Always wear a life jacket while on the river. Each occupant on a boat must HAVE a life jacket which fits properly, is in good shape, and is accessible in an emergency. Children 12 years of age and younger must WEAR a life jacket on board a vessel. In Pennsylvania, while boating in a vessel less than 16 ft. in length or canoeing or kayaking, you must wear a life jacket between November 1 and April 30.

River Camping

River Safety

- Tie your spare gear into your canoe but WEAR your life jacket (PFD). Don’t tie your life jacket into the canoe.
- Never stand in a canoe. Kneel in the canoe when going through rapids.
- Wear shoes to protect your feet from sharp stones and from glass.
- Protect yourself from the sun: wear sun screen, a hat, light clothing, and sunglasses.
- Bring enough water. Don’t drink river water unless it is boiled at least 5 minutes.
- The river has sharp drop-offs and strong currents. Do not try to swim or wade across the river! Never swim alone!
- Plan to be off the river before dark.

- Drinking and boating don’t mix. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at Milford Beach, PA and in the area between Depew Island on the north and Depue Island on the south. This includes: Smithfield Beach, PA, Hialeah Picnic Area, PA, Turtle Beach, NJ, Worthington State Forest, NJ and its campground and islands, and Tocks and Labar Islands, NJ.

- Don’t drink then swim.

River Camping

- River campsites are for boaters on trips where the distance is too great to be travelled in one day. See below for the required minimum distance you must travel on an overnight trip.
- Camping is limited to one night in each location, first come first served. There are no fees and no reservations.
- Fires are permitted in existing fire grates only. Keep fires small. Use a campstove rather than a campfire. Use dead and down wood only. Do not cut standing trees.
- Do not leave food that will attract wildlife.

- Use soaps sparingly; even biodegradable soap is a pollutant. Soap and food particles should be dumped on well-drained soil away from water sources.
- Respect the river and those who follow you. Do not urinate or defecate within 100 feet of any river or stream. Fecal material, including pet waste, must be placed in a hole at least 300 feet away from water. The hole must be at least 6 inches deep, and be covered with at least 6 inches of soil.
- Observe quiet hours from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Loud audio devices and fireworks are prohibited.
- Carry out leftover food and garbage.

Minimum Distances

Required Distances for overnight trips:

- One-night trips (at least 14 miles)
  - Put in at Milford; travel to Eshback Access or farther downstream
  - Put in at Dingmans Access or at Eshback Access; travel to Smithfield Access or Kittatinny Point Access or farther downstream

- Two-night trips (at least 26 miles)
  - Put in at Milford Access; travel to Smithfield Beach Access or farther downstream
  - Put in at Dingmans Access; travel to Kittatinny Point Access or farther downstream

Three-night trips (at least 34 miles)

- Put in at Milford Access; travel to Kittatinny Point Access or farther downstream