

2018 SUCCESS STORY

5th Annual Loyalhanna Sojourn

SUMMARY

The 5th Annual Loyalhanna Sojourn was held on Saturday, May 19, 2017 and was another great success! As with previous events, the one-day paddle began at the Cardinal Park launch site in downtown Latrobe and concluded nine miles down the Loyalhanna Creek with a community event at the Gray Wing Park launch in New Alexandria. Organizers representing the Loyalhanna Watershed Association, Latrobe-GLSD Parks & Recreation, New Alexandria Borough, and DCNR Keystone State Park worked for several months to organize this fun and family-friendly community event to bring awareness of the beauty and resources of the Loyalhanna Creek Watershed.

SOJOURN HIGHLIGHTS

Despite rising waters from heavy rains the week of the Sojourn, the event went off without a hitch the morning of May 19, as water levels and weather conditions were ideal! This year, we had 205 registered participants, and 142 of those paddled the event. Once again, we also had several additional boaters who decided to “follow the float”! Good publicity through partnering organization’s social media channels and positive word of mouth from past participants assisted with the high turnout and keeping folks up to date on the event plans due to constantly changing water levels.

We once again recommended local outfitter, Two Dam Kayak Rentals, located in New Alexandria, to those in need of boats, and they were completely booked with over 50 kayaks rented for this event. The community event planned at the take out launch was downsized due to the inclement weather the week of the event, however, local fire departments helped clear the launch of debris and mud so all paddlers were able to exit the Creek safely and still enjoy lunch available from area food vendors.

Each year, this event keeps bringing new paddlers to the Loyalhanna Creek, which is important to our Association and community. The Loyalhanna has transformed into a vibrant destination for residents and visitors alike. It is common to see colorful kayaks at various locations along the 41-mile long Loyalhanna Creek Water Trail year round thanks to new and improved launch sites and visibility created by events like the Sojourn. We are grateful for the support of POWR as a partner in watershed and river conservation and look forward to another great Sojourn planned for Saturday, May 18, 2019!

FUNDING

Grant Award: \$500.00

Total Match: \$12,561.00

Total Project Cost: \$13,061.00

