



## Race Packet – October 18, 2020

Hello Rotary Regatta Racers,

Thank you all for joining us for this year's 3rd Annual Rotary Regatta. We truly value your contributions and participation in this great event especially during these trying times of Covid19. Be sure to read the **entire race packet** and review the park maps.

The Corona Virus pandemic has greatly impacted all our family, business and social lives in mostly negative ways. I feel it's important, wherever it's reasonable and safe, to move forward with those parts of our lives that can provide the most good. The Rotary Regatta is a beneficial event to continue even with some modifications this year to protect participants and spectators. In accordance with the Texas Governor and CDC guidelines, some or all of the following modifications will be implemented avoid congregation of people wherever possible:

- Mandatory masks worn and social distancing by everyone when on land.
- In accordance with Gov. Abbot's mandates regarding exercising, masks will not be worn by paddlers while racing on the water.
- Online registration ONLY. No in-person, day of registration!
- Insurance waivers will include COVID-19 language and MUST be printed and returned via with tickets to avoid handling of materials between people.
- Staggered entry and exits of boats onto the water to maintain social distancing.
- No food, drink, awards or music to avoid congregation and maintain social distancing.
- Result times will NOT be released the day of race to avoid congregations around the timing booth
- No shuttles – So please make your own arrangements.
- No Boat Rentals.

Online only registration will begin October 4 to October 17, 2020. While all the fees go towards the charity efforts of Rotary Club of Friendswood the \$25 fee for this year's race is reduced to reflect some of the necessary Covid19 modifications and reduced amenities.

**Start:** 1776 Park, 140 Imperial Dr, Friendswood, TX 77546

(Yard Signs will direct you to the start once you enter Imperial Dr.)

**Finish:** Lynn Gripon park at Countryside, 100 Alderwood, League City, TX 77573

### Sunrise Service

No Services are scheduled at this time but may change...

## Check-In

Opens at 8:00 AM. There will be port-o-cans provided. **Check-In will close at 9:30 AM** in preparation for the Start of the Race at 10AM. A Race Briefing will begin at 9:40AM at the Launch Area.

1. Check-in by your Last Name
  - a. Sign waiver **Every racer must sign a waiver before receiving a boat number.**
  - b. Collect Boat Number (adhere to the front of the canoe/kayak, as high from the water as possible, on the **RIGHT** side; dry boat before sticking)
2. Next, please move your boat to Launch Area and await further start details

## Race Schedule and Put Ins

The race will have staggered start times determined by boat class beginning at 10AM.

All boats will start on the water.

The Launch area is about a 50 yard portage. The launch is on graded concrete at the water's edge. Depending on the water level there may be soft muddy creek bottom exposed so be prepared.

## Clothing

Wear comfortable clothes (synthetics perform better than cotton when wet). Wear old canvas shoes or sport sandals that you do not mind getting wet and muddy. Bring a wide brimmed hat, long pants and long sleeved shirt if you're sun sensitive. Wear sunscreen even if it's cloudy. Wear gloves to minimize blisters, many other sports offer functional gloves (paddle sports, cyclists, golf, baseball, etc.) avoid inexpensive cloth gloves if you can. Use bug spray if you're highly attractive to mosquitoes; a problem when standing still at the start but diminishes once you get on the water.

## Drink and Food

You will get thirsty and there is no substitute for bottled water or athletic drinks (Gatorade, etc.). **Bring your own for the race.**

High energy snacks are recommended during the trip. We recommend placing snacks in Ziploc bags or dry bags and securing the bag to your boat.

Food will be provided to paddlers at the finish line, as well water and 2 complimentary beers.

## Safety

Everyone must wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) on the race course. We will have race marshals looking for people without PFD. If anyone in your boat is not wearing a PFD, your boat will be disqualified.

There will be water safety personnel on the water and an EMT available.

**PLEASE BRING WATER!** We recommend at least 1 quart per person per hour.

## Parking

1776 Park has ample parking along the roadway. Once you drop off your boat at the registration table, please park your vehicle along the roadway keeping traffic patterns in mind. Then return and portage your boat to the launch area. If you have family or supporters who want to join you at the finish please ask them meet you at the Lynn Gripon Countryside Park. Park may be more limited at the finish.

## Shuttle

THERE WILL BE NO SHUTTLE this year due to concerns regarding Covid19. Please make your own arrangements to retrieve your vehicle and/or transport your boat from the finish line.

## **Closing Ceremony/Awards**

THERE WILL BE NO AWARDS given out this year to avoid personal contact and congregations of people.

## **Race Course Description**

Generally the current on Clear Creek is slow moving mostly influenced by ingoing or outgoing tides or rainfall. Narrow and twisty at the start, this course boasts 20 turns in the first mile before widening and straightening out. For the competitor, this will be a unique course of technique and speed. For the recreation paddlers, this will be gentle, lazy course often shaded by trees. For the spectator, the banks are low and graded providing easy access with unique and close up views of the participants for the first mile of the race.

Within the first 3 miles there may be some downed trees spanning the creek but they are all passable without portage. If you are presented with what appears to be a choice of Left or Right during the course, ALWAYS GO LEFT!

Here are some of the landmarks and mileage to watch for during the race:

START - 1776 Park from River Right side

- 1.2 mile mark - Confluence with Mary's Creek
- 2.5 mile mark - Old Creek Channel - Stay Left towards Bridge
- 2.9 mile mark - Friendswood Link Road Bridge
- 3 mile mark - Old Home Foundation of Left
- 3.35 mile mark - Confluence with Cowart's Creek
- 4 mile mark - FM 528 Bridge
- 5.85 mile mark - Overhead Pipeline Crossing - Pass Under Pipeline
- 6 mile mark - Confluence with Chigger Creek
- 7 mile mark - Pass under Bay Area Blvd. Bridge - Paddle to Bouy

FINISH - Countryside Park and Take Out on River Right

## **Photo and Video Notice**

By participating in the Rotary Regatta as a paddler, volunteer, spectator, or by entering the premises of 1776 Park or Lynn Gripon Countryside Park and the race route of the Rotary Regatta you grant permission for the Rotary Regatta and its Regatta partners to photograph, record, broadcast, and otherwise use in any media, including web pages, you or your child's participation in this Regatta and to use your name, and voice concerning you in connection therewith.

## **THANK YOU!!!**

We greatly appreciate your participation in this year's Rotary Regatta. This race is meant to raise awareness of Clear Creek as an important drainage and recreational waterway. Thank you for being a part of this event. We are so excited for you to experience Clear Creek!

**Don't hesitate to contact Luis Briones at 281-793-0362 if you have any questions. We will see you bright and early Sunday, October 20, 2019.**