

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, AUG. 27, 2007
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World Kayak Offers Free Pro Guides to Gauley First-Timers

Experienced whitewater kayakers who have never boated the Upper or Lower Gauley have a golden opportunity this fall to take their maiden voyage down the legendary river with top pro paddlers.

On the morning of Saturday, Sept. 22, winners of the "Am I Ready For the Gauley Yet" drawing will meet in the park across the street from the put-in road to the Summerville Dam. Pairs of pro paddlers will guide groups of up to four paddlers down the river during the annual Gauley Fest.

The event is free and open to all World Kayak members. World Kayak is an initiative designed to bring together the global paddlesports community on one, very active place on the web, WorldKayak.com. The web site features news, blogs and wikis from members in more than 25 paddling regions throughout the US and Canada. International members are invited to join too. Membership is free.

"We are trying to provide a service to the community by offering more opportunities for kayakers to get involved in the sport in a safe, fun setting," said World Kayak special projects director Colin Kemp. "Gauley Fest is just the start. We plan many more WK on-water events in the coming year."

World Kayak members interested in this incredible opportunity need to provide the following information: name, phone number and email, preference for running the Upper or Lower Gauley and a list of the toughest rivers boated to date. All interested applicants should submit their info before Sept. 11 to Kemp at Colin@WorldKayak.com.

Winning applicants will be notified by phone and provided further details shortly after the drawing is held on Sept. 12. There is no fee to enter or participate in the promotion. The number of winners drawn will depend entirely on the number of professional paddlers who sign up to volunteer their time. Winners who do not demonstrate sufficient skill to safely boat the Gauley will not be eligible to participate. To date, 5 of Jackson Kayak team athletes have signed up to guide including EJ, Jay Kincaid, Nick Troutman, Colin Kemp, and Clay Wright.