

Web of Water

Listening to the Rivers, Making the Connections

Web of Water is an outdoor adventure that uses a kayak expedition to promote an appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage as well as an understanding of the challenges we face with growth and change. Quietly and softly—much like our Native American ancestors—we travel the great Saluda River watershed from its source in the mountains of South Carolina to the mouth of Charleston Harbor. Throughout the trip down this important watershed we experience the connections of an interactive web of water involving plant, animal, and human systems. Stops along the way provide opportunities to bring contributors with historical and cultural knowledge into the adventure. The kayak expedition, led by Ian Sanchez, educator, naturalist, and executive director of Lowcountry Environmental Education Programs (LEEP), is an interactive teaching project that will directly engage school children, teachers, scientists, historians and folks who know the water and its stories as well as outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers.



As the trip moves down the river, public events along the way involve local communities in nature talks, kayaking demonstrations, and campfire discussions with expedition participants. There are also opportunities to participate in Web of Water webisodes, which are short teaching videos posted on SCETV's RiverVenture website. These webisodes allow a wider range of students to follow the expedition's progress in the classroom or at home. Designed in connection with science and social studies standards, the Web of Water journey takes students to places many would never experience. In addition to improving their test scores, the



documentary field trip aims to improve their understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural legacy in which they live. Through an interdisciplinary approach, students encounter South Carolina's amazing watershed as an ecology of a lived and living cultural heritage.

With future funding, Web of Water will become a documentary and interactive web-based package. A feature length documentary will be produced for broadcast and DVD distribution. In addition, documentary shorts will be prepared for interdisciplinary use in both science and social studies curricula.

The Route:

February 22 – March 17, 2008

Table Rock State Park
Pelzer
Greenwood State Park
Saluda
Lake Murray
Columbia Saluda Shoals Park
Congaree Park Creek
Lake Marion Santee State Park
Santee Wildlife Refuge
Eutawville
Sixteen Island/Church Island
Lake Moultrie
Santee Canal State Park
Mepkin Abbey/Rice Hope Plantation
Chicken Creek
Noisette Creek
Charleston Harbor



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