

# 2016 New River Gorge Bridge Day™ Rappel Guidelines

## Bridge Day, Saturday, October 15, 2016

We hope that you will be able to join us this fall for the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Bridge Day. Please take a few minutes to read through this information. It includes our timeline, registration process, fees, and other important information. Thank you.

### Security

The Bridge Day Commission and law enforcement agencies are still evaluating the background checks.

### Timeline

March 21 - April 30	Teams register online
May 1- June 19	Team members complete an online application
June 24, Friday	Lottery Drawing for rappel anchors
September 1-11	Last minute additions for individual registration & bottom passes
September 14-20	Whitesides training for individual rappellers
October 14, Friday	noon-6 pm Registration 7:30-9 pm Orientation
October 15, Saturday	9 am – 3 pm 37 <sup>th</sup> Bridge Day

### Fees

Team Fee	\$200 Twelve to sixteen members (12-16) \$235 Ten to eleven members (10-11) \$300 Eight to nine members (8-9) \$400 Six to seven members (6-7) \$500 Three to five members (3-5)
Team Members Fee	\$155 per person registering May-June \$195 per person registering September 1-11
Bottom Pass	\$75 per person registering May-June \$95 per person registering September 1-11
Individual Rappeller <b>NEW!</b>	\$400 per person registering May-August

### Application

- 1) Anyone wishing to have a Bridge Day Rappel team must register online March 21–April 30 and pay the non-refundable team fee at [www.bridgedayrappel.com](http://www.bridgedayrappel.com).
- 2) Teams will be assigned a rappel site based on the lottery drawing on Friday, June 24. You do **not** have to be present to be selected.
- 3) Individuals need to complete an online application May 1 through June 19 at [www.bridgedayrappel.com](http://www.bridgedayrappel.com).
- 4) Please complete the entire online application. Incomplete applications will **not** be accepted.
- 5) Please submit a 2”X2” head photo as a JPEG file with the application. Your photo must be:
  - In color
  - The head photo must be from the bottom of the chin to the top of the head.
  - Taken in front of a plain white background
  - Taken in full-face view directly facing the camera
  - Taken with a neutral facial expression
  - Taken with both eyes open
  - No hats, sunglasses or goofy faces. No trees or scenery of any kind.

- 6) **All tandem rappels must be approved.** Please complete the tandem rappel section of the application.
- 7) **All ascents must be approved.** You may ascend on your team rope or on one of the designated ascent ropes. Please complete the ascending section of the application..
- 8) You must be a member of a team. Individuals **not** associated with a team will be given the list of teams selected to rappel off the Bridge. The individual can contact different teams to see if space is available. We do **not** assign individuals to teams.
- 9) There is **no** refund once the lottery is drawn. Team individual applicants **not** chosen to participate will have their money returned. The application fee is **not** transferable.
- 10) Anyone at the bottom (i.e., beneath the Bridge near the ropes) must have a Bottom Pass. Please complete the Bottom Pass registration and pay online.
- 11) **You do not need a Paypal account to make payment.** Paypal accepts most credit cards. You can pay with a check mailed to POB 71 Fayetteville, West Virginia 25840.

### Requirements

- 12) Each member of the team is expected to be an experienced rappeller, eighteen years or older, who is familiar with the skills, equipment, and rescue techniques associated with rappelling. Each participant must assume personal responsibility for his/her own safety.
- 13) Rappelling can be dangerous! Each rappeller should be experienced with long rappels.
- 14) Each applicant must have completed at least a 250' free rappel.
- 15) Everyone will be required to document their training for this year's Bridge Day Rappel.
- 16) The group leader will be responsible for certifying experience, supervising participation, and disseminating information to the group members. Both the applicant and group leader will be contacted if there is a concern with an application.
- 17) Each rappeller chosen to rappel off the Bridge will complete and sign an acceptance of risk and liability waiver releasing all people associated with Bridge Day rappelling (i.e., Bridge Day Commission, Rappel Coordinator, Safety Team).
- 18) Bridge Day is a public event. You will sign a photography release. Your picture will be taken and you have no control on how it may be shown (i.e., as a composite or as distorted in character or form). By registering to participate in the Bridge Day Rappel, you do hereby waive any right to inspect and/or approve any photos taken during the Bridge Day registration, orientation meeting, and on Bridge Day.
- 19) **You are required to check-in for the rappel registration on Friday, October 15.** Information and materials will be given to you at that time.
- 20) **You must be present at the Friday Orientation meeting or you will not be allowed to participate on Saturday.**
- 21) There is **no** refund if you do **not** meet the security requirements.

### Rules

- 22) Bridge Day rappelling is **not** a training session.
- 23) "Speed rappels" are **not** allowed! **A "speed rappel" will be determined by the safety team.**
- 24) You must use a rack.
- 25) Figure 8's, micro racks, and "U" shaped frame racks are **not** used on Bridge Day. Knotted ropes, sandals, Aussie Rappels, upside down rappel, and costume accessories (i.e., antlers) that may interfere with other rappellers are **not** allowed.
- 26) Helmets and gloves are required.
- 27) All ropes will be rigged under the Bridge. Two independent anchors will be provided. Only the approved rigging of a Figure Eight with an Inline Figure Eight will be accepted. Specific directions regarding the accepted rigging can be found at [www.bridgedayrappel.com](http://www.bridgedayrappel.com).

- 28) Each team must have a minimum 900 foot 7/16" static rope.
- 29) Ropes must be bagged, **not** coiled or chained. There will be **no** coiling or uncoiling of ropes on the catwalk in the morning or once Bridge Day is over.
- 30) The catwalk will be supervised and secured on Bridge Day. A pass will be issued to each rappeller and person authorized to be in the area.
- 31) There must be at least two people who know how to bottom belay at the bottom of each rappel rope throughout the day (9 AM – 3 PM).
- 32) There will be **no** refund or credit extended if Bridge Day 2016 is cancelled for any reason.
- 33) Glen Kuehner is the Safety Officer for the 2016 New River Gorge Bridge Day Rappel.
- 34) The Bridge Day Rappel Coordinator is Benjy Simpson. He and his son, Benjy Simpson III, will be overseeing Bridge Day 2016. Their decisions are final.



**Individual Rappeller - someone not on a team**

- 35) You must be an experienced rappeller.
- 36) You must have own gear: harness, rack, carabiners, helmet, gloves, radio, QAS, and change over gear. The rope and anchor will be provided.
- 37) You must register by email ([benjy@passagestoadventure.com](mailto:benjy@passagestoadventure.com)) and mail check (POB 71 Fayetteville WV 25840) May through August.
- 38) There is **no** guarantee how many rappels you will do on Bridge Day.
- 39) You must do training in the New River Gorge during the summer and at Whitesides in September.
- 40) There are **no refunds** if you do **not** complete the training or choose **not** to come to Bridge Day.

New River Gorge Bridge Day™ Rappel  
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[benjy@bridgewalk.com](mailto:benjy@bridgewalk.com)

[www.bridgedayrappel.com](http://www.bridgedayrappel.com)

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