

PARKING INFORMATION

The Montgomery Parking Deck at 233 Coosa Street (adjacent to Riverfront Park and across from Riverwalk Stadium) and the Intermodal Parking Deck at 495 Molton Street (next to the Train Shed) are both free on the weekends and after 5:00 p.m. on weekdays*.

*Coosa St. deck is not free on nights when baseball games are scheduled at Riverwalk Stadium.

233 Coosa Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

- and -

495 Molton Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

*Downtown Parking Decks are controlled and managed by the City of Montgomery. If you have any questions regarding parking, please call 334-625-4400

Venue Information

The location of the Festival is at Riverfront Park in the heart of Downtown. The Festival grounds stretch from the tunnel entrance at 246 Commerce Street to the Amphitheatre Stage and Green.

Amenities:

Public bathrooms are located at the top of the hill, by the silos. Portable lavatories will be located closer to the Amphitheatre for our paddlers' convenience. The Splash Pad will be running all day, and is open to both children and adults alike for cooling off! Children's inflatables will be located next to the Splash Pad.

Pets:

Pets ARE allowed into the park! Race Day tends to be a hot one, so make sure to keep your furry friend (and yourself) hydrated and happy!

Alcohol:

As per the State of Alabama ABC board and the City of Montgomery Special Events Department, no alcoholic beverages may be brought into the park. Feel free to bring any non- alcoholic drinks with you onto the grounds; alcohol (and other refreshments) can be purchased at several locations within the park.

Vehicles:

Vehicle traffic in the park is strictly regulated. Only vehicles of participating vendors and exhibitors will be allowed to enter and exit the park at predetermined times for the Festival.

RULES AND SAFETY INFORMATION

Montgomery Fire and Rescue are present at all team practices, as well as for the duration of the event, both on-the-water and in the Festival grounds.

If weather becomes inclement, the races will continue, but will be paused in the event of lightning until conditions improve. Festival staff may alter the race format to determine winners depending on how far the

races have progressed. Announcements pertaining to weather issues and race changes will be made over the stage's sound system.

Teams and Festival attendees should remember to stay hydrated! Water coolers will be set up in strategic locations for paddlers, and a variety of beverage vendors will also be available throughout the park. In accordance with the State of Alabama ABC board and the City of Montgomery Special Events Department, no alcoholic beverages may be brought into the park for this event. Alcoholic drinks can be purchased from multiple locations in the Festival grounds.

Security will be on-hand during the event. Any disruptive or unsafe behavior will be immediately reported to security personnel. The Festival is a family-friendly event, and we want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable day at the Riverfront!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **What is a Dragon Boat? Modern dragon boats vary, but the standard boat in western countries is about 44' long and 3' wide. It holds twenty paddlers, one steersman who stands in the stern, and one drummer who sits at the bow and beats out the paddler's pace. The boats are generally made of fiberglass, are decorated with a dragon head and tail and weigh about 800 pounds unloaded. Dragon boating originated in ancient China. The recent rise in popularity of the ten-person dragon boats is due in part to their smaller, ~35'-length frames.**
2. **Are the boats and equipment provided for teams? Yes! The boats, paddles, and lifejackets teams will be using in practice sessions and on Race Day are all provided. Teams will also be coached and steered by the professional coaches we hire on for the event.**
3. **How many people does a team need? We recommend 25-28 for the traditional dragon boats. 21 fill a boat; 20 crew members will paddle and one will be the drummer. We recommend several alternates. A minimum of 8 female paddlers (female drummers do not count as one of these 8) must be on your boat to compete in each round of racing. You may paddle with as few as 18 crew members, but 8 of those must be women.**
 - **For the 10-person boats, a team should have 12-15 members. 11 fill the boat; 10 paddlers and one to drum. A minimum of 5 female paddlers (female drummers do not count as one of these 5) must be on your boat to compete in each round of racing.**
4. **What happens in the event of rough weather? The races will proceed in inclement weather but will be paused in the event of lightning until conditions improve. The festival staff may alter the race format to determine winners depending on how far the races have progressed. Announcements of any changes will be made over the stage's sound system.**
5. **How long is the race course? The course will have 300- metre-long lanes marked by buoys. The start line will be mid-way between the Amphitheatre and the marina; the finish line will be located at about the center of Riverfront Park, just west of the Amphitheatre. The finish line is marked by buoys and an underwater laser-line.**
6. **When should we arrive/depart? The first race will begin at the conclusion of the opening ceremony- about 9:00am. Captains should have their teams at the park no later than 8:00 a.m. for check-in. Captains will be given wristbands for their crew at check-in. An awards ceremony will follow the conclusion of the Grand Championship Race, around 4:00 p.m. The final Race Day schedule will be posted the week- of.**
7. **What about food and drink? There will be an Athletes' Hospitality Tent with complementary water, sports drinks, fruit and healthy snacks for registered crew members, as well as a paddler-only bar. Teams may bring their own food, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages in coolers. A**

selection of vendors will be set up in the park all day, and several catering choices will be available also. Grilling is not permitted in the park. A complete list of vendors and caterers will be made available in August. Non-participating attendees will have access to a variety of food and beverage vendors in the park. Please note, NO alcoholic beverages may be brought into the park! (See Rules & Safety). Alcoholic drinks will be available for purchase inside the park.

8. How else can I be involved? If you aren't paddling on Race Day, there are so many other ways for you to get in on the action! We are always looking for volunteers for practice days, set-up day, and race day. We have a wide variety of areas to manage in pulling off an event of this scale, and we rely on almost 300 volunteers to help make the Festival a success! Interested? Send us a message!
9. What is the age limit to participate? To be able to participate on a team, an individual must be at least 13 years old. Any crew member under the age of 18 must have parental/guardian consent to be allowed onto a boat. Please note: We will sometimes ask for identification at the check-in for practices, and anyone 17 and under must bring a parent or guardian to their first practice in order for them to sign a waiver.