

## Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - North Region

**Jackson County Blue Springs Run Paddle Information Sheet**

**Description:** Launch at Jackson County Blue Springs Park and paddle downstream on this beautiful clear spring fed run with cypress forest and plenty of crystal clear springs. Great area for photographers. Continue down Merrit's Pond to the Arrowhead takeout on your right before the SR 10 bridge and dam.

**Skill Level:** Novice

**Distance/Time:** 4.3 Miles/Approximately 2 hours

**Launch Site:** Jackson County Blue Springs Park

**Special Considerations:** Make sure Blue Springs Park is open before paddling. If not, you can paddle up to it and back from Arrowhead. This will more than double your time however. Some cypress stumps below the surface if you're not paying attention.

**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.