

Rainier Raid Racers!

Hello friends, old and new. Welcome to the third chapter of Rainier Raid. We have been having an amazing time vetting this year's course and it's looking pretty awesome. You will never be TOO far away from Packwood, so we really push teams to try for the 36 hour course.

There may be some snow at ~3,800 ft on northern aspects, we saw a bit on recent runs. Expect a varied course that is challenging, technical, and fast. We are leaving the course open for 36 hours and expect the winner to finish in ~24–28 hours. We are super proud of the technical nature of this course including whitewater and a real technical canyon (guided by Andrew and his crew at Cascade Canyon Guides).

We will miss Whittaker's Base Camp area but Packwood is a great host! We are starting and finishing at Packwood Brewing. Sky and her family are happy to host us and we thank them.

Mandatory safety briefing 1700 Friday June 6th @ Packwood Brewing Co. 12298 US-12, Packwood, WA 98361

For beginners: please ask questions and we will get you sorted if anything is unclear. We know there are a lot of moving pieces.

Key schedule:

- Fri 06/05, 12:00–17:00 Race check in & skills check (Packwood Brewery)
- Fri 06/05, 17:00 Mandatory safety brief (Packwood Brewery)
- Fri 06/05, 18:00 Staff & volunteer meeting (Packwood Brewery)
- Sat 06/06, 05:00: Race start
- Sun 06/07, 17:00: Race finish

Skills Check

At racer check-in, there will be a skills check for rappelling. Please be prepared to show your rappelling system to include a safety tether onto an anchor. We will also inspect your PFD and wetsuit/drysuit

Bring your rappelling gear + PFD + wetsuit/drysuit to skills check, after sign-in.

Please do skills check before 1700 on Friday.

Lodging

- Cowlitz River Lodge (official race hotel) — 13069 US-12, Packwood, WA 98361. Phone: (360) 494-4444. Mention “Rainier Raid” for racer discounts.
- Historic Hotel Packwood — 104 Main St W, Packwood, WA 98361 Phone: (360) 494-5431.
- Dispersed camping in Gifford-Pinchot anywhere near Packwood. Skate Creek or near Packwood lake.

Segment overview

Run → river crossing → off-trail trek → river crossing → whitewater → bike → canyon (guided) → bike/orienteering → Monster trek → bike to finish.

Gear Notes

[Gear list here](#)

You will need a drysuit or wetsuit specifically for the canyon

- **Email: contact@cascadecanyonguides.com for wetsuit rentals for the race - they will bring to race**

You do **not** need a bike box.

You are allowed 1x gear bin (110 Litre, standard yellow top ARWS gear bin)

You must bring 1x boat bag. Boat drop is at check in, and we will trailer to the boat put in.

- You can put some extra stuff in the bag, but it goes with you down the river.

You must bring 1x climbing bag (fits harness, ATC/figure 8, carabiners)

Bring a whitewater appropriate PFD

Rivers

- Two river crossings: one crossable possibly swimming; the other requires swimming.
- PFDs are not required but strongly recommended if you are not a strong, swift-water swimmer.
- Don't ruin your phone crossing a river...

Whitewater

Planned difficulty: Class 2+ / 3- manageable but real whitewater in a cold glacier-melt river.

Allowed craft: inflatable kayaks and packrafts

- Pre-inflation is not allowed. While IK's may be faster, the inflation and weight will even it out. No time penalties for either.

Portage: ~1,200 m overland from river exit to start/finish while carrying craft.

Safety: Dry suit/wetsuit optional, PFD mandatory

Canyon

- Terrain: slides, jumps, rappels, swimming, cold water, wet canyon terrain, and log jams
- Professional guides (Andrew + crew) will lead you through the entire canyon.
- Apparel: 4 mm wetsuit minimum or drysuit required.
- Rentals/contact: Cascade Canyon Guides — wetsuits available for rent. Email your size to contact@cascadecanyonguides.com
- After the canyon section, we will collect your harness/ATC/wetsuit so you don't have to take it on the remainder of the race.

Mountain Biking

- Forest roads and single track
- Will not have to travel with dry suit / wet suit for planning

Navigation / Trekking

- Challenging navigation with multiple O-courses
- Plenty of water on course
- Be prepared for 24 hr+ without a bin. One bin stop 6-8 hours into race.

Key hazards & gear

- Cold glacier-melt rivers and canyon water
- 4 mm wetsuit minimum for canyon; drysuit acceptable.
- Gloves required in canyon (Garden gloves or gorilla grips work from Home Depot!)
- Secure dry bags, suitable wet/river footwear, and a means to carry your craft (expect ~1,200 m portage).
- Monster trek is long and will be overnight
- It may be hot during the day, and cold at night. Pack appropriately
- You will be off-trail, bush whacking, steep forests, and crossing downed logs

Accessibility

My goal with starting the Rainier Raid was to grow the sport and highlight our backyard. To that end, I want to make this as accessible as possible to everyone. We have financial aid available for those who want to race but financially it's tough. Additionally, we have gear available for borrow/rent.

Volunteer Needs

Do you have an adventure partner that's not ready to commit or a family member coming to watch? Volunteering is a great way to support your own racer, help the adventure race community, and help me pull off the Raid!

Action items for racers

- Confirm lodging. Mention "RR" at Cowlitz River Lodge for discounts.

- If you need a wetsuit rental, email contact@cascadecanyonguides.com with your size.
- Let us know if you need assistance acquiring any gear
- Let us know if you have any technical skills questions

Thank you to Jason Magness, Darren Steinbach, Adam Neiffer, Andrew Jiménez, entire Cascade Canyon Guides, and Katie Meisner on staff for making this happen.

Questions? Email andrew.voss888@gmail.com, or text/call 954 649 5666.

See you at Packwood. Stay warm and train safe!

Andy Voss & Jason Magness
954.649.5666

