



**Fort Lauderdale Rotary Club River Race 1:30 p.m. 4/20/2019 - Esplanade Park, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Paddle Board and Kayak Race**

Race Committee Chairperson: Mike Sanchez (954) 873-0965

The Race Committee promotes a safe, family-oriented event. We encourage all participants to act in a responsible sportsman-like manner, obey all safety requirements, race rules, race officials, and to assist their fellow racers when necessary. Above all, be safe and enjoy the race. Remember, safety comes first! Watch out for fellow racers, other boaters, and other items floating in the river. The river will not be closed to other boats.

1. All participants are required to read these Rules.
2. All participants shall complete the "Risk Awareness Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability Agreement." The wavier can be found at our website www.FTLpiratefest.com. Copies will also be available the day of the race.
3. All racers will assemble at the dock by Esplanade Park by 1:15 p.m. for last minute instructions and safety check.

Beginning Point of Race: The starting point, upriver from the dock, will be marked with a buoy. All races begin at the same place. By 1:30 PM all racers will begin to make their way to the starting line. There will be a Rotary Club starter to make sure everyone is behind the starting line buoy. Starting in front of the buoy will disqualify the racer.

Start of race: 1st cannon shot the paddle boarders and kayaks will begin their races. 2nd cannon shot will signal the beginning of the raft race.

Turning Points: The Paddle Boarders and Kayakers will go under the Andrews Ave Bridge and race all the way back to the dock at Esplanade Park. The rafters will paddle to a point marked in the New River with a second buoy and race back to the dock. Any participant that does not go all the way to their respective turning point will be disqualified.

4. The anticipated duration of the race is from approximately 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. All rafts should be taken to Cooley's Landing and out of the river by 3:00 p.m.

The festival at Esplanade Park and along Riverwalk will run from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and will offer live entertainment, children's play area, games of skill, pirate encampment, arts and crafts vendors, food, and libations for all!

5. We encourage the use of manually operated water guns and super soakers. WATER BALLOONS and anything else that leaves debris in the river are strictly prohibited and the use of such will result in disqualification from the race.

6. No alcohol is to be consumed during the race. Participants must be able to "walk the plank" in a straight line in order to participate. There will be plenty of libations available at the festival and along Riverwalk afterwards.

7. No one under the age of 12 may participate in the race. All minors and dogs must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

8. Each participant must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket at all times during the event. Not wearing one will result in the participant being disqualified.

9. All participants must wear the competition number they were assigned in plain sight.

10. All entries must run the entire course under their own power to be eligible for first, second, or third place. Declaring a Winner: A Race Official will give a pirate flag to the winner of each race category. There shall be no pushing or shoving of another racer at any time and the decision of the race official is final.

11. Prizes: Trophies will be provided for the first, second, and third place finishers in each category. There will also be trophies for the best Pirate themed raft, the best Pirate costumes on a raft, and if applicable, the best Pirate costume on a paddle board and the best Pirate themed kayak/kayaker.

12. Anyone exhibiting unsafe behavior will be disqualified and could be permanently banned from the event.

13. All paddleboards and kayaks must be removed from the river at the end of the race.

14. In the event a manatee or leatherneck turtle is sighted in the waterway, officials must be notified and all participants must paddle to the side of the river and await the all clear signal when the animals have departed the area.