

Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers 2019 SUCCESS STORY

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The 25th Annual Delaware River Sojourn

SUMMARY

This year marked the Sojourn's 25th paddle down the Delaware River 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 90 people participated each day! This year's theme celebrated 25 Years of Sojourns, highlighting important partner organizations and their efforts to improve the Delaware River and preserve its environment & rich history.

Our planned river cleanup on June 14, the day prior to the Sojourn officially beginning, was canceled due to high water conditions. Sojourners that planned to attend were provided camping at the Zane Grey campsite. This year's Sojourn paddled stretches of the upper, middle, lower, and tidal Delaware River from Narrowsburg, N.Y. to Florence, N.J. Highlights included multiple wildlife sightings and amazing programs, for example, the Woodstock Festival Program by Wade Lawrence, Museum Director and Senior Curator of Bethel Woods; Our Pocono Waters program by Emily Rinaldi, PennFuture; tours of Washington Crossing Historic Park and Pennsbury Manor; and an astronomy program by the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton.

For the past five years, the Sojourn has provided grants to schools to cover all costs of sojourn participation. In 2019, the Sojourn was able to offer paddling spots to 12 leaders and 75 youth!

SOJOURN HIGHLIGHTS: Our 25th Sojourn!; Supporting 87 youth program scholarships; Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the National Canoe Safety Patrol; Welcoming Deputy Commissioner Manns of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; Hosting 3-4 educational and conservation focused programs each day from watershed awareness, water quality, plant and animal life, and even astronomy; Working with new partner organizations including the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Trout Unlimited.



FUNDING

Grant Award: \$5,000.00

Total Match: \$94,141.27

Total Project Cost: \$99,141.27

