

5/12/22

## PRESS RELEASE

Coon Rapids, MN

The 1st annual Minnesota High School Canoe and Kayak Championship Race will be held at 3:30pm on June 12th, 2022 at Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. The race is for anyone currently in grades 9-12, and no racing experience is necessary. The Minnesota Canoe Association is staging the event and providing canoes, paddles and lifejackets (PFD's) for anyone who is interested and the event costs just \$5 to enter. For more information or to register, visit [twopaddles.org](http://twopaddles.org)

The High School race will be conducted in a lake-like side channel of the Mississippi River, on a short course marked with buoys. Paddlers may elect to bring their own canoe or kayak.

The race is part of six events that comprise the "Mississippi River Paddle Weekend". The other events are open to all ages and include the "Mississippi River 7.5 mile Recreational Tour" (aka the "MR 7.5"), with guides and shuttle service presented by the Paddle Bridge Guide Collective. Participants in the tour have the option to use their own canoe or kayak or rent one. There are also four canoe and kayak races; the "Mississippi River 10 Mile Race" (aka the "MR 10") as well as the MR 25, MR 48 and the MR 140. These races start in Ramsey, Otsego, Clearwater and Brainerd, respectively, with a shared finish line at Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park.

Once participants have finished their race there will be a "Post Paddle Party" with live music, food and an awards and recognition ceremony.

Spectators are welcome to watch at Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park Sunday afternoon. Another good spot to see the all-ages events underway is from the Anoka-Champlin bridge, Mississippi Point Park in Champlin, or Peninsula Point Park in Anoka, between 1pm and 4pm.