

# 2018 SUCCESS STORY

## 2018 Delaware River Sojourn

### SUMMARY

Another highly successful and popular Delaware River Sojourn took place from Friday, June 15 through Saturday, June 23, 2018. This year was the Sojourn's 24th paddle down the Delaware and again was one of the top most well attended events in the program's history. Three out of the eight days were sold out with large numbers of overall paddlers, multi-day paddlers, youth paddlers, and through-trippers, or individuals who completed all eight days. On average, over 85 people participated each day! For the past four years the Sojourn has provided grants to schools to cover all costs of sojourn participation. In 2018, the Sojourn was able to offer paddling spots to 13 leaders and 65 youth!

This year's Sojourn paddled stretches of the upper, middle, and lower Delaware River from Equinunk, Pa. to Bulls Island, N.J. The trip also included a paddle on the Lackawaxen River, a Pa. Delaware River tributary, and on the Crosswicks Creek, a N.J. tidal Delaware River tributary. Highlights included multiple wildlife sightings, paddling the Lackawaxen River (thanks to a water release from Lake Wallenpaupack by Brookfield Renewable) a visit to the Ramsaysburg Historical Site, a dedication of the Tekening Trail in Lower Mount Bethel Township, which was attended by PA DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn (and, the trail ended up being dedicated to the steering committee's former chair and stalwart land/water steward John Mauser), paddling the Foul Rift Rapid, a fun swim break in the lower Delaware just north of Upper Black Eddy, paddling through the Lumberville Wing Dam, paddling the Crosswicks Creek, and a stop at the Tulpehaking Nature Center. Programs were focused on the various aspects of the Delaware River Valley that make it wild and scenic: for example, its geology, history, and unique flora and fauna. Sojourners also heard from many individuals representing organizations throughout the Delaware River Watershed and learned about their ongoing efforts to protect and enhance this precious resource.

### SOJOURN HIGHLIGHTS

- Host eight days of paddling with camping, interpretive programs, river safety, livery service, and catered meals.
- Partnered with the National Park Service to host a river clean-up with twelve volunteers attending.
- Hosted 65 youth and 13 leaders with scholarships through the Youth Paddling Program.
- Celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act in partnership with organizations such as the Musconetcong Watershed Association.
- Expanded partnerships with new non-profit organizations and agencies.
- Celebrated the recently funded Delaware River Basin Restoration Program in partnership with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Welcomed PA DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn to join us for a celebratory ribbon cutting and afternoon paddling on the Delaware River through foul rift rapid.

### FUNDING

Grant Award: \$7,200.00

Total Match: \$92,729.00

Total Project Cost: \$99,929.00

