



A Festival Celebration

Dragon Boat event coincides with bridge grand opening and Riverfront Nights

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For Immediate Release

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Chattanooga, TN - Bridge grand opening, dragon boat racing, and a Riverfront Nights evening to cap off lots of festivities translates into a great way to spend the first Saturday in August.

The Inaugural Chattanooga Dragon Boat Festival kicks off at Ross's Landing and races launch all day under the newly reconstructed Market Street Bridge August 4, 2007. Event organizers are excited about bringing the community together for this historic bridge opening and for an event that also highlights ancient cultural history.

"Dragon Boat racing dates back 2,300 years and is a sport for any generation," said Wendy Witsoe, Chattanooga Dragon Boat Festival Event Director. "With the festivities surrounding this event - the bridge opening and music afterward, the community gets one-stop, non-stop fun, with eclectic activities on and off the water. Add to it a fundraiser for the T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital Foundation and it's a great day to be in Chattanooga."

Race participants will find out why *Time* magazine calls dragon boating "the next big thing" and how they can make a difference in the community, get friends and co-workers together for a great team building experience, and enjoy a cultural festivity. The race is geared for teams of all skill levels. Most team members have never picked up a paddle before they begin pre-event practice sessions. This is a unique opportunity for companies and organizations to work together, play together and hopefully win together! The real winners are the beneficiaries of the event – the thousands of children treated annually at the T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital.

Dragon boat teams consist of 20 paddlers, one drummer to keep the beat of the stroke and one trained steersperson - provided by race management. Paddlers raise money for the T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital Foundation by setting \$100 in pledges as their minimum fundraising goal. There is a limited time to register. Corporate teams pay \$800; community/non-profit teams pay \$750. The fee includes use of boating equipment, plus two on-water practices with trained coaches prior to the race, as well as company announcements at the event and company name placement on the Web site.

To register your team, contact Wendy Witsoe at 865-207-0391. Visit www.racedragonboats.com.

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