

**TEAM  
INFORMATION  
PACKET**



**SOLOMONS  
DRAGON BOAT  
FESTIVAL**



**THANKS FOR CONSIDERING US!**

SMCR is excited to know that you are interested in the Eighth Annual Solomons Dragon Boat Festival! Please enjoy reading about our event, and how we indulge our amazing teams. We hope you will be one of them! This Festival allows us to stage an event that is fun, safe, and family oriented to raise funds for SMCR's special events.

SMCR provides inclusive programs for people with developmental differences. For over 10 years, the non-profit has provided educational and recreational events and opportunities to assist people with developmental differences to share in the life of the local community. The funds raised from this exciting event are invested into our programs and people. In 2024 we will celebrate in spectacular fashion at the Solomons Dragon Boat Festival!

This event has been hugely successful because of YOU – the teams from near and far. When you are in Solomons, you will feel the love, joy and unity of a community that comes together each year to support our events and opportunities.

We look forward to the festival, lucky year seven, on August 17th and hope you will be a part of it, too. Paddles up!

**Andy Geisz  
Festival Chair**

**[www.SolomonsDragonBoatFestival.com](http://www.SolomonsDragonBoatFestival.com)**

# GENERAL INFO

## TEAM SIZE

A team is comprised of 17 people: 16 paddlers and 1 drummer. We always recommend having a few extra folks in your team roster in case of fatigue. A steersperson is provided by the festival. If your team has an experienced steersperson who wishes to steer, please let a festival representative know prior to race day.

## REGISTRATION & COSTS

Team registrations and corporate sponsorships make up the bulk of our fundraising dollars for this event. It costs \$2,000 to register a team. Beyond that, each team is encouraged to raise additional funds for SMCR through its team page that will be created upon successful registration. Club teams please reach out to [Solomonsdragonboat@gmail.com](mailto:Solomonsdragonboat@gmail.com) for special pricing. Visit [www.somdcr.org/registration](http://www.somdcr.org/registration) to register your team and set up your page.

## CAPTAINS' MEETING

A mandatory team captains' meeting will be held around 8 a.m. at the muster area across from Our Lady Star of the Sea Church. At this time, a representative from our race provider 22Dragons will brief team captains on event procedures. At this time, team captains must provide their final team roster, turn in any outstanding waivers, and receive their team members' wristbands (required for racing).

## TEAM PRACTICE

Paddling in a dragon boat is easy to learn and extremely safe. During the week leading up to the Festival, each team will be assigned an evening and time to come to the waterfront to learn the art of dragon boat paddling with actual hands-on practice. Practice happens rain or shine and is based on river conditions.



## WAIVERS

Anyone who plans to race must sign a waiver prior to getting in a dragon boat. This includes practice week. It is the team captain's responsibility to ensure that all waivers are signed before team members race.

## TEAM VILLAGE

Teams will be assigned a location in the Team Village. Teams are encouraged to bring their own tents and chairs. Typical team spaces accommodate two 10x10 tents. Alcohol is not permitted in the Team Village.

## MUSTER

Teams will muster approximately 30 minutes prior to each race. Our announcer will call teams to muster throughout the day, so listen for your team name. Races will not be delayed for missing team members. Incomplete teams can ask for individual paddlers, who are provided by the festival.



## WHAT TO WEAR

Most teams at the Solomons Dragon Boat Festival like to dress in a team theme. That could be superheroes, pirates, trolls, or any other fun theme you have in mind. Some teams prefer to wear uniforms or matching shirts. Whatever you choose, remember that it will be hot, and you will sweat. Please keep these other things in mind:

- Safe shoes for dragon boating. Sandals are okay, but we recommend they have a strap across your heel. Water shoes or sports shoes are great.
- Personal Flotation Devices MUST be worn any time you are on the water. No exceptions. These will be provided by our dragon boating company.

# GENERAL INFO

## WHAT TO BRING

- Some groupies! It's nice to have a family member or volunteer checking your race schedule and keeping an eye on your tent while you're on the water. It's also nice to have fans cheering you on!
- A tent and tent decorations. Be creative, you earn bragging rights!
- Chairs or blankets to sit on
- Towels
- Sun glasses
- Sunscreen and a hat
- A fundraising activity or raffle item
- Snacks, water, and non-alcoholic beverages and coolers to put them in. Ice is nice. Stay hydrated!
- Trash bags (If you bring it in - please take it out)
- Money to buy festival swag & visit the Vendor Village and Food Trucks!



## EQUIPMENT

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) will be provided and must be worn while on the water. Paddles will also be provided. You may use your own, but we reserve the right to deny any equipment for any reason. Inflatable PFDs are not allowed.

## PARKING & CARPOOLING

Parking on Race Day is located at the north end of the island across from the Calvert Marine Museum. It is walkable, but there will be shuttles beginning at 8 a.m. We recommend having one vehicle loaded with the majority of your team's supplies and carpool when possible. This helps to move traffic through the small island town. Accommodations can be made for Paradrageon teams.

## RACE COURSE

Our race is run on the Patuxent River. The course is 200 meters and visible from the Solomons Riverwalk.

## AWARDS

Crystals are awarded for 1st place in each category. Medals are awarded to up to 25 team members for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category.

## LUNCH

There will be a lunch break of approximately an hour. We recommend you check out our island restaurants during the lunch hour. Many local restaurants also serve "dragon drinks" which contribute money back to the festival.

## VENDOR VILLAGE

There is a vibrant vendor area at our festival. We usually have around 40 craft vendors on the lawn of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, and several food trucks located throughout the festival area. Many vendors accept electronic payments.



## RESPIRE

We have a respite center on site for anyone seeking to get out of the heat, or for those in need of a first aid kit. We always have medical professionals ready and waiting in the event of a greater emergency.

## PARADRAGON & BCS DIVISIONS

We are excited to have introduced Paradrageon and Breast Cancer Survivor divisions in 2023. Please reach out to Andy Geisz for further information.

# WHAT YOU'LL SEE

We have big things planned for our 8th Annual festival in 2024! Race day will include, of course, dragon boat races as well as a parade of teams, lunchtime entertainment, children's activities, vendor village and awards ceremony. Check out our approximate schedule below.



## APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



### AUGUST 12-15, 2024

#### PRACTICE WEEK

- 5:45 p.m.** First round of team practices
  - 6:45 p.m.** Second round of team practices
- \*Practice times are approximate*



### AUGUST 16, 2024

#### DOTTING OF THE EYE, FLASH MOB

- 7 p.m.** Dotting of the Eye Ceremony
- \*This event is open to the public. All participants are welcome to help us paint the dragons' eyes.*



### AUGUST 17, 2024

#### RACE DAY

- 8 a.m.** Parade of Teams to the Gazebo
  - 8:30 a.m.** Opening Ceremonies
  - 9 a.m.** Races begin
  - Noon** Break for lunch & entertainment
  - 3 p.m.** Races end
  - 3:30 p.m.** Awards presentation
- \*Timing is approximate*

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# FUNDRAISING

SMCR encourages all teams to raise funds beyond the team entry fee. The Solomons Dragon Boat Festival is our main fundraiser for the year, and allows us to create amazing opportunities for our community members with disabilities.



## 5 STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING

1. **REGISTER** your team at [www.somdcr.com/registration](http://www.somdcr.com/registration)
  2. **KICK START** your fundraising by making a personal donation.
  3. **DESIGN** your fundraising page. Share with us your personal or business story and a picture showcasing why you'll paddle and support the festival. We'll create the page and forward it to you.
  4. **START** an additional **Facebook Fundraiser** to easily reach your fundraising goal.
  5. **SHARE** with family, friends & co-workers why you are paddling and ask them to support your efforts!
- Visit [www.somdcr.org/teams](http://www.somdcr.org/teams) to register your team and set up your crowd-funding page.

## FACEBOOK FUNDRAISERS

Starting a Facebook Fundraiser is the easiest way to reach your fundraising goal. Participants that fundraise on Facebook raise on average 5x more than those who don't! To create a personal fundraiser for yourself, follow these steps:

1. Click **Fundraisers** in the left menu of your News Feed.
2. Click **Raise Money**.
3. Select **Yourself**.
4. Select a category.
5. Add a cover photo and fill in details about your fundraiser\*.
6. Click **Create**.

*Keep in mind that you must be at least 18 years old to create a personal fundraiser.*

You can view other team fundraiser pages and photos on our website at [www.somdcr.org/teams](http://www.somdcr.org/teams)

# SPONSORSHIPS

All teams are considered sponsors. All sponsorships include website, social media and print promotion of your business as well as public recognition during the event. All boats cost \$2000 with the exception of club teams. Any sponsorships of \$5,000+ include having a boat in the race.

## MAJOR SPONSORSHIPS

- Presenting Sponsor:** \$10,000
- Practice Week Sponsor:** \$4,000
- Parade of Teams Sponsor:** \$2,500
- Transportation Sponsor:** \$2,000
- Roadside Signage Sponsor:** \$2,000
- Boat & Equipment Storage:** \$2,000
- T-shirt Sponsor:** \$2,000

## REGIONS

- Vendor Village Sponsor:** \$5,000
- Team Village Sponsor:** \$5,000
- Boat Launch Sponsor:** \$3,000
- Parking Lot Sponsor:** \$3,000

## PARADRAGON SPONSORS

New as of 2023! Solomons Dragon Boat Festival is excited to announce the introduction of a Paradrragon division for teams following adaptive-sports racing. We are looking for sponsors to help these teams get to Solomons. Your business will be billed alongside the team you sponsor, and we will connect you with the team for press purposes.

# MARKETING

We understand how important it is for our teams to have their name in lights, so we take every opportunity to place sponsor logos on everything from roadside signs to festivals maps to the newspaper centerfold to social media posts. Without the support of people like you, this festival would not happen! Below is a list of what we can offer to our sponsors at any level.

- **Social Media** – Facebook, Instagram, Youtube. *Ongoing throughout the year.*
- **Website** - Homepage of solomonsdragonboatfestival.com. *Ongoing throughout the year.*
- **On site** – Banners, posters, map of Solomons.
- **Guidebook** – This year we have a guidebook in which we will feature logos, teams, events, etc.
- **Live at Events** – Your company will be publicly thanked by announcers at the Dotting of the Eye ceremony and throughout Race Day.
- **Print** – Logo in newspaper centerfold, name in press releases and other advertising opportunities
- **Other opportunities upon request!**



### Dragon boat races return this Saturday



The Fourth Annual Solomons Island Dragon Boat Festival will be held on Saturday, August 17, on the Patuxent River along the Solomons Island Riverwalk. Races will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a variety of entertainment, food, crafts and kid-friendly activities. There will also be practice sessions during the evening on Friday, Aug. 16, as well as a Dotting of the Eye Ceremony at 7 p.m. outside Our Lady Star of the Sea on Solomons Island. Dragon boat racing has become one of the fastest growing team water sports events. Dragon boat teams consist of 16 paddlers, a drummer and a trained steer person. The local festival's dragon boat provider is 22Dragons, visiting from

Submitted photo: The annual Solomons Island Dragon Boat Festival returns to the Patuxent River town on Saturday, Aug. 17, with races from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

# WHO THE FESTIVAL SUPPORTS

SMCR is a private non-profit organization that provides social, educational and recreational events and opportunities to people with developmental differences, incorporating them into the life of the larger community. SMCR programs are designed to first prove the concept that persons with disabilities can succeed in challenging activities in new settings, such as a cooking class in a commercial kitchen or a movement class in a for-profit gym. Then each program offers the SMCR member the opportunity to grow from competence to community involvement.



## WHAT SMCR IS ALL ABOUT

SMCR has a broad vision of how communities and people with disabilities can live, work, play and learn together. We implement that vision one person at a time, because each person's needs and dreams matter. Learn a little bit below about some of the events and opportunities that we offer to the Southern Maryland community. As always, our events are open to all abilities, and we encourage the public to join us at our many events!

### Performance opportunities:

- Flash Mob Dances
- Choral Arts Concerts
- Musical Theatrical Performances

### A night at the theater:

Opportunities for those with disabilities and their caregivers to see a special sensory-aware performance by The Newtowne Players and Port Tobacco Players

### Visual Art activities and exhibits:

Art projects like mosaic, collage, clay and other workshops taught by local artists

### Special event opportunity examples:

- Dances
- Bus trips
- Cookouts
- Other fun opportunities!

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SMCR

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