

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 15, 2026



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Explore the Fox River by Kayak

GENEVA, IL — Tour our local waterways during these exciting paddling adventures!

Our 2026 kayaking series begins with a lake-based basic paddling skills class, followed by shorter and less-strenuous river sessions for beginners. As the summer progresses, choose increasingly longer and more technical paddles for intermediate skill levels. Each session, participants will receive dry-land instruction on basic kayaking techniques from an experienced instructor. Afterward, we'll take to the water for a naturalist-led exploration of the fascinating local ecology. Participants meet and park at the take-out location and are shuttled to the put-in location.

Participants may choose any number of sessions; you can take one, two or all six.

For all sessions, participants must be 16 years or older and able to:

1. Hold their breath under water while wearing a properly fitted life jacket;
2. Independently turn from a face-down to a face-up position, keeping head above water;
3. Effectively communicate with the instructor and other participants; and,
4. Manage all mobility and personal care independently, or with the assistance of a companion.

Dates and meeting locations for sessions are below:

Session 1: (Novice Skills Training; Less than 1 mile paddle):

Saturday, May 30; 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Meeting at: Oakhurst Forest Preserve; 1680 Fifth Ave., Aurora

— **ADD ONE** —

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Session 2: (Beginner; 4 mile paddle):

Sunday, June 7; 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Meeting at: Voyageur Landing Forest Preserve; 50 Airport Rd., Elgin

Session 3: (Beginner; 4.5 mile paddle):

Saturday, July 18; 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Meeting at: Ferson Creek Park; State Rte. 31, east of Wildrose Springs Dr., St. Charles

Session 4: (Beginner; 4.5 mile paddle):

Sunday, Aug. 2; 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Meeting at: Ferson Creek Park; State Rte. 31, east of Wildrose Springs Dr., St. Charles

Session 5: (Intermediate; 7 mile paddle):

Saturday, Sept. 5; 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting at: Voyageur Landing Forest Preserve; 50 Airport Rd., Elgin

Session 6: (Intermediate; 6 miles paddle with portage):

Saturday, Oct. 10; 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting at: McCullough Park; 150 W. Illinois Ave., Aurora

The fee for a single kayak for Session 1 is \$69 per person and includes use of kayak, personal flotation device and paddle; it is \$89 per person for Sessions 2-6. If you provide your own kayak and equipment, the fee is \$45 per person, per session, for sessions 2-6. All fees include shuttle service. Advance registration is required at least one week prior to the program, with payment required at the time of registration.

To register, visit www.kaneforest.com/register. Rain will not stop a paddle, but trips may be cancelled (with full refund) due to lightning, low air/water temps, or unsafe water levels.

For more information, visit www.kaneforest.com or find the Forest Preserve District on social media by searching @forestpreserve.