



Eighth Annual Fall Trip on the  
**Suwannee River Wilderness Trail**  
 October 22-27, 2015



**Start:** Madison Blue Springs State Park  
**End:** Ivey Memorial Park in Branford  
**Total Distance:** 69 miles

**Cost:**

- Trip Fee:** \$275/adults; \$250/seniors (65+) and college students; \$225/youth 8-17; free/children under 8
- Meal Plan:** \$150 (3 meals daily)
- Shuttle:** \$25/person + \$25/boat
- Paddle Florida Lite** (4 or fewer days): \$100/day (includes meals)

**Registration Deadline:** October 8, 2015

**Official Outfitter:** [Suwannee Canoe Outpost](#)

**Shuttle Details:** Paddlers can choose a pre- or post-trip shuttle for themselves and their boats. If you choose a pre-trip shuttle, you'll need to report to the Shrine Club in Branford by 1PM on October 22. You and your boat will then be shuttled back to Madison Blue Springs State Park to check in for the trip. Pre-trip shuttlers can save \$25 by dropping off their boats at Madison Blue Springs State Park before driving to Branford to meet the shuttle. You may also choose to leave your vehicle at Madison Blue Springs State Park and take the post-trip shuttle back there at the end of the trip on October 27.



**Trip Itinerary:**

Click [here](#) to see a map overview of the trip.

DAY	Lunch Stop	Lunch GPS	Lunch Miles	Camp Site	Campsite GPS	Daily Miles
1	N/A	N/A	N/A	Madison Blue Springs State Park	30.2885, -83.1465	0
2	N/A	N/A	N/A	Suwannee River State Park	30.3878, -83.1691	12
3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Dowling Park River Camp	30.2460, -83.2459	15
4	N/A	N/A	N/A	Lafayette Blue Springs State Park	30.1272, -83.2254	11
5	Peacock Slough River Camp	30.1024, -83.1383	8.5	Adams Tract River Camp	30.0353, -83.0189	18
6	Little River Springs Park	29.9962, -82.9669	6	End: Ivey Memorial Park, Branford	29.9545, -82.9285	13
<b>Total Miles:</b>						69

- **Day 1/Thursday, October 22: Madison Blue Springs State Park**  
**Paddling Miles: 0**

Paddle Florida participants will arrive between 1-5PM at Madison Blue Springs State Park to check in for the trip, set up their tents, eat dinner, and receive an orientation for the adventure to come. This park features one of the prettiest first magnitude springs in North Florida. Be sure to bring your swimsuit, mask, and snorkel—you'll have lots of opportunities to explore springs this week both above and below the water's surface.



Keep in mind that the Suwannee River Valley at this time of year can be chilly, at least by Florida standards. Temperatures can range from 60-80 degrees during the day and 35-55 degrees at night, so bring layers to dress in. The fire each night will provide heat, light, ambiance, camaraderie, and maybe a marshmallow or two. Dinner will be served at 6PM each night, followed by an evening program at 7PM. Nightly entertainment ranges from musicians to educational speakers who will provide insights regarding the flora, fauna, and ecology of the region we're paddling through. Be sure to bring cameras to capture and preserve some great moments.

- **Day 2/Friday, October 23: Madison Blue Springs State Park to Suwannee River State Park *Paddling Miles: 12***

After a hearty breakfast, paddlers will pack up their tents, load their camping gear on our truck, and launch their boats at the spring. We'll travel 12 miles down the Withlacoochee River to where it meets the Suwannee. Keep an eye out for small springs tucked into limestone banks along the way. Our destination is Suwannee River State Park, where you will camp beneath Spanish moss laden live oaks along the river. One of Florida's most visited parks, Suwannee River State Park provides a stunningly beautiful view of the confluence of the Suwannee and Withlacoochee Rivers. The park also offers hot showers, picnic pavilions and tables, and riverside hiking trails.



- **Day 3/Saturday, October 24: Suwannee River State Park to Dowling Park River Camp *Paddling Miles: 15***



When we depart the Suwannee River State Park this morning, we will embark on a 15-mile paddle to Dowling Park River Camp, one of three [SRWT River Camps](#) we will see at on this trip. These unique riverside camps feature screened-in camping platforms with ceiling fans and electricity, pavilions and picnic tables, and restrooms with hot showers. Each camping platform accommodates 6-8 people.

Today's journey will also offer paddlers the opportunity to take part in a voluntary river cleanup as part of the annual Great Suwannee River Cleanup. To date, Paddle Florida volunteers have removed over 1,800 pounds of trash from inland waterways.

- **Day 4/Sunday, October 25: Dowling Park River Camp to Lafayette Blue Springs State Park *Paddling Miles: 11***

Our next overnight stop will again be hosted by the Florida Park Service at Lafayette Blue Springs State Park. Its beautiful riverside location features interesting hiking trails to several springs and karst features, plus restrooms, showers, and picnic pavilions.

Get out your bathing suit and snorkeling gear, as the park features another of several first magnitude springs in the region. When the water level is right, visitors can also walk across a natural limestone bridge that crosses the spring run flowing into the Suwannee River.



- **Day 5/Monday, October 26: Lafayette Blue Springs State Park to Adams Tract River Camp**  
**Paddling Miles: 18**



This is our longest paddling day, at 18 miles...but we'll be "going with the flow" and Suwannee currents often provide a boost. We'll break it up with a lunch stop at Peacock Slough River Camp around mile 8. On this day you will see the river begin to widen a bit as we make our way down this world-class waterway. Depending on the river level, you may also be treated to a few areas of "fast water" and several springs.

- **Day 6/Tuesday, October 27: Adams Tract River Camp to Ivey Memorial Park in Branford**  
**Paddling Miles: 13**

We'll head downriver 13 miles to our final destination, Ivey Memorial Park in the small town of Branford. On the way we'll take a rest stop at Little River Springs, currently a Suwannee River Water Management District Park. This site is popular with cave and cavern divers. The spring is the entrance to a cave system more than 1,200 feet long and 100 feet deep.

After visiting this picturesque location, the final five miles will be a breeze. On the way, we will also pass Royal Spring, Troy Springs and Ruth Springs, before we end with a final celebration barbeque at the Branford Shrine Club.

