


### WHITEWATER BOATING

**Trip Lengths**

River trips may be of three lengths:

- White Haven to Rockport: 8.7 miles
- Rockport to Glen Onoko: 12.2 miles
- White Haven to Glen Onoko: 20.9 miles

The White Haven to Glen Onoko trip by raft may take from 10 to 12 hours at lower water levels. Be sure to allow enough time to complete your trip before dark.




### Whitewater Regulations and Safety

A major attraction of the park is whitewater boating. This section of the Lehigh River is Class III whitewater and is popular for rafting, kayaking, and canoeing. All boaters must enter and leave the Lehigh River at designated sites. River flow is controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Francis E. Walter Dam and by streams flowing into the river throughout the park. Flow rates from the dam and scheduled water release dates are available at the U.S. Geologic Survey website <https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov> or by calling the park at 272-808-6192.

**FLOW RATES:** At flows below 250 cubic feet per second (cfs), the river is very low and many parts are not deep enough for boating. From 250 to 1,000 cfs, the river becomes better for boating. Above 1,000 cfs, the level of difficulty becomes progressively greater and higher levels of skill and better equipment are necessary. At levels above 5,000 cfs, only expert boaters, in kayaks, closed canoes, or very large rafts should attempt the river.

**All boaters are required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device. Type I, III, or V vests designed for whitewater use.**

To protect the natural resources, the scenic beauty of the river, and its environment, the Bureau of State Parks has developed maximum commercial boating capacities on the Lehigh River and manages the number of boaters. Controls have been placed on the outfitters that provide commercial guided river trips. These controls are designed to cover the safety equipment, type of flotation devices used, and skill level of guides. Persons in canoes and kayaks should wear helmets and are required to add sufficient flotation to their watercraft for the displacement of water. Wetsuits or drysuits are recommended in the spring and the fall.



### REQUIRED VESTS

**Type I**

This PFD is designed for extended survival in rough, open water. It usually will turn an unconscious person face up and has over 22 pounds of buoyancy. This is the best PFD to keep you afloat in remote regions where rescue may be slow in coming.



**Type III**

These life jackets are generally considered the most comfortable, with styles for different boating activities and sports. They are for use in calm water where there is good chance of fast rescue since they will generally not turn an unconscious person face-up.



**Type V**

There are special use PFDs for many specific purposes. Only type V PFDs that are designed for whitewater are permitted for use in the park.



**Licensed Commercial Outfitters**

Inexperienced boaters should not attempt the Lehigh River without qualified guides. Outfitted trips are available from concessionaires that provide rafts, guides, all necessary safety equipment, and transportation to and from the river.

The following is a list of licensed, commercial outfitters currently operating on the Lehigh River.

- Jim Thorpe River Adventures**  
123 Lehigh Drive  
Lehigh, PA 18235  
800-424-7238  
[www.jtraft.com](http://www.jtraft.com)
- Pocono Whitewater**  
1519 State Route 903  
Jim Thorpe, PA 18229  
800-WHITEWATER  
[www.whitewaterrafting.com](http://www.whitewaterrafting.com)
- Whitewater Challengers Inc.**  
288 North Stagecoach Road  
Weatherly, PA 18255  
800-443-8554  
[www.whitewaterchallengers.com](http://www.whitewaterchallengers.com)
- Whitewater Rafting Adventures Inc.**  
1 Hunter Street  
Nesquehoning, PA 18240  
800-876-0285  
[www.adventurerafting.com](http://www.adventurerafting.com)

