



CAÑON CITY, COLORADO
JULY 18-19, 2025
BOATS - BANDS - BIKES - BEER



Produced by these community partners:





MERCHANDISE

ACCEPTING CASH OR CREDIT

\$30



RGWF T-shirts

\$25



Ball Cap

\$20



Nalgene Water Bottle

\$10



**Limited Edition 2023
RGWF Poster**

\$25



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

\$10



Assorted Past Print T-shirts

\$3



Koozies & 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 16th 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



FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS

Proceeds from the Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival benefit three local non-profit organizations. Additional support is provided by sponsors and volunteers. Your entry fee and purchases assist each of these organizations in fulfilling their missions within our community.



ROYAL GORGE RIO

Through water safety education, river conservation, and whitewater recreation, Royal Gorge Rio is committed to will positively impacting the Fremont County community.
Website: <https://www.royalgorgerio.org/>



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.
Website: <https://fcfco.org/>



ROYAL GORGE CHAMBER ALLIANCE & FOUNDATION

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.
Website: <https://www.royalgorgechamberalliance.org/>

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

GENERAL ADMISSION / XPRESSPASS / WHITEWATER VIP

GENERAL ADMISSION

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

Cost: Adults - \$10 per day, Children 5 and under - FREE

2-DAY EXPRESSPASS

Skip the lines at the festival by purchasing a 2-Day XpressPASS wristband.

Cost: \$15



WHITEWATER VIP EXPERIENCE

Enjoy special VIP perks, including:

- Express Lane Entrance into the event
- V.I.P. Parking Area
- Exclusive V.I.P. Tent adjacent to Main Stage
- Dedicated Restrooms adjacent to V.I.P Tent
- Complimentary Non-Alcoholic drinks at VIP Tent.
- Exclusive Bar with 2 Drink Tickets Per Person (21+ Only)
- Gourmet Snacks at VIP tent
- Special gift

Cost: \$75 per day or \$140 for the weekend
Buy online or inquire at the gate.

Please note, for your safety and enjoyment:

- Children under the age of 16 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult at all times at the Whitewater Festival.
- Firearms and weapons are prohibited at the discretion of gate security.
- Dogs (with the exception of Weenie Dog Race entries and service dogs) will **NOT** be allowed at the festival.
- ID will be checked at the gate - please bring it!



KIDS ZONE

Bring the kids! The Kids' Zone will feature a additional activities for your little Whitewater fan. Try the EuroBungy, mechanical bull, face painting, Suzi's Shimmering Strands, and more! These activities will require an additional cost.

Bounce house cost: \$10 per hour or \$25 all day
Euro Bungee cost: \$15 / 4 minutes



BIKE PARKING AND GEAR STORAGE

HOSTED BY "EVERY TOWN NEEDS A POOL"

Friday, 3:00 pm to close of festival

Saturday, 9:00 am to 11:00 pm

Cost: FREE, donations graciously 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 the Every Town Needs a Pool non-profit organization (donations accepted). While you're there, chat with them about efforts to make sure Cañon City funds and builds a pool - soon! 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 paddleboards and kayaks in between events. You'll recieve a tag for each item which will be required to check the items back out. **Bring your own lock for added security.**



FOOD VENDORS

Thai Pepper
8yours2kettlecorn
Holy Cow
Ozark Dog
Island Style BBQ
From The Flames
Squeeze Me Lemonade
Pikes Peak Funnel Cakes
High Mountain Crepes
Travelin Tom's Coffee of Pueblo

The Corn Hole
The Artful Platter
Lucy's Armenian-Mediterranean Grill
Kona Ice Pikes Peak
Mimis shaved ice and ice cream
Musso's Restaurant
Chicago Bob's BBQ
Lil Smokies BBA
Gigis Betchin Chickn
Miggy's Meltdown

Kymberz Munchees

Food trucks will be on the North side of the bridge and also in the food court area in the middle of the park.

FESTIVAL MERCHANDISE

**SPONSORED BY:
THE ROYAL GORGE ART ALLIANCE**

Take home commemorative Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival merch—t-shirts, Nalgene water bottles, posters, Koozies, and more—all from the Royal Gorge Art Alliance Sponsored Official Merchandise Tent.



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

THE CAÑON CITY MATTRESS RACE

5:30 pm, FREE

The first-ever Cañon City Mattress Race is happening this year! Bring any inflatable air mattress you've got and race head-to-head down the Arkansas River in a high-stakes, low-budget battle from the Ice House Wave to the WKRP Wave. No paddles. No motors. Just raw current and river chaos. First across the finish wins it all. FREE to join.

RIVER PLAY WAVE DEMOS

4:00 pm - Ice House Play Wave, FREE

Show off your SUP, kayak, raft or duckie skills on the Centennial Park play wave. Try a demo board or boat from River Station Gear (located in downtown Cañon City).

SUP PARADE

5:00 pm, FREE

If you SUP, come show the community what you're made of! Interesting outfits, group entries, and silly costumes are encouraged. This event is only about 300 yards, so is suitable for beginner / intermediate participants. You must have your own board and equipment for this event.

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

5:15 pm, FREE

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.

CHECK THE 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!



SATURDAY

BUILD YOUR OWN BOAT (BYOB)

5:30 pm, FREE (\$100 refundable fee)

Show off your craftsmanship and engineering skills in this crowd favorite event! First place is awarded \$1000 and there are donated by Cañon Signature Mortgage, and cash prizes awarded to second and third place. Get creative, get crazy, and drum up some spectator support to win it all! Your vessel only has to float about 1/4 of a mile.



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 / 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 - BLUE COLLAR RAFT

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 - PRO 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 - RMR STORM

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.

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.

CARDBOARD CUP

2:00 pm construction begins for a 5:25 pm race

Build a cardboard boat with items from Ace Knecht and float down the river from Ice House Wave to the WKRP wave (about 300 yards). Grab your team of 4 and sign up today!

Awards will be given for the Fastest Floaters (first-place finishers), Best Design (based on creativity and flair), the Titanic Spirit Award (for the most spectacular sinking), and Team Spirit (costumes, chants, and high vibes are highly encouraged).



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

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 utlized 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 19. 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.

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.

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.



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.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

YOGA IN THE PARK

Saturday, 7:30 - 9:00 am

Veteran's Park, FREE

Join Cañon Yoga for a relaxing yoga session in the park. This class will include movement and breath work. 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. Advanced registration not needed. Donations accepted but not expected.



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

Saturday 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. Sign up on the day of the event at the registration tent.

US ARMY CHALLENGE

Throughout the weekend.

FREE

Stop in at the U.S. Army's event trailer with an inflatable football toss, a JLTV, and Cornhole.



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

1:00 pm	Festival / Vendors Open for the Day
4:00 pm	Poudre Valley Playboys River Stage
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 pm	Cañon City Matress Race Ice House Wave
5:30-7:30 pm	Packet Pickup for Great Escape Events Centennial Park - West Entrance
6:00 pm	Chuck Wilt Comm. Raft Race Auction Main Stage
6:30 pm	Chuck Wilt Comm. Raft Race Time Trial Pink House
6:00 pm	The Street Deacons River Stage
6:00 pm	Royal Gorge Kayak Race Garcia Beach to Centennial Park
6:05 pm	Royal Gorge Raft Race Garcia Beach to Centennial Park
7:00 pm	Hairmageddon Main Stage
8:30 PM	Awards and Ambassador Recognition Main Stage
9:00 pm	Mighty Mystic Main Stage

CHECK THE 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!



Photography by Ground2Air Productions

SATURDAY

7:30 am	Yoga with Cañon Yoga Veteran's Park
7:00-9:30 am	Packet Pickup for Great Escape Trail Events Centennial Park - West Entrance
7:45 am	5K/10K Trail Run Start Centennial Park to South Cañon Trails
8:00 am	Rafting Sprints URSA Regional Race 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
10:00 am	Rafting Slalom URSA Regional
10:00 am	Festival / Vendors Open for the Day
11:00 am	Mezmer River Stage
1:00 pm	Atomic Fireballs River Stage
2:00 pm	Cañon City Cardboard Cup Construction (Race at 5:30 pm) Ice House Wave
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
3:00 pm	Blue Recluse River Stage
3:00 pm	Weenie Dog Race Southeast corner of Centennial Park
4:00 pm	6 Bucks & a Flight Main Stage
5:00 pm	Surfing Competition Ice House Play Wave
5:30 pm	Cañon City Cardboard Cup Race
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	Cody Cozz Band Main Stage
8:00 pm	Whitewater Event and Great Escape Awards Main Stage
9:00 pm	Mr. Majestyk Main Stage

OUR ARKANSAS RIVER

OUR HISTORY AND OUR FUTURE



BRIDGING THE GAP TO A FUTURE OF SAFE AND FUN RECREATION

The Arkansas river is for everyone, and recent river restoration projects (including one funded by Great Outdoors Colorado in 2018) have helped our community live this truth. Cañon City's industrial history shaped the current path of the river and inhibited its natural ebbing, flooding and meandering. Previous generations collectively erected a levee on both the left and right banks, taming what was once a wild river. This act, though necessary for the survival of Cañon City, used discarded concrete, bricks and metal to reinforce the banks. These locations eventually became industrial dumping grounds, and community refuse was often discarded on the banks of the river. Access to the river was often steep and difficult, jagged metal stuck out of the river bottom, and debris could snag those who braved the waters. For decades these environmentally unsound practices continued.

In 2007 three local community members had a vision to correct the honest but naive mistakes of the past. Beth Katchmar, Larry Oddo, and Will Colon sat along the river bank in Centennial Park and devised a vision for the future: a section of river through the heart of Cañon City that would allow safe and enjoyable recreational access. With additional help from the Cañon City Recreation District and many others, the festival proceeds were put toward WKRP's goal. They brought their inspiration to the City and soon the first bank restoration and surf waves were complete.

Since 2019, Royal Gorge Rio has continued to advocate for the health and safety of the Arkansas river corridor through Fremont county. There is still so much potential on the banks of the Arkansas. They aim to rehabilitate areas innundated with historic industrial waste, and also reinforce the healthy native and natural riparian areas. With the help our community, we will make the river corridor safe for everyone: walkers, waders, anglers, hikers, bikers, kayakers, tubers, rafters, swimmers, surfers.

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) that we know today, stretches over 152 miles of river corridor and sees over one million visitors per year, a number that continues to grow. The AHRA is recognized as one of the nation's most popular whitewater rafting and kayaking locations and is home to a world-class fishery. The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area is a cooperative effort between Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW), the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the US Forest Service (USFS).

AHRA, along with local partners, Cañon City Schools and RG Rio, works together to engage with the third graders of Canon City and introduce the "Every Kid in a PFD" program. Students received classroom education on the importance of life jackets, self-rescue, hazard identification, and river ethics and were given a free personal flotation device (PFD) to keep.

For more information on river safety and flows, please visit:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/ArkansasHeadwatersRecreationArea>



RIVER / PLAY WAVE SAFETY

COLORADO LAW REQUIRES

- All occupants of inner tubes, air mattresses, and similar devices to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved type I, III or V PFD (personal flotation device), i.e. a "life jacket".
- All persons under the age of 13 swimming in the Arkansas River within the AHRA must wear a U.S Coast Guard approved

RIVER FLOWS

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) monitors water flows on the Arkansas River. You can access their site and check conditions April through September. Please note that rapids change significantly as water flows increase and decrease throughout the year, and because the Arkansas is a low-volume river, even rainfall can affect the flow.

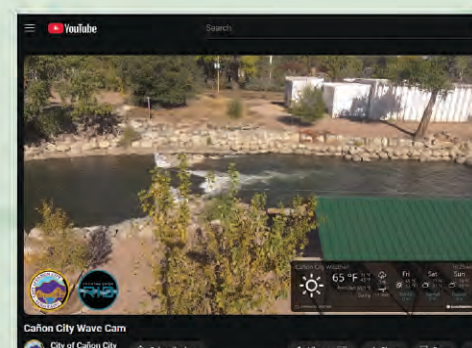
Check for updated flow reports at: **<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/rt>**

Click on the 'Colorado Statewide Streamflow Real-Time Table' link and scroll down to the Arkansas Headwaters info. The Parkdale gauge is located just above the Royal Gorge.

Whitewater rafting, kayaking, and floating are not recommended without proper training, equipment, and experience. Always wear appropriate flotation devices and check water conditions before putting on the river.

PLAY WAVE ETIQUETTE

- Take turns: After your turn, join the back of "the lineup" to have another one.
- Keep your ride short: When there is a line to ride the wave, please keep your ride to under 1 minute so others can have a chance.
- Alternate sides: If riders are dropping into the wave from both sides of the river, please alternate whose turn it is.
- Yield to upstream traffic: Before you drop in, check to make sure that no boats, kayaks, or other users are coming through.
- Always wear a PFD.
- Watch out for each other: Be kind to your fellow river user and always make sure that your actions are safe for others as well.
- For adults: Please be aware of younger users and families who frequent the play wave. Be considerate and refrain from smoking in the area, especially during busy summer months.



Check water levels, weather, and other conditions by viewing the City of Cañon City's live camera at: <https://www.canoncity.org/563/Play-Wave-Camera>

WHITewater AMBASSADOR

The Whitewater Ambassador is an individual or organization that has been a positive influence on the river corridor. The Royal Gorge Whitwater Festival is proud to celebrate those who create a safe, encouraging, and positive culture of recreation along the Arkansas River and beyond. The 2025 Ambassador will be announced at the awards ceremony - **Friday at 8:30 pm on the Main Stage.**

2024 AMBASSADORS

WILL COLON, LARRY ODDO, BETH KATCHMAR



Will Colon, Beth Katchmar, and Larry Oddo were honored at the 2024 Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival as the Whitewater Ambassadors. Their role in creating a safe, fun environment where rafter, surfers, swimmers, and anglers could utilize the downtown river corridor was pivotal.

The three, who were aided by a number of people in the community, hatched the idea of creating a Whitewater Kayak and Recreation Park (WKRP) near the Centennial Park area. At the time, Colon was serving on the board of directors for the Chamber of Commerce and also on the Fremont County Tourism Council. He suggested the idea to other community leaders, and Katchmar and Oddo joined the efforts immediately. Mike Merlino and Jimmy Whiteside also aided in preliminary efforts to scout locations for a wave and figure out next steps. Merlino made his famous “grinders” to sell and raise the first \$100 for the cleanup efforts.

A fundraiser at the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park helped the group, along with the City, to earn a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). The next year, they moved the fundraiser - or festival - to Veteran’s Park, and then to Centennial Park, where it has taken place since then.

Their efforts have led to the clean up of the downtown stretch of the river, including building play waves in a number of locations. These waves are designed to facilitate safe enjoyment of the river and of new sports on the rise - like river surfing and personal watercraft. The Whitewater Festival is pleased to honor these three individuals as community members and visionaries.

LEGACY AMBASSADORS

2024 KYLE HORNE

Kyle was instrumental in getting the first festival off the ground in 2009 and also served as a co-chair for nine years. He and the CC Rec District ran the festival until 2018. Kyle continues to help with the festival and you’ll see him announcing and assisting where needed.

2023 JOE ASHTON

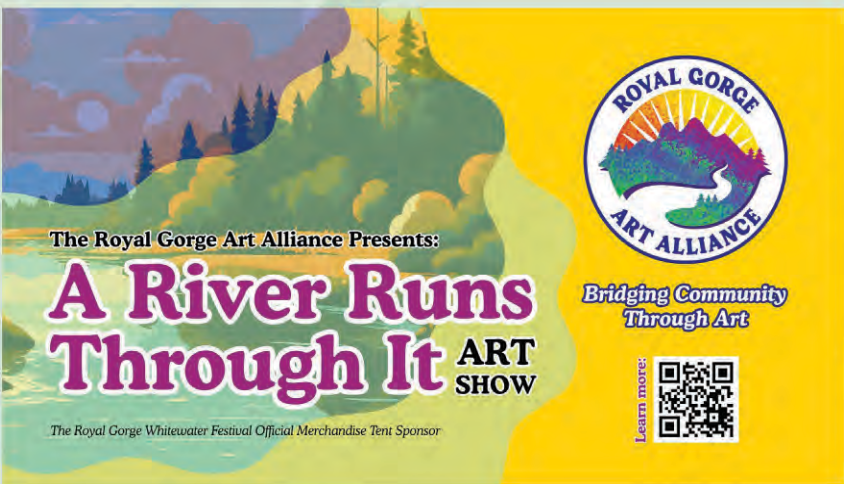
“Local Joe”, as we call him, has been on the river since buying his first kayak in 1987. He’s competed in 25 freestyle competitions across Colorado. He hardly ever misses a day in the water these days; Joe is a fixture at the local play wave and a frequent winner in local contests including FIBArk and the Whitewater Festival. “Lean downstream!”



COME SEE THE 2025 AMBASSADOR HONORED - FRIDAY AT 8:30 ON THE MAIN STAGE!

ROYAL GORGE ART ALLIANCE ART SHOW

“A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT”



Join us at the 2025 Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival for a pop-up outdoor art show, “A River Runs Through It.” Enjoy a diverse collection of artwork in all styles and mediums—painting, photography, ceramics, and more. Each piece is inspired by the spirit of the Arkansas River and created by artists local to the region. Presented by the Royal Gorge Art Alliance, the show brings an extra splash of inspiration to a staple summer celebration and is part of an ongoing First Friday Art Show Series.

Learn more about The Royal Gorge Art Alliance and upcoming art shows at royalgorgeartalliance.com.

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:

Carla Braddy
Dan Brown
Kevin Brown

Emmy Dennehy
Warren Hart
Chris Moffett

Rich Millard
Ashlee Sack
Dawn Schmittel

Sheri Trahern
Kris Webb

Additional support provided by:

Jessica Unruh
Amanda Mills
Greg Valladares
Martin Welch

Jesse Mills
Eli Moffitt
Jon Wood
Brian Konty

Laurie Haak
Gail Dexter
Gerald Willis
Robert Stovall

Lori Leonard
Erika Reedy
Barb Beals
Kelly Branyik

Kaylan Miller
Lynda Larsen
Travis Payne
Brooke Johnson

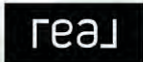
Greg Valladares Gail
Dexter
Tom Keirstens
Bri Gottschalk

SPONSORS

PREMIER



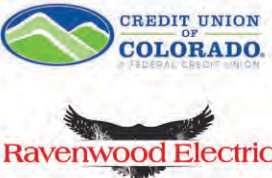
CLASS V



CLASS IV



CLASS III



CLASS II



CLASS I

BANK OF THE SAN JUANS | PIZZA MADDNESS | BRADY'S GARDEN CENTER & SPA | ECHO CANYON RIVER EXPEDITIONS | RAFT MASTERS | ATTENCIO GLASS | BUILDING IDEAS | DAWN SCHMITTEL | SANGRE EQUIPMENT SERVICES

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
City of Cañon City
City of Cañon City Parks Department
Fremont Adventure Recreation
Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Atencio Glass (Rick Richardson)
Design Ideas (Lynn Barsky)
Catalyst Church
Ravenwood Electric

Matthews Brothers Electric
Every Town Needs a Pool
Cañon City Police Department
Dave and Linda Lambert



FRIDAY

4 P.M. - *POUDRE VALLEY PLAYBOYS*

POUDRE VALLEY PLAYBOYS, A COLLABORATION OF COLORADO GUITAR PHENOMENON JOSH LONG AND UPRIGHT BASS AFICIONADO MARK VERSCHOOR, IS HIGH-OCTANE CLASSIC COUNTRY-ROCKABILLY-SURF MUSIC THAT GETS ANY CROWD JUMPING AND HOLLERING WITHIN THE FIRST FEW BARS.

JOSH AND MARK DIG DEEP INTO THE ARCHIVES TO PULL OUT SOME OVERLOOKED GEMS OF YESTERYEAR IN ADDITION TO CULT CLASSICS FROM THE ROCKABILLY, COUNTRY, AND SURF MUSIC SCENES. A TYPICAL MIXING-IT-UP MEDLEY THEY'LL DO IS "GHOST RIDERS IN THE SKY" MIXED WITH "EL CUMBANCHERO." WITH MARK VERSHOOR'S POWERHOUSE BASS LICKS AND JOSH LONG'S RIVETING ELECTRIC GUITAR RIFFS, THIS DUO SOUNDS LIKE A FULL BAND ON FIRE.

6 P.M. - *THE STREET DEACONS*

THE STREET DEACONS HAVE ARRIVED ON THE MUSIC SCENE IN COLORADO. THESE DETERMINED MUSICIANS HAVE COMBINED THEIR TALENTS TO THE DELIGHT OF AUDIENCES ACROSS THE STATE. EACH MEMBER HAS PROVEN HIMSELF TO BE A NOTABLE CREATIVE FORCE OVER MANY YEARS.

THE STREET DEACONS ARE BIG ON INSPIRATIONAL TUNES AND ARE ALWAYS PRESENTING SOMETHING NEW AND ENGAGING TO MOVE CROWDS. THERE IS AN UNMISTAKABLE DYNAMIC WHEN THESE PLAYERS HIT THE STAGE. THEIR GROOVE AND THE LAYERS OF SOUND HAVE RARELY BEEN HEARD. ALL OF THE MEMBERS HAVE PROVEN TO BE AMONG THE FINEST INSTRUMENTALISTS IN COLORADO.

7:30 P.M. - *HAIRMAGEDDON*



DIVE INTO THE TIME MACHINE WITH HAIRMAGEDDON. THIS ISN'T JUST A BAND; IT'S A FULL-BLOWN REVIVAL OF THE NEON-SOAKED, BIG-HAIRED, GUITAR-SHREDDING ERA OF THE '80s. IMAGINE STEPPING BACK INTO THE GOLDEN AGE OF HAIR METAL, WHERE EVERY RIFF IS A CALL TO PARTY AND EVERY BEAT A HEARTBEAT OF ROCK "N" ROLL REBELLION.

HAIRMAGEDDON DOESN'T JUST PLAY MUSIC; THEY CONJURE THE SPIRIT OF AN ERA. DECKED OUT IN OVER-THE-TOP COSTUMES THAT COULD ONLY BELONG TO THE WILDEST DREAMS OF ROCK STARDOM, AND ARMED WITH STAGE PROPS THAT TRANSFORM ANY VENUE INTO A ROCK CATHEDRAL, THEY'RE HERE TO UNLEASH THE LEGACY OF ROCK LEGENDS.



9 P.M. - *MIGHTY MYSTIC*

MIGHTY MYSTIC IS CONSIDERED AS ONE OF THE LEADERS IN THE U.S. REGGAE SCENE AND LABELED BY MANY AS ONE OF THE MORE PROLIFIC ARTISTS TO DEVELOP OUTSIDE OF JAMAICA. HE HAS GRIPPED THE SCENE WITH FEROCIOUS CONVICTION AND AN UNCANNY AMBITION WORTHY TO BE MENTIONED AMONG THE GREATS. HE HAS GONE FROM BEING A FAN OF REGGAE MUSIC TO BEING A CONTRIBUTOR TO THE ART. MIGHTY MYSTIC CAME ON THE SCENE IN 2006 AFTER SCORING HIS FIRST INTERNATIONAL HIT WITH THE SONG "RIDING ON THE CLOUDS."



SATURDAY

11 A.M. - *MEZMER*

A 5 PIECE BAND BASED OUT OF CANON CITY, COLORADO, BRINGING ROCK AND FUNK TO YOUR EYES AND EARS TAKING IT ACROSS THE STATE. ALTHOUGH, WE PLAY A VARIETY OF MUSIC, GIVING EACH SONG ITS OWN MEZMERIZED SOUND!

GUITARIST/LEAD SINGER: GROOVY BOB MURRAY

SAXOPHONE/BACKUP: BLAZE PATTERSON

BASSIST: JORDAN CAMEL

DRUMMER/BACKUP: ZACHARY WOLFE

KEYBOARDIST/BACKUP: KORIGAN MURRAY



1 P.M. - *ATOMIC FIREBALLS*

THE ATOMIC FIREBALLS ARE A SMALL COUNTRY BAND.



3 P.M. - *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. PUT ON YOUR DANCING SHOES, BECAUSE BLUE RECLUSE WILL ROCK YOUR SOUL WITH ITS UNIQUE BRAND OF RARE AND CLASSIC SONGS BY THE LIKES OF KOKO TAYLOR, ETTA JAMES, BIG MAYBELLE, SUSAN TEDESCHI, BONNIE RAITT AND JANIS JOPLIN, AS WELL AS ORIGINAL SONGS LIKE CLOSE MY WINDOWS, RUN ME RAGGED AND SOUTH AUSTIN BLUES, WITH A TRADITIONAL CHICAGO BLUES FEEL.



4 P.M. - *SIX BUCKS & A FLIGHT*



THIS LOCAL GROUP PLAYS HIGH-VOLUME CLASSIC ROCK. THE GROUP FEATURES WELL-KNOWN LOCALS AARON ON GUITAR, RYAN ON DRUMS, BRI ON VOCALS, AND ZACH ON BASS.

7 P.M. - *CODY COZZ*

CODY COZZ IS A NASHVILLE BASED COUNTRY ARTIST ORIGINALLY FROM PUEBLO, COLORADO. HE WAS SIGNED TO GRINDSTONE RECORDS UNDER COUNTRY MUSIC LEGEND CRAIG CAMPBELL FROM 2022 - 2024. CODY RELEASED HIS FIRST NATIONAL SINGLE "ON MY WAY" TO RADIO IN 2022. THE "ON MY WAY" MUSIC VIDEO PREMIERED ON CMT SHORTLY AFTER THE SONG'S RELEASE IN JUNE.



9 P.M. - *MR. MAJESTYK MM8TR*

MR. MAJESTYK 8-TRACK REVIVAL (MM8TR) IS FIERCELY TALENTED 1970s COVER BAND WHO BRING THE HEAT WITH GRADE A PERFORMANCES AND JAW-DROPPING PERFECT EXECUTION OF SONGS MOST BANDS DON'T DARE TO TRY.



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