

RAFTING THE SOUTH FORK

AN INVITATION

You are invited to join us for a wonderful summer weekend of whitewater rafting on the south fork of the American River, east of Sacramento. This is a weekend trip, camping Friday and Saturday night at Camp Lotus on the river, an hour from Sacramento. Raft activities start 9:00 a.m. each morning and finish by about 4 p.m. on Sunday. If interested, let us know promptly, since space is limited to 12 rafters, plus the guides, each day. (6 people and 1 guide in each boat). If there is enough demand, we may use larger boats, for a max of 18.

THE PEOPLE WHO ARE INVITED

The invitees on these trips are **the most interesting people we know**, mainly Warm Floors associates, and it is a chance for us to get, as they say, close to our clients. There will be some people who work with us at Warm Floors, and business contacts, as a way of building durable relationships. Overall, they are all interesting, fun, enthusiastic, and people who we are eager to spend more time with. That includes you! Sometimes it is hard to tell which is more enjoyable, the river, the views, the food, the rafting, or the people.

Also please note that this invitation is extended to **you and your immediate family only**. These trips are very popular, and we have no problem filling the boats, and have to turn some people down. If you want to bring other friends or relatives, please let us know **before** inviting them.

THE RIVER

The American River is in the middle of Gold Country, and passes the site where Marshall discovered gold in 1849. Around the area are many interesting historical sites and parks focusing on California's history of the gold rush. The river is beautiful, with most of the river bank uninhabited, and lots of wildflowers, blackberries, and wildlife. The river is fed from a dam so the flow is dependable and much warmer than snow melt. The days will be warm and sunny, and the river will be swimmable (for the slightly hardy). Since this is the most popular rafting

river in the West, there will be a lot of people, and a lot of boats, but they are all having good healthy fun, in a clean exhilarating environment, close to nature.

THE RAFTING

The river is graded as Class II to Class III+, moderate enough to be safe but dynamic enough to be fun and quite exciting. Rafters should be able to swim and should be comfortable in the water. Everyone will be wearing life vests at all times on the river. The rapids are invigorating, with a wide variety of drops, rock gardens, reversals, slots, and holes, and several roller-coaster wave trains. You will get wet, but will also dry quickly in the hot sun. There is a lot of lazy drifting along, many passages of fun rapids, and a few really wild rides. There may be water fights, jumping off of high rocks, rope swings, and other shenanigans. We've never known anyone who did not have an absolute blast. If any children younger than about 14 are coming, we should discuss it first. We will have about \$10,000 in excellent equipment. We are very safety conscious, and no one has ever been seriously injured on our trips. We intend to keep it that way.

Your guide will be Michael Luttrell, and one of his river rat friends. The guides have been through formal intensive Guide Training School, and are extremely familiar with the American River, with 20-30 trips on this river to their credit. Many of the guides have also had River Rescue and other forms of emergency medical or technical whitewater training courses.

However, you should also realize that this is an unpaid, non-commercial trip among friends, and you will be asked to sign a liability release, and that you will not be covered by commercial liability insurance. Although accidents are extremely rare, there is always a slim chance of injury when you pilot rubber boats down rocky, whitewater rivers. The biggest dangers are poison oak on the banks, sunburn, and an overdose of fun! Just be aware of the circumstances.

FRIDAY ARRIVAL AND CAMP SETUP

You can show up anytime Friday to camp, arriving from mid-day to late evening. (Early arrivals get the best tent spots!) We camp at Camp Lotus, on the river. It's a lovely campground, with hot (well, warm, anyway!) showers, campfire facilities, inside bathrooms, horseshoe pits, volleyball nets, a small store and deli. There are other small stores, restaurants, B & B's, bakery, etc. nearby. Friday is casual evening campfire get-acquainted time, with dinner on your own or shared, since everyone shows up at different times.

"What a trip, what a trip. No, an adventure. One of the things I loved most was the camaraderie, the teamwork, everyone watching after everyone and the love and caring that came with that. I also was struck by the awesomeness of the river itself." — Jan

SATURDAY SCHEDULE. THE GORGE RUN

Saturday morning everyone is on their own for breakfast, at the campsite or nearby restaurants. Saturday, we do the lower run, called The Gorge, 12 miles long which takes 5-8 hours to run depending on water flow, traffic, and how long we stop at sights such as Swimmer's Rapid, Jumping Rock and the lunch spot. Each morning we meet no later than 8:00 a.m. We shuttle a few cars to the take-out point at Salmon Falls Bridge. It takes an hour or so to inflate and rig the boats and another 20 minutes for a safety talk. We "put-in" around 10 a.m. The river starts out gradually, with small rapids through the morning, and a nice safe place called Swimmer's Rapids, perfect for practicing swimming through rapids. We stop for lunch about 12:30 for about an hour. The afternoon gets more exciting with more dramatic rapids like Bouncing Rock leading to the infamous Satan's Cesspool and several long trains of large standing waves. The run ends with a short paddle out to the take out point. It takes about an hour to breakdown the boat and pack up.

We should be finished between 5 and 6 p.m. and back in camp with a cold beer an hour later.

WE WORK FAR TOO HARD AND PLAY ALL TOO LITTLE.

The purpose of this voyage is to remind us that there are other dimensions to life, like nature, and challenge, sun and water and friends and fun!

Please let us know ASAP if you would like to join us since there will be only a few trips this year.

Questions, please call Janice Schoenbein at 800-542-9276