

# Susquehanna Sojourn to paddle Curwensville to Renovo

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Adventure-seekers will want to check out the Susquehanna River Sojourn, a six-day educational paddle trip that will allow participants to explore one of the state's natural treasures.

This year's Sojourn will be from May 19 to 24. Paddlers will start their journey in Curwensville and travel 85 miles of river to Renovo.

Many educational programs will be offered on the sojourn, including lessons about river conservation, the history of the local lumber industry and a geology presentation. Camping and stewardship activities, including a river cleanup, will be offered along the way.

"The West Branch Sojourn will be a great way for folks to explore this stretch of water trail," said Erin Pierce, program coordinator with the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership.

"This really is one of the last true wilderness left in Pennsylvania," she added.

Pierce explained that because camping, meals and transportation will be arranged ahead of time, paddlers will be able to focus on the experience of explor-

## National Geographic cites river as 'best' destination

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The West Branch of the Susquehanna River earlier this year garnered national attention when National Geographic named the West Branch as one of its "Best Adventure Destinations for 2012."

The article details the top places around the globe for pristine wilderness and breathtaking scenery, coupled with opportunities for physical activity.

It placed the West Branch in good company — other destinations on the list include Mammoth Mountain in California, the Mayan temples of Belize, Mustaga Mountain in China, and the Todos Santos beaches of Baja, Mexico.

The article recommends that visitors "canoe the

Susquehanna River water trail," which writer Claire Martin calls "seriously wild territory."

According to the article, the West Branch was chosen because of its 228-mile waterway, which twines through Pennsylvania's rich hardwood forests and "into the habitat of the Northeast's largest elk heard."

Erin Pierce, of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, was pleasantly surprised by the recommendation.

"They never sent anyone down here to talk with us. It came as a huge surprise," she said about the National Geographic designation.

"We found out about it from National Geographic's website," she said. The article may be viewed at:

<http://adventure.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/trips/best-adventure-destinations-2012>

ing the river with their fellow adventurers.

This is the first time in more than 20 years that a state sojourn has paddled this section of the West Branch, and organizers expect registration to fill quickly. Pierce said she's already had people register from across the state, as well as New York and Virginia.

"We are going to have to set a limit on this sojourn. We're going to put a cap at

60 or 70 people to make sure our group is small enough that everyone gets an excellent educational experience," Pierce said.

She added that participants may choose to go on just one or two days of the sojourn, rather than stay for all six days of the trip.

"Particularly for locals, a day or two may fit into your schedule better than the entire six days," Pierce said.

The registration deadline for the trip is May 4. Paddlers must provide their own boat and gear, but there are rental facilities located nearby, according to Pierce.

Registration for adults is \$65 per day and \$33 per day for children 12 and under. Registration forms and additional information are available online at [www.susquehannagreenway.org](http://www.susquehannagreenway.org), or by calling Pierce at 522-7244.

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