

2004 POTOMAC RIVER SOJOURN EVALUATION

A total of 36 evaluations were collected.

		<i>Strongly Disagree</i>			<i>Strongly Agree</i>	
1-5.) The Sojourn was:	<u>Avg. Score</u>	1	2	3	4	5
enjoyable?	4.8			1(3%)	11(31%)	25(69%)
educational?	4.4			3(8%)	19(53%)	15(42%)
affordable?	4.7		1(3%)	1(3%)	12(33%)	22(61%)
well organized?	4.1		2(6%)	10(28%)	13(36%)	12(33%)
inspired me...?	4.3			5(14%)	21(58%)	11(31%)

Elaborations:

- *A good shot in the arm!*
- *I plan to be more involved in the Patuxent River, near where I live*
- *Came to appreciate my husband's effort to protect the watershed (rain barrels, collecting seed and planting SAV)*
- *Larger groups need to be segregated at night based on noise level; staff must know how to put tarp up in rainstorm*
- *I'm more educated about the river's problems now and more motivated to get involved*
- *Started off as a person who just thought that if economical gains could be gotten from destroying the environment, so be it, now...no*
- *Offer specific suggestions of volunteer opportunities for those that need motivation*

6.) How did you hear about the Sojourn?

- *Friend - 13*
- *Previous sojourn - 8*
- *ACB communications/publications - 8*
- *Internet - 8*
- *Outdoors Maryland on MPT - 2*
- *CPA - 2*

7.) Did you like the stretch of the river that was chosen?

- *Yes! - 36*

Which sections did you like best?

- *Like the whole stretch - 12*
- *Rapids - 7*
- *Paw Paw Bends - 4*
- *First half - 3*
- *Green Brier State Forest area - 2*
- *In the mountains - 2*
- *Undeveloped stretches - 2*
- *Narrower sections*
- *"This was one of the best rivers I've been on start to finish."*

8.) Of the programs and restoration activities that were offered, which did you like the most?

- *Fishing programs - 15*
- *Music - 8*
- *C&O Canal history- 7*
- *Paw Paw Tunnel (discussion & walk) - 6*
- *Cresap House - 2*
- *Acid mining - 2*
- *French & Indian War talk*
- *Paw paws*

Which did you like the least?

- *Paw Paw Tunnel - 2*
- *Hancock mayor - 2*
- *Acid mine draining - 2*
- *Williamsport mayor*
- *Cresap House*

Was there enough variety?

- *Yes - 8*
- *No - 1*

What else would you have liked as an evening or day program?

- *More hands-on programs - 2*
- *Native American representative*
- *More river talks*
- *More games*
- *More naturalist stories/guided explorations*

9.) What did you like best about the Sojourn?

- *Meeting new people - 22*
- *Paddling - 11*
- *Beautiful scenery/wildlife - 9*
- *Water fights - 4*
- *Camping - 3*
- *New experience/information - 3*
- *The whole thing was great! - 3*
- *Educational/Getting new viewpoints - 2*
- *Naptime*
- *Food*

10.) What did you like least about the Sojourn?

- *Rain - 9*
- *Nothing - 5*
- *Missing programs due to car shuttle - 3*
- *Carrying boats - 3*
- *Too many people - 2*
- *Waiting on the river/too controlled - 2*
- *Disorganization - 2*
- *Tents/wet tents - 2*
- *Lack of showers - 2*
- *Food - 2*
- *Lack of posted schedule - 2*
- *Loud trains*
- *Waiting for people shuttling cars*
- *Loud individuals (at night)*
- *Seeing the pollution*
- *Mosquitoes*
- *Rushing*

11.) What was your most memorable 2004 Potomac River Sojourn experience?

- *Spotting bald eagles - 5*
- *Water fights - 4*
- *Meeting different people/camaraderie - 3*
- *Wilderness experience - 2*
- *Ripples - 2*
- *Duct tape - 2*
- *Bonds Landing - 2*
- *Camping at Woodmont*
- *Trains, trains, and more trains*
- *Great times*
- *River readings*
- *Tipping over!*
- *Staying up late*
- *Learning to hand roll*
- *Getting stuck in the rocks*
- *Paddling in the rain*
- *Seeing an otter cross the river*
- *Swimming across the river*
- *Shuttling from Green Ridge Forest with dying van*
- *Too many to list*

12.) Are you planning to attend a future Potomac River Sojourn?

- *Yes - 20*
- *Maybe - 16*
- *No - 0*

13.) Are you planning to attend another Alliance Sojourn (Susquehanna, Patuxent, or James) this year or in the future?

- *Yes - 22*
- *Maybe - 12*
- *No - 2*

14.) Please share any other comments, suggestions, or experiences with us!

- *Participants should be required to attend full or ½ week of sojourn to limit daily car shuttle that disrupts from sojourn experience and sends wrong message (wasting gas)*
- *The sojourn leaders Jamie and Steve did a great job in organization, but more/better communication with paddlers would be helpful*
- *Thank you Jamie and Steve for your great work and leadership*
- *Congratulations to Jamie and Steve for their dedication and attention. Eric and Lee Bailey ran a smooth operation.*
- *Food often not healthy...no whole grains. Many, many thanks!*
- *Sojourn food too heavy on empty calories...should have basket of fruit at every meal and more vegetarian meals and whole grain bread*
- *Number of miles paddled should be reduced to allow for more casual pace...and more down-time.*
- *Keep it up!*
- *Dry erase/chalkboard for announcements*
- *R&T Outfitters were great! ACB & ICPRB staff were always enthusiastic and promoted camaraderie and enjoyment and learning! Great job!*
- *I came on this trip with the thought of paddling the upper Potomac, which I did! I confronted myself in the interaction with others on and off the water. The team work was remarkable and fun. Ah, the potential of humanity!*
- *A tad more organization getting on and off the water*
- *Try not to schedule programs when paddlers first arrive...allow for tent set up. Overall, it was an excellent Sojourn. Not every experience was perfect, but the overall impression was very positive, in large part because the leaders were so pleasant and helpful.*
- *I really enjoyed the ad-hoc boat race on the day we had the wind at our backs*
- *A connection with the land through local produce (native) would be a welcome meal*