

## S27 Day Paddles - Withlacoochee River (N)

### Madison Blue Springs State Park to Suwannee River State Park Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This river gently curves through Twin Rivers State Forest past hardwood forests, crystal-clear springs, and sandbars along the bends. There are several shoals, but portaging is generally not necessary. The Withlacoochee contributes a significant amount of water to the Suwannee River and joins it at Suwannee River State Park. Take out is on the Suwannee River, just upstream from the confluence. Due to its scenic qualities, the Withlacoochee River (N) is a state-designated Florida paddling trail.

**Skill Level:** Advanced

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 12 Hours/3.5 Hours

**Launch Site:** Madison Blue Springs State Park.

**Takeout Site:** Suwannee River State Park

**Special Considerations:** During planning, and before departure check with local outfitters for safe water levels. Check with local outfitters for shuttling services. Plastic boats recommended due to numerous shoals, especially at low water levels.

**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.