

French Broad Canoe Trip and Meet-up

Sep. 22-24, 2023

The River Management Society's Southeast Chapter invites you to join fellow RMS members, students from regional River Studies & Leadership Certificate programs, and local watershed partners for a visit to the French Broad River in western North Carolina. We'll gather on the river's headwaters in the southern Appalachian Mountains as it passes through protected and private lands, including pastoral floodplains and lush forests abundant in native flora and fauna. Known for its immense diversity in wildlife, topography, and culture, the French Broad flows for over 200 miles across North Carolina and Tennessee, with a variety of sections suitable for all paddling interests, including meandering floats, calm tubing, and raging whitewater.

For this trip, we'll meet in Brevard the weekend of September 22-24 to connect RMS members with students and local partners to learn about the river's historic and present state, including community-led opposition to dams, Wild & Scenic River campaigns, management and protection of adjoining public and private lands, native fish restoration, water quality monitoring, riverside camping opportunities, outfitter use, stewardship, education, advocacy, etc.

After arriving and settling in on Friday afternoon/evening, we'll have light programming with local partners on Saturday morning, followed by a relaxed canoe-based overnigher from Saturday afternoon/evening into Sunday morning. This trip is specifically focused on connecting RSLC students with other schools and professional partners, but we welcome any RMS members interested in connecting with students to learn about their studies and/or offer their own professional guidance/expertise.

Even if you can't join us for the overnight trip, we encourage you to meet up with the group Saturday morning for short talks and networking in Rosman, NC.

For questions about the trip's local logistics, reach out to Jack Henderson (hendersonjc3@gmail.com). For questions about RMS's RSLC program, visit the RSLC [web page](#) or contact Angie Fuhrmann (training@river-management.org).

Itinerary:

Friday September 22:

- Meet in Brevard, NC (afternoon/evening).
- Camp at Davidson River Campground.
- Purchase/assemble gear, supplies, food, etc.
- Plenty of grocery stores, eateries, etc. nearby. Dinner is on your own.
- Settle in, make introductions, prepare gear, cook foods, etc.

Saturday September 23:

- Eat breakfast (provided), pack up camp.

- Meet with local partners at Headwaters Outfitters in Rosman between 9 a.m. and noon for light programming about the French Broad River (interesting facts, unique opportunities, past/current/future issues, etc.).
- Pack up gear, leave vehicles at Headwaters Outfitters, and depart for put-in.
- Eat lunch (provided) and put on river at Horse Shoe Boating Access Area.
- Paddle 8.5 miles to Mud Creek Campsite, passing several conservation easements and the confluences with the Mills River and Mud Creek.
- Set up camp, dinner (provided), games, etc. Optional guided short hike to neighboring floodplain restoration project.
- Light programming about French Broad Paddle Trail over dinner/fire, followed by open conversation and merriment.

Sunday September 24:

- Breakfast at camp (provided).
- Paddle 2.5 miles downstream to Westfeldt Park take-out.
- Be shuttled back to Headwaters Outfitters to collect vehicles.
- Shuffle gear and depart homeward.
- Lunch on your own after departing.

Bring your own boat!

If you aren't able to bring your own boat or paddling gear, please note that in the form so we can arrange accommodations.

Meals:

For those attending the overnight trip, the following meals will be provided: Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner, and Sunday breakfast.

Registration:

The trip is open to RMS members and non-members. If you're not already a member, we encourage you to learn about the benefits of membership and [join online](#). Members receive discounted registration for the overnight trip, but **YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN** to your member profile to receive the discounted rate.

Registration is first-come, first-served and is limited to 8 non-student participants on the overnight trip. There is no limit to the number of attendees who can join us Saturday for short talks and networking. **The deadline to register is close of business on Friday, Sep. 15.** Please reach out to Jack Henderson at jack@mountaintrue.org if we've reached capacity and you'd like to be added to the waitlist.

RSLC students, you DO NOT need to use the online registration form. Simply let your advisor know (James Vonesh at VCU, Brian Byrd at WCU, Elise Chapman at UTC.)

Cost

- Students - free
- RMS members on the overnight trip - \$20
- Non-members on the overnight trip - \$30

[Register online here!](#)

Questions?

With questions, please contact Southeast Chapter Events Coordinator Jack Henderson at jack@mountaintrue.org.