



## Race Packet – October 15, 2023

Hello Rotary Regatta Racers,

Thank you all for joining us for this year's Rotary Regatta. We truly value your contributions and participation in this great event. Be sure to read the **entire race packet** and review the park maps.

**Start:** 1776 Park, 140 Imperial Dr, Friendswood, TX 77546

(Yard Signs will direct you to the start once you enter Imperial Dr.)

**Finish:** Lynn Gripon Park at Countryside, 100 Alderwood, League City, TX 77573

### Sunrise Service

Pastor Ralph will lead a Sunrise Service at 7:30am for those who wish to worship.

### Check-In

Opens at 7:45 AM. There will be port-o-cans provided. **Check-In will close at 8:40 AM** in preparation for the Start of the Race at 9AM. A Race Briefing will begin at 8:40AM at the Launch Area.

1. Check-in by your Last Name
  - a. Sign waiver **Every racer must sign a waiver before receiving a boat number.**
  - b. Collect Boat Number (adhere to the front of the canoe/kayak, as high from the water as possible, on the **RIGHT** side; dry boat before sticking)
2. Pickup event T-Shirt, if registered in time.
3. Proceed to ID Check table for wrist bands to receive two Hot Dogs and complimentary beers (21 and older) at the finish line (courtesy of the awesome **Karbach Brewing**)
4. Next, either proceed to the boat rental area (Boy Scouts) or move your boat to Launch Area and wait for your announced start time.

### Race Schedule and Put Ins

The race will have staggered start times determined by boat class beginning at 9AM.

All boats will start on the water.

The Launch area is about a 20-yard portage. The launch is on graded concrete at the water's edge. Depending on the water level there may be soft, muddy creek bottom exposed so be prepared.

## Clothing

Wear comfortable clothes (synthetics perform better than cotton when wet). Wear old canvas shoes or sport sandals that you do not mind getting wet and muddy. Bring a wide brimmed hat, long pants and long-sleeved shirt if you're sun sensitive. Wear sunscreen even if it's cloudy. Wear gloves to minimize blisters, many other sports offer functional gloves (paddle sports, cyclists, golf, baseball, etc.) avoid inexpensive cloth gloves if you can. Use bug spray if you're highly attractive to mosquitoes; a problem when standing still at the start but diminishes once you get on the water.

## Drink and Food

You will get thirsty and there is no substitute for bottled water or athletic drinks (Gatorade, etc.). **Bring your own for the race.**

High energy snacks are recommended during the trip. We recommend placing snacks in Ziploc bags or dry bags and securing the bag to your boat.

Food will be provided to paddlers at the finish line, as well as water and 2 complimentary beers.

## Safety

Each competitor must have in their possession during the entire race an easily accessible and immediately available Personal Flotation Device (PFD) which is marked on the PFD as being approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. PFDs secured to a vessel must be able to be released quickly with one hand (securing by duct tape is prohibited). Inflatable PFDs must be worn.

All children under 14 years old **MUST WEAR** a US Coast Guard approved life jacket on the racecourse.

If the conditions warrant, race officials may require PFDs to be worn by all competitors.

We will have race marshals looking for people to follow the PFD requirements listed above. If anyone fails to adhere to the PFD safety rules, your boat will be disqualified.

There will be water safety personnel on the water and an EMT available.

**PLEASE BRING WATER!** We recommend at least 1 quart per person per hour.

## Parking

1776 Park has ample parking along the roadway. Once you drop off your boat at the registration table, please park your vehicle along the roadway keeping traffic patterns in mind. Then return and portage your boat to the launch area. If you have family or supporters who want to join you or finish line festivities (which they are welcome to!), please ask them to meet you at the Lynn Gripon Countryside Park. Parking may be more limited at the finish.

## Shuttle

HOPE VILLAGE is graciously providing free shuttle service from the finish line back to the starting line. Shuttles will run between noon and 3PM. If you will be using the shuttle, we suggest taking the shuttle early to retrieve your vehicle then returning back to Lynn Gripon Countryside Park early to avoid missing the shuttle.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Boats are not allowed on the shuttle, therefore please stage your boat in the "Boat (waiting) Area" between the creek and the roundabout until you're able to return and pick it up.

## Closing Ceremony/Awards

Lunch and beer will be available at the finish. The closing ceremony will begin around 1 PM. (\*It may be possible that all racers have not crossed the finish line before the ceremony begins). Food and drink will be served until 2PM as available.

## Racecourse Description

Generally, the current on Clear Creek is slow moving mostly influenced by ingoing or outgoing tides or rainfall. Narrow and twisty at the start, this course boasts 20 turns in the first mile before widening and straightening out. For the competitor, this will be a unique course in boat handling and speed. For the recreation paddlers, this will be gentle, lazy course often shaded by trees. For the spectator, the banks are low and graded providing easy access with unique and close up views of the participants for the first mile of the race. There are several other easily accessible spots to view racers along the course (see website for maps and locations)

Within the first 3 miles there may be some downed trees spanning the creek, but they are all passable without portage. If you are presented with what appears to be a choice of Left or Right during the course, ALWAYS GO LEFT!

Here are some of the landmarks and mileage to watch for during the race:

START - 1776 Park from River Right side.

- 1.2-mile mark - Confluence with Mary's Creek
- 2.5-mile mark - Old Creek Channel - Stay Left towards Bridge
- 2.9-mile mark - Friendswood Link Road Bridge
- 3-mile mark - Old Home Foundation of Left
- 3.35-mile mark - Confluence with Cowart's Creek
- 4-mile mark - FM 528 Bridge
- 5.85-mile mark - Overhead Pipeline Crossing - Pass Under Pipeline
- 6-mile mark - Confluence with Chigger Creek
- 7-mile mark - Pass under Bay Area Blvd. Bridge - Paddle to Buoy

FINISH - Countryside Park and Take Out on River Right

## Photo and Video Notice

By participating in the Rotary Regatta as a paddler, volunteer, spectator, or by entering the premises of 1776 Park or Lynn Gripon Countryside Park and the race route of the Rotary Regatta you grant permission for the Rotary Regatta and its Regatta partners to photograph, record, broadcast, and otherwise use in any media, including web pages, you or your child's participation in this Regatta and to use your name, and voice concerning you in connection therewith.

## THANK YOU!!!

We greatly appreciate your participation in this year's Rotary Regatta. This race is meant to raise awareness of Clear Creek as an important drainage and recreational waterway. Thank you for being a part of this event. We are so excited for you to experience Clear Creek!

**Don't hesitate to contact Luis Briones at 281-793-0362 if you have any questions. We will see you bright and early Sunday, October 15, 2023.**