

# 2017 New River Gorge Bridge Day™ Rappel Guidelines

## Bridge Day, Saturday, October 21, 2017

We hope that you will be able to join us this fall for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Bridge Day. The following is our timeline, registration process, fees, and other important information. Thank you.

<b>Timeline</b>	March 1-31	Teams register online at <a href="http://www.bridgedayrappel.com">www.bridgedayrappel.com</a>
	April 1- June 16	Team members complete an online application
	June 23, Friday	Lottery Drawing for rappel anchors
	September 1-15	Last minute additions for individual registration & bottom passes
	October 20, Friday	noon-6 pm Registration 7:30-9 pm Orientation
	October 21, Saturday	9 am – 3 pm 38 <sup>th</sup> Bridge Day
	October 22, Sunday	New River Gorge Bridge 40 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
<b>Fees</b>	Team Fee	\$250 Twelve to sixteen members (12-16) \$275 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	\$160 per person registering May-June \$195 per person registering September 1-15
	Bottom Pass	\$75 per person registering May-June \$95 per person registering September 1-15

There is an online booking fee for processing your registration.

### Application

- 1) Anyone wishing to have a Bridge Day Rappel team must register online March 6-31 and pay the non-refundable team fee at [www.bridgedayrappel.com](http://www.bridgedayrappel.com).
- 2) The team leader is responsible for
  - a) Registering his team.
  - b) Submitting the team's training requirements and schedule for the Bridge Day Rappel.
  - c) Supervising/training/communicating his/her team throughout the Bridge Day Rappel
- 3) Teams will be assigned a rappel site based on the lottery drawing on Friday, June 23. You do **not** have to be present to be selected.
- 4) Individuals need to complete an online application April 1 through June 16 at [www.bridgedayrappel.com](http://www.bridgedayrappel.com).
- 5) Please complete the entire online application. Incomplete applications will **not** be accepted.
- 6) **All tandem rappels must be approved.**
- 7) **All ascents must be approved.** You may ascend on your team rope or on one of the
- 8) designated ascent ropes.
- 9) 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.
- 10) 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.
- 11) 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 at [www.bridgedayrappel.com](http://www.bridgedayrappel.com).

## Requirements

- 1) 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.
- 2) Rappelling can be dangerous! Each rappeller should be experienced with long rappels.
- 3) Each applicant must have completed a 250' free rappel.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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).
- 6) 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.
- 7) **You are required to check-in for the rappel registration on Friday, October 20.** Information and materials will be given to you at that time.
- 8) **You must be present at the Friday Orientation meeting or you will not be allowed to participate on Saturday.**

## Rules

- 1) Bridge Day rappelling is **not** a training session.
- 2) "Speed rappels" are **not** allowed! **A "speed rappel" will be determined by the safety team.**
- 3) You must use a rack.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Helmets and gloves are required.
- 6) Each team is expected to have a team communications system.
- 7) All ropes will be rigged under the Bridge. Two independent anchors will be provided.
- 8) Each team must have a minimum 900 foot 7/16" static rope.
- 9) 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.
- 10) 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.
- 11) There must be at least two people who know how to bottom belay at the bottom of each rappel rope throughout Bridge Day (9 AM – 3 PM).
- 12) There will be **no** refund or credit extended if Bridge Day 2017 is cancelled for any reason.
- 13) Glen Kuehner is the Safety Officer for the 2017 New River Gorge Bridge Day Rappel.
- 14) The Bridge Day Rappel Coordinator is Benjy Simpson. He and his son, Benjy Simpson III, will be overseeing Bridge Day 2017. Their decisions are final.