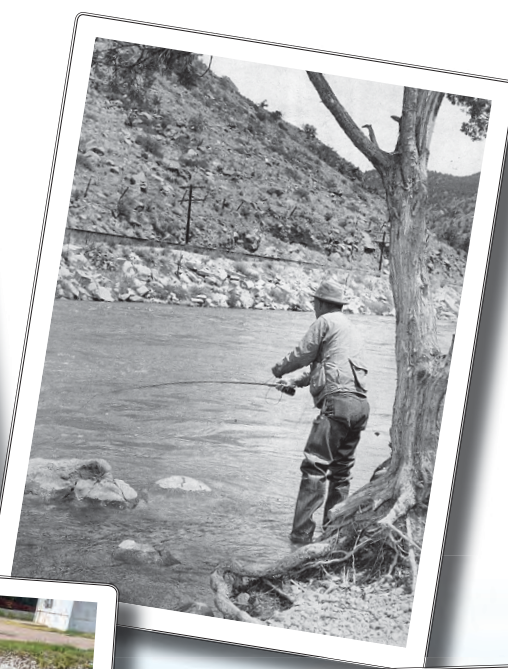
## OUR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

In large part, Cañon City and many towns in the basin owe our success to the Arkansas River. The river and water provide our greatest resource that has made this area thrive with agriculture, mining, forestry, and life. As with most resources, it was abused in the past which resulted in heavy pollution that was later a major EPA focus in the 1990s.

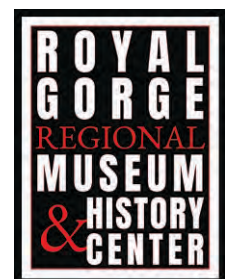
Today, the river continues to support our communities' resource needs while we have a better focus on the river's needs. Thanks to large efforts to clean up mining issues in the headwaters, the Arkansas has good water quality, including 102 miles of Gold Medal Water (i.e. ideal trout habitat). The upper Arkansas is also the most commercially rafted river in the USA. Today we face other challenges such as drought, over-appropriation of water rights, and wildfire.

The Arkansas River has become our greatest asset, and will continue to be such in the future. As we face fire, drought, and greater demands on our water, our future will require greater water conservation to ensure we all have enough water, good water quality, and are leaving enough water in the river for habitat and recreation.

As our community grows, we look to preserve the integrity of our river band also advancing opportunities to utilize the river to its best advantage. RIO seeks to create opportunities such as the ability to safely float the river from Cañon City to Pueblo Reservoir. Recreation in our natural, public spaces continues to be a valuable asset for our residents and our visitors. The festival is proud to be a part of the continued improvement of amenities such as the Whitewater Park (shown below) for the benefit of our community - and for generations to come.



*Images of the Arkansas River provided by the Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center.*



ABOVE: 'PLAY WAVE' AT THE WHITEWATER KAYAK RECREATION PARK (COURTESY GREG VALLADARES), CENTENNIAL PARK

RIGHT: BIGHORN SHEEP CANYON





# LEAVE NO TRACE

## CARE FOR COLORADO PRINCIPLES

### ■ KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

Do your research to know what you'll need. Take a reusable water bottle everywhere.

### ■ STICK TO TRAILS:

Help natural areas stay natural by staying on the path.

### ■ LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT:

Take home the beauty in a photo and not in your backpack.

### ■ TRASH THE TRASH:

If you pack it in, pack it out — even food scraps and poop! If you come across trash, pick it up.

### ■ BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE:

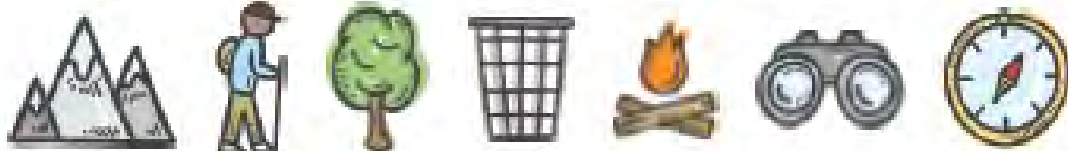
Keep campfires small, and put them out until you can handle the embers.

### ■ KEEP WILDLIFE WILD:

No feeding, approaching or touching, no matter how cute they are.

### ■ SHARE OUR TRAILS & PARKS:

Yield to the uphill bikers and hikers; silence your cell phone and search for the trail less traveled.



WITH A LITTLE PREPARATION, A SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE AND A SOFT SPOT FOR NATURE, YOU'LL BE ON THE TRAIL TO EXPLORING COLORADO LIKE A LOCAL.

© 2021 Colorado Tourism Office. All rights reserved. Leave No Trace Seven Principles © 1999 by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: LNT.org.

## CONGRATULATIONS WHITEWATER AMBASSADOR

The Whitewater Ambassador is an individual or organization that has been a positive influence on the river corridor. The Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival is proud to celebrate those who create a safe, encouraging, and positive culture of recreation along the Arkansas River and beyond. The 2023 Ambassador will be announced at the awards ceremony - Saturday at 8:00 pm on the Main Stage.



### 2022 AMBASSADOR - JOE ASHTON - "LEAN DOWNSTREAM!"

If you frequent the play wave at Centennial park, you've likely seen this guy, Joe Ashton, tearing it up! Joe is an avid kayaker and all-around outdoor enthusiast. Between play sessions Joe is always there to offer a big smile and a friendly greeting to fellow boaters and spectators alike. He is forever encouraging people to get outside and play, and he's always there to offer a quick nugget of river safety wisdom. Joe, a retired Chiropractor, has been recreating in this area for a long time. He grew up water skiing on Lake Pueblo, worked as Ski Patrol at Monarch, has bagged over twenty 14ers, and is an accomplished traditional bowhunter. Joe began downriver kayaking the summer of 1987 paddling Big Horn Canyon and the Royal Gorge in his then, top of the line, Perception Dancer. At almost 12-feet long, the Dancer was a far cry from the small playboats you'll see Joe in these days.

As the sport of whitewater kayaking evolved, so did Joe's skillset, and playboating soon became a passion. Joe first began competing in kayak rodeo events in 2011 and has never stopped. In 2021, at Salida's world famous FIBArk, Joe found himself on the winner's podium when he took 3rd place in the Men's Expert Freestyle Competition! Nicknamed "Super Local Joe" by the commentators, Joe is well known all up and down the Arkansas River Valley. He has been on the water with and learned from many of the world's best kayakers and he forever continues to challenge himself. Joe's adventurous spirit, positive attitude and encouraging nature set a precedent that many aspire to. Thanks Joe, for being such a great role model and inspiration to our community and in the world of river sports!



# DO COLORADO RIGHT WITH THE CARE FOR COLORADO LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES



## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The first step happens before you ever step outside. Minimize your impact while maximizing your enjoyment by researching the area you're visiting and preparing accordingly.



## STICK TO TRAILS

Stick to trails and follow the path to preservation. As tempting as shortcuts may be, staying on designated trails protects our landscapes from erosion and you from injury.



## TRASH THE TRASH

It's not just what you take, but what you leave behind that has an impact. So next time you adventure into the great outdoors, know that your small effort to clean-up goes a long way.



## LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT

The best way to nurture the nature you love is to leave it alone. Tree carvings, uncleared gear and even a picked flower can wreak havoc on a delicate ecosystem. So remember, if you love it, leave it.



## BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

Colorado's first defense against wildfires isn't our firefighters or rangers – it's you. Prevent damaging wildfires by never leaving fires unattended and always fully extinguishing them.



## KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

Colorado is home to tens of thousands of creatures. Keeping them — and you — safe means keeping your distance and keeping your food locked tight.



## SHARE OUR TRAILS AND PARKS

With over 40% of Colorado being public land, there's room for everyone to enjoy. Help others experience the peace and wonder of our great outdoors by keeping noises low and respect high.

To learn more visit [DoColoradoRight.com](https://www.DoColoradoRight.com)

**DO** COLORADO RIGHT.COM



© 2023 Colorado Tourism Office. All rights reserved.  
© Leave No Trace. LNT.org.