

2026 James River Expeditions Application

Embark on a captivating five-day, four-night adventure along the James River. Participants can choose one section—or take on all three—experiencing the river up close while camping along its banks and discovering the landscapes, wildlife, and history that connect the watershed.

James River Association education staff will provide expert instruction on paddling and camping skills, group team-building, wildlife identification, history, and river ecology. The safety of the trip participants is a top priority; educators who lead the program are trained in canoe instruction, Wilderness First Aid/ First Responder, and CPR.

The expedition fee is \$650 per student, which is significantly reduced from the true program cost of over \$2,000 per participant, thanks to support from grants, partners, and donors. **Financial assistance is available to ensure all students can participate, regardless of ability to pay.**

If you are accepted, you will be sent a payment link to submit your 10% deposit to hold your spot. Your spot is not guaranteed until your deposit has been received. If we do not receive your deposit within 14 days of acceptance, your spot will be forfeited. The remaining balance is due by June 1st, 2026.

Applications are approved on a rolling basis, therefore are open until April 15th, 2026 or until full, which ever comes first.

For the final section of this application, you will need a caregiver (parent, guardian, etc) to approve your submission.

** Indicates required question*

Participant Personal Information

1. First Name *

2. Last Name *

3. Pronouns *

Mark only one oval.

She/Her

He/Him

They/Them

Other: _____

4. Email *

5. Phone Number (Mobile Preferred) *

6. Street Address *

7. City *

8. State *

9. Zip Code *

10. School Division *

Mark only one oval.

- Amherst
- Appomattox
- Bedford
- Buckingham
- Buena Vista
- Campbell
- Chesterfield
- Hampton
- Hanover
- Henrico
- Hopewell
- Lynchburg
- New Kent
- Newport News
- Richmond
- Rockbridge
- Surry
- WJCC
- York
- Private School
- Other: _____

11. Shirt Size (Adult Unisex) *

Mark only one oval.

- XS
- S
- M
- L
- XL
- XXL

12. How did you hear about James River Expeditions? *

Mark only one oval.

- Caregiver (Parent, Guardian)
- Friends
- JRA Educator Presentation
- Past Student Participant
- Print Ad/Poster/Postcard
- Radio
- Social Media (Facebook, Instagram)
- Teacher
- Other: _____

Participant Demographic Information

We invite you to complete this section voluntarily. Your answers or decision not to answer will not impact your application. If you choose to complete this portion, your answers will be used to research how our program might reach a more diverse population. If you prefer not to disclose this information, please select "Prefer Not to Answer" for each question.

13. Are you Hispanic or Latino? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, Hispanic or Latino
- No, not Hispanic or Latino
- Prefer Not to Answer

14. How would you best describe yourself? Check all that apply. *

Check all that apply.

- East Asian
- Indigenous, American Indian or Alaska Native
- Middle Eastern or North African Native
- Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- South Asian
- Southeast Asian
- White or European
- None of these
- Prefer Not to Answer
- Other: _____

15. How would you describe your gender identity? Check all that apply. *

Mark only one oval.

- Non-binary
- Female
- Male
- Prefer Not to Answer
- Other: _____

Application Questionnaire

Please take your time reading through each question and answering thoughtfully in your own voice (In other words, **please do not use AI to complete these questions.**) Keep your answers connected to your own life experience.

16. Each week takes place on a unique section of the James. Please review the weeks [here](#). *  Dropdown
Please select which week you would like to attend

Mark only one oval.

- Upper James June 15-18 (Advanced)
- Middle James July 6-10 (Intermediate)
- Lower James July 27-31 (Beginner)

17. Briefly explain why you want to participate in the week you selected (1500 character limit) *

18. If you are not selected for the chosen week, would you like to be considered for an alternative week? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

19. What motivates you to participate in this program? What do you hope to gain from your James River Expedition experience? (1500 character limit) *

20. A backcountry paddling experience can involve strenuous activity and physical discomfort. Please reference the website and FAQs for specific anticipated conditions. Describe your experience dealing positively with discomforts and physical challenges. (1500 character limit) *

21. What is your experience level paddling watercraft? Your answer to this question does not impact your application, but helps us understand our applicant pool better. *

Mark only one oval.

- No experience with paddle craft (canoe, kayak, paddleboard, etc)
- Somewhat familiar (paddled occasionally with no training)
- Confident with paddle craft (has received some structured training or has significant personal experience)
- Very experienced (has paddled extensively for many years; taken multiple trainings; races competitively; teaches or manages others on the water in a work/volunteer role)

22. The Expeditions will require thoughtful teamwork to overcome challenging situations. Describe a time when you worked with others while facing a challenge and what was the outcome. (1500 character limit) *

23. You will be away from home for four (4) nights. What experience do you have being away from home and your family support systems for an extended amount of time? (1500 character limit) *

24. Why should the James River Association choose you to participate? What qualities would you bring to this unique, educational adventure? (1500 character limit) *

Accessibility and Support Needs

25. Please briefly describe any relevant physical or medical conditions that may limit you from completing this trip safely (for example: recent sports injury, severe asthma, epilepsy, etc.) If none, just type N/A *

26. Do you have learning, behavioral, sensory or emotional support needs? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes *Skip to question 27*
- No *Skip to question 29*
- Prefer Not To Say *Skip to question 29*

Accommodations

27. What accommodations will help you be successful? *

28. Anything else staff should know to support you? *

Financial Assistance

29. Do you need financial assistance in order to be able to participate? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes Skip to question 30
- No Skip to question 34

Financial Assistance Application

We are committed to making our programs accessible to all families. The information below helps us distribute limited scholarship funds as equitably as possible. All responses are confidential. Please ask your caregiver for help when completing this section.

30. How many people live in your household? *

31. What is your approximate annual household income? *

Mark only one oval.

- Under \$30,000
- \$30,000–\$49,999
- \$50,000–\$74,999
- \$75,000–\$99,999
- \$100,000+

32. Does your household currently participate in any of the following programs? *

Check all that apply.

- Free or Reduced-Price School Meals
- SNAP
- TANF
- WIC
- Medicaid / CHIP
- None of the above

33. Are there additional financial circumstances you'd like us to consider? *

Caregiver Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that my student has applied to participate in the James River Summer Expedition. If accepted they will participate in a week-long trip traveling along a section of the James River for five (5) days and four (4) nights.

You also acknowledge there will be a mandatory orientation at 6pm ET on May 18th (Upper), May 19th (Middle) or May 21st (Lower) in Richmond, Virginia or virtually through zoom. Failure to participate in this meeting may lead to your removal from the program.

34. Full Name *

35. Relationship to Participant *

36. Email Address *

37. Phone Number (Mobile Preferred) *

38. By initialing this, I have read and agree to the above commitment. *

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