

Raft and Tube Guides

We employ a great mix of people to be raft guides including high school and college students, teachers, cabinet makers, scientists, ski resort workers, and a host of others. **River Guides** are an integral part of our staff and the main reason our customers come back again and again. For this reason good people skills are very important. No prior river experience is necessary, only the willingness to learn.

**Most of our river staff begins by training in our rafting program, and then may train for tube guiding and festival and wall events. The more jobs you can do at River & Trail, the more opportunities to work.*

- Criteria for Guides
 - Full and Part Time
 - Training Schedule
-

Criteria for Raft Guides:

- Must be 16 years and older to begin training
- Complete 12 training trips on the Shenandoah River and 1 check out trip.
- Pass Red Cross Standard First Aid or its equivalent (offered on-site)
- Pass Red Cross Professional Rescuer CPR or its equivalent (offered on-site)

River & Trail will also provide training in customer service skills, safety, civil war and natural history, and low water training.

Criteria for Tube Guides:

***many first come through raft training**

- Must be 15 years and older to begin training
 - Attend 1-day canoe handling course (on-site)
 - 1 Training trip on an actual tube trip
 - Pass Red Cross Standard First Aid or its equivalent (offered on-site)
 - Pass Red Cross Professional Rescuer CPR or its equivalent (offered on-site)
-

Full-Time, Part-Time, or Occasional Guides

Full-time guides must be available a minimum of 5 days/week from April thru October **unless in school**. At times, full-time folks must be willing to work various jobs in addition to raft guiding such as tubing, climbing wall, festivals, etc... as needed. A week's vacation may be taken before June 16th, or during the last two weeks of August if pre-approved at time of hire. Full-time guides are eligible to go on a river/camping trip in Pennsylvania or southern West Virginia.

Part-time guides are the largest portion of the staff at R&T. Many part-time guides work both weekdays and weekends, although some are "weekend warriors" who come down for some river fun during time off from other jobs. PT guides must provide dates that they are available to work throughout the season. It is still possible to get a lot of work as a part-time guide and cross-train to do other jobs at R&T. Part-time guides may also be eligible to go on a river/camping trip in Pennsylvania or southern West Virginia.

Occasional guides work just that, occasionally. Many of these guides are folks that have been with us in the past and continue to work when we are in need. We are grateful for their willingness to help out and for their expertise. Occasional guides will have the opportunity to get re-certified in First Aid and CPR with us.

Raft Guide Training Sessions:

The earlier you can train, the better. Two trips per day is the general rule. Training dates will be consecutive weekends for the first session and consecutive days for the others. Dates can be arranged with prior notice. We will need to know your schedule for training availability upon being hired.

First Session (Weekends)

Begins April 18th, Saturday 8am

Second Session (mostly weekends)

Begins May 9th, Saturday 8am

Third Session (weekdays and weekends in succession)

Begins May 18th, Monday 8am

Fourth Session (Daily)

Begins June 11th, Thursday 8am (weekdays and weekends)

*Full-time Staff need to attend Tubing and Festival/Climbing Wall Training as well as anyone else wanting to optimize their training and options for working.

Tube Trip Training:

Our guided Antietam Creek Tube Trips take place from June- mid September, on weekends and two to four days per week.

Day long canoe handling instruction: June 7th, Sunday 9am - All Day

Climbing Wall/Festival Training:

May 17th, Sunday 1pm-4pm