

S27 Coastal, River, Blueways, and Circumnavigational Trail Maps

Upper Suwannee River Wilderness Trail

Leg 2—Riverbank Primitive Campsite to Stephen Foster Folk Cultural Center State Park Information Sheet

Description: The river is approximately 246 miles long and arises from the Okefenokee Swamp. This section of the river has the most shoals, including Big, and Little Shoals, along with several unnamed shoals. Big shoals has a Class 3 Rapid rating when the water level at White Springs is between 59' and 61'. Ideal river paddling levels are between 51' to 58'. Plastic boats recommended. Reservations required at the State Park.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 19.4 Miles/7 Hours

Launch Site: Riverbank Primitive Campsite

Takeout Site: Stephen Foster Folk Cultural Center State Park

Special Considerations: River is considered unsafe at 63' or above @ the White Springs Gauge. Water levels can change drastically, even over night, so check river levels just before departure. Unless you are an experienced kayaker, portage is recommended at Big Shoals. Portage is on the left side of the river. Contact local outfitters for safe river conditions and shuttling, if needed. Please practice "Leave No Trace" principles.

Outfitters: Suwannee Canoe Outpost—Live Oak, FL 386-364-4991

American Canoe Adventures— White Springs, FL 386-397-1309

Madison Outpost Adventures— Lee, FL 850-673-9069

Skill Level Definitions

Beginner: New to paddling and may need tips and or instructions about paddling strokes, safety procedures, and entering/exiting kayaks. Comfortable on short trips of 1 to 3 miles on protected waters, when wind does not exceed 5 mph.

Novice: Paddlers acquainted with basic paddle strokes and can manage kayak handling independently in winds not exceeding 10 mph on protected waters. Comfortable on trips up to 6 miles.

Intermediate: Paddlers with experience in basic strokes and some experience on different venues, including some open water. Comfortable on trip distances of 6 to 10 miles, winds not exceeding 15 mph.

Advanced: Seasoned paddlers who possess skills and experience to paddle all venues and conditions. Experienced in self-rescues. Should be comfortable paddling more than 10 miles in a day.

NOTE: Great care has been taken to ensure this guides accuracy, but weather, tides, and water conditions can change rapidly and create hazardous conditions. These maps are for visual reference only, please consult NOAA Charts for navigation. Paddlers should have all proper safety equipment and check conditions before departure. All paddlers should always wear PFDs while on the water, and leave a float plan. There are inherent dangers in any paddle sport. There are special hazards along the Florida coast due to shifting tides, changing wind and weather, shallow waters, and treacherous bottoms with soft mud, rocks, and oyster bars. It is up to each paddler to be aware of these dangers, to accept and be prepared for the risks involved, and to be certain they have the skills to safely paddle in these conditions.