

**Neches River Rally**  
**September 6, 2025**  
**FAQ's**

Call the Big Thicket Association office at 409-790-5399 if you have more questions, or email [director@bigthicket.org](mailto:director@bigthicket.org)

**Do I have to be an expert paddler to participate?**

No. The event is moderately strenuous. Participation requires basic paddling skills and some flexibility. Please evaluate your physical condition and use common sense and caution.

**What Class is this water route ranked?** Recreational paddling route for this event is ranked as a Class 1.

**Will there be people on the water to help me if needed?** Yes, besides a marked water trail there will be volunteer river guides to assist you with directions or if you have any issues. The National Park Service (Big Thicket National Preserve) intends to have staff on the water as well.

**How can I register for this event?**

On-line registration links are on our Facebook page and website at <http://www.bigthicket.org/rally/>

**Does the registration rate include a canoe or kayak?**

No. The entry rate paid to participate does not cover the cost of a rental. If you own your own boat there is no additional charge. If you wish to rent a boat, contact the outfitter Kayaking Texas at [kayakingtexasoak@gmail.com](mailto:kayakingtexasoak@gmail.com).

**How many people can ride in a canoe?**

Two (2) people per tandem or 2 Adults w/ 1 small child (under 100 lbs.) can also use a tandem Canoe. Three (3) Adults paddling together or (2) Adults + (2) small children (under 100 lbs. each) must use an X-Large Family canoe to be safe and comfortable. Outfitters offer a very large fleet of canoes & kayaks and can help you decide which one is right for you or your family.

**What ages can participate?**

Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. This is a family friendly event. See next FAQ's regarding ages.

**Do I need to register my children?**

Yes, children ages 12 and under will need to register a child participant. There is a fee for all Rally participants.

**Is the rate the same for my 13-year-old as it is for me?**

Yes, children ages thirteen and older that share a canoe or tandem kayak with an adult or paddle a single kayak on their own are charged the same rates as adults.

**Do I have to wear a life jacket/pfd?**

Yes. All participants are required to wear a life jacket/vest/PFD as well as obey all laws and regulations by local, Texas, and U.S. government agencies.

**Can we bring snacks and drinks to have on the paddle?**

Yes, you can bring snacks, soda, juice, or water to have on the water. This is a family friendly event so no alcohol is allowed.

**May I bring my pet?**

No pets please.

**My family will be joining me after I paddle. May I buy extra hamburgers for them?**

Extra meal tickets can be purchased at the time you pre-register for the Rally. Additional meal tickets are \$10 each. We are not set-up to sell extra meal tickets at the Rally.

**Can I use my stand-up paddle board for the Rally?**

Yes. Paddle boards are allowed during the Rally.

**Why is the Big Thicket Association having a fundraiser?**

Entry fees and sponsorships will help support the BTA's mission of promoting conservation, and environmental education classes on our floating classroom, the *Ivory Bill*.

**I want my whole department at work to sign-up and go as a group. Do you have group discounts?**

We have several small groups that are planning to paddle. They are taking advantage of the early discounts. *For groups of 10 or more participants, please call for early bird discount and to schedule launch time for your group.*

**Will there be extra boats if we come the morning of the Rally?**

**No.** Pre-registration is **required**. Participants are responsible for making rental arrangements with Kayaking Texas who will bring only the number of boats that they pre-rented to the Rally paddlers.

**If I bring my own boat, can I register the morning of the Rally?**

No. There will be no registration the day of the Rally.

**Is the Rally always held at the same location every year?**

No, the Big Thicket Association is a 'Friends Group' of the Big Thicket National Preserve, and we like to feature different areas of the Preserve that paddlers would like to experience.

**What happens if the event is rained out the day of the Rally?**

This is a rain or shine event...no refunds. The Rally is a fundraising event for the Big Thicket Association and the Big Thicket National Preserve. We will make every effort to have weather related contingencies.