



Environmental Traveling Companions River Program Boat Use Policy

1. **Only active and checked out ETC River Guides** who have done at least 4 trips in the past year may use the ETC Rafts and related equipment for a private trip on the South Fork of the American River. Guides may only use the style of raft for which they are checked out (i.e. paddle boat, oar frame or either). Assistant Guides may not check out equipment for private use.
2. Use of ETC rafts and related equipment must be requested and confirmed through direct contact with the River Program Manager at the ETC Office. Guides must provide the following information:
 - Intended launch date and landing time
 - Section of the South Fork to be rafted
 - Shuttle plan for the ETC equipment
 - Number of people that will be on the waterAll requests must be made during business hours. It is unacceptable to request a boat during non-business hours.
3. Guides must notify the on-call River Camp Staff of their put in time and as soon as possible at takeout. **If a Guide fails to notify the on-call River Camp Staff by the prearranged take out time, search and rescue will be initiated and the appropriate agencies contacted.**
4. Trip Paperwork: The following paperwork must be completed for any private trip:
 - **Guides:** All Guides must have a Health Form and Liability Release on file at the ETC River Office.
 - **Guests:** All Guests must fill out an ETC Health Form and Liability Release and must be submitted to the ETC River Office following any trip.
 - **Trip Evaluation/Report:** A Trip Details Form must be completed and submitted with the Health and Liability Forms.
5. Rafts are to be launched only from the Nugget Campground at Chili Bar, Marshall Gold State Park, or the ETC River Camp. All rafts must have at least three private tags fixed to the outside of the boat (one on each side near the logo and one on the front).
6. Each private raft trip must bring the following equipment with them:
 - Spare paddle or oar
 - Spare PFD
 - Spare helmet
 - First Aid Kit
 - Charged Cell Phone & Emergency Call Down List
 - Emergency Egress Route Map
 - Sweep Kit
 - Repair Kit
 - Water for participants
 - **When transporting equipment ensues it is secured adequately.**

7. Guides must deliver a thorough Safety Talk and Boat & Paddle talk to all Guests prior to put in. Guests must also be properly fitted for PFDs and helmets prior to put in. **Any non-ETC guests will be asked to make a donation towards keeping ETC's gear in top condition.**
8. Trips will be run with at least two boats. It will be up to the discretion of the River Program Manager and River Operations Manager to allow a single-boat trip on the Class III sections of the South Fork American. Water level and guide experience level will be taken into consideration before permission for a single-boat trip will be granted.
9. Guides are responsible for following the River Etiquette Guidelines set forth in the outfitter agreement and permit to operate on the South Fork American River. Any guide found violating these rules of etiquette will lose the privilege of private boat use.
- 10. Guides will ensure that no Guest will jump off rocks or dive in the water from the raft.**
11. All Guides must be fully aware of the water levels and weather conditions predicted for the day of the trip. Guides must have previous experience with those conditions.
12. All equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and stored in its proper location. Guides will be responsible for any lose or damages beyond normal wear and tear. Repairs must be listed on the Trip Evaluation/Report.
13. Guides must always exercise their best judgment and employ conservative decision making to ensure the safety of them and their Guests while using ETC rafts and related equipment.
14. The consumption of alcohol or recreational drugs is **prohibited** while using ETC equipment.
15. Only active Trip Leader Level Guides may request the use of ETC rafts and related equipment for a private trip on a river other than the South Fork American. All requests for this type of trip must be made in writing to the River Program Manager and include all aspects of the trip. Factors considered to grant these requests include: the experience level of the guides, the current water level of the proposed river, the difficulty of the river, and the impact on river camp of gear being off-site for an extended period of time. A security deposit will be held to ensure the equipment will be returned in good condition this will be preformed by the PM or Operations Manager.

Below Please list all ETC equipment that you are requesting to loan

ITEMS	QUANTITY

The above policies have been implemented to ensure the safety of Guides and Guests and protect ETC as an organization. Failure to adhere to the River Program Boat Use Policy may result in the loss of a Guide's privilege of using ETC river gear for private use. **All raft and equipment use is at the discretion of the ETC River Program Manager.**

By signing this agreement I acknowledge that I have read it carefully, agree with its terms, and I sign it of my own free will.

Acknowledging all of the above policies and fees, and in consideration of being permitted to use ETC rafts and related equipment, I _____
(print your name) knowingly and voluntarily agree to adhere to ETC's River Boat Use Policy.

Your Signature _____ Date _____