

# Chattahoochee River

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Chattahoochee River  
National Recreation Area

## Boating Safety



The Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area offers very safe and easy opportunities to enjoy the beautiful Chattahoochee River. On the International Scale of River Rating Difficulty this river is a Class I. This means that the Chattahoochee River has moving water with few riffles and small waves and few or no obstructions.

### Keep in Mind

- This moving water means millions of gallons being pulled by the force of gravity toward the Gulf of Mexico. The river does have rocks, logs, and fallen trees. These Obstacles are easy to avoid. If you get into the water, stay upstream of your raft, canoe, or kayak. Do not find yourself pinned between the craft and the obstacle.
- You are exposed to the UVA and UVB radiation of the sun even if the day is cloudy.
- Fallen trees create strainers that allow the water to pass through, but can hold water craft and persons due to the force of the moving water.
- The water comes from the bottom of Lake Lanier and is fairly cold. Persons lose body heat 25 to 35 times faster in water than air. Arms and legs lose strength in cold water faster as the body draws blood into the torso to keep the organs warm.

### While on River

- Wearing your U.S. Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) is recommended. *Persons 10 years of age and younger must wear a US Coast Guard approved PFD (Life Jacket) at all times on river.*
- Using SPF 15 water proof sunscreen is recommended.
- Avoiding alcohol use is recommended.

### Items You Might Bring

- Broad brimmed hat and extra sunscreen.
- Light nylon jacket or rain jacket.
- Adequate water to keep properly hydrated.
- Water proof bag for valuables that can be tied to your craft.