

# 2020 New River Gorge Bridge Day Rappel Guidelines

## Bridge Day, Saturday, October 17, 2020

We hope that you will be able to join us this fall for the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Bridge Day. The following is the timeline, registration process, fees, and other important information. Thank you!

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>March 16 – April 24</b>	Teams register online at <a href="http://www.bridgedayrappel.com">www.bridgedayrappel.com</a>
	<b>May 1 – June 19</b>	Team members complete an online application
	<b>June 26, Friday</b>	Lottery Drawing for rappel anchors
	<b>September 1-18</b>	Last minute additions for individual registration Bottom pass registration available online
	<b>October 16, Friday</b>	Noon-6 pm Registering 7:30-9:30 pm Orientation at Memorial Building
	<b>October 17, Saturday</b>	9 am - 3 pm 41 <sup>st</sup> Bridge Day
<b>Fees</b>	<b>Team Fee</b>	\$257 Fourteen to eighteen members (14-18) \$275 Ten to twelve members (10-13) \$352 Seven to nine members (7-9) \$400 Four to six members (4-6)
	<b>Team Members Fee</b>	\$165 per person registering <b>May 1 - June 19</b> \$210 per person registering <b>September 1-18</b>
	<b>Bottom Pass</b>	\$110 per person registering <b>September 1-18</b>

There is an online booking fee for processing your registration.

### Team Application

1. Anyone wishing to have a Bridge Day Rappel team must register online March 16 – April 24 and pay the **non-refundable team fee** at [www.bridgedayrappel.com](http://www.bridgedayrappel.com).
2. Teams will be assigned a rappel site based on the lottery drawing on Friday, June 26. You do **not** have to be present to be selected.
3. 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 progression.
  - d. Responsible for paying the team fee when registering the team.



[www.bridgedayrappel.com](http://www.bridgedayrappel.com)  
[benjy@bridgewalk.com](mailto:benjy@bridgewalk.com)  
 304 574-1300 304 574-1037

## Individual (Team Member) Application

4. Individuals need to complete an online application May 1 through June 19 at [www.bridgedayrappel.com](http://www.bridgedayrappel.com).
5. Please legibly and with correct spelling complete the entire online application and pay the **non-refundable individual fee** at [www.bridgedayrappel.com](http://www.bridgedayrappel.com).
6. 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.
7. Team individual applicants **not** chosen to participate will have their money returned after the team lottery.

## Requirements

9. 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
10. Rappelling can be dangerous! Each rappeller should be experienced with long rappels.
11. Each applicant must have successfully completed a 250' free rappel.
12. 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.
13. 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, and others).
14. 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.
15. **You are required to check-in for the rappel registration on Friday, October 16.** Information and materials will be given to you at that time.
16. **You must be present at the Friday Orientation meeting or you will not be allowed to participate on Saturday.**

## Rules

17. Bridge Day rappelling is **not** a training session.
18. "Speed rappels" are **not** allowed! Establishing a time limit for a rappel is something we have never wanted to do. We have attempted to discourage speed rappels because we feel that as a group, the rappellers are showcasing something very special at Bridge Day. What you do and how you do it on your own time is totally up to you. What you do here at our sponsored event has guidelines. We do **not** want inexperienced people to come away from watching the Bridge Day Rappel with the idea that they can get on a rope and "fly!" Training, the right equipment, your group, and good judgment are paramount in what you do. As has been the rule, **"A speed rappel" will be determined by the safety team.** Doing a speed rappel or anything that is damaging to the event, the attendees, and/or yourself will **not** be tolerated. Your anchor can be closed and you and your team members will **not** be allowed to continue rappelling and/or ascending.
19. You must use a rack.
20. 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.
21. Helmets and gloves are required.

22. You may ascend on your team rope or on one of the designated ascent ropes provided by Extreme Rappels.
23. **All tandem rappels must be approved** at the Friday orientation.
24. Each team is **required** to have a team communications system.
25. All ropes will be rigged under the Bridge. Two independent anchors will be provided.
26. Each team must have a minimum 900 foot 7/16" static rope.
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. 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).
30. Do **not** run on the catwalk!
31. Smoking is **not** allowed on the catwalk.
32. **There will be no refund or credit extended if Bridge Day 2020 is cancelled for any reason.**
33. **Robert Barbarini is the Safety Officer for the 2020 New River Gorge Bridge Day Rappel.**
34. The Bridge Day Rappel Coordinator is Benjy Simpson. He and his son, Benjy Simpson III, will be overseeing Bridge Day 2020. Their decisions are final.

### Bottom Pass Application

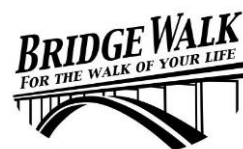
35. The National Park Service requires a permit for the rappellers and anyone who wishes to be beneath the New River Gorge Bridge on Bridge Day.
36. Anyone at the bottom (i.e., beneath the Bridge near the ropes) **not** rappelling must have a Bottom Pass. Please legibly and with correct spelling complete the Bottom Pass registration and pay the **non-refundable** bottom pass fee online at [www.bridgedayrappel.com](http://www.bridgedayrappel.com). Incomplete applications will **not** be accepted.
37. Individuals can complete the bottom pass application September 1-18.
38. The bottom pass gives you permission to be under the ropes beneath the Bridge and ride the bus shuttles. There is **no catwalk access**.
39. The Bridge Day Rappel badge must be visible at all times when under the Bridge.
40. The purpose(s) of the bottom pass include the following:
  - a. Monitoring the rope
  - b. Providing a bottom belay
  - c. Controlling the rope as needed (i.e., wind, weather, trains)
  - d. Photography
  - e. Sharing the moment.
41. **There will be no refund or credit extended if Bridge Day 2020 is cancelled for any reason.**

**There are no refunds.**

If you are unable to come, you **MAY** try to find someone to take your place.

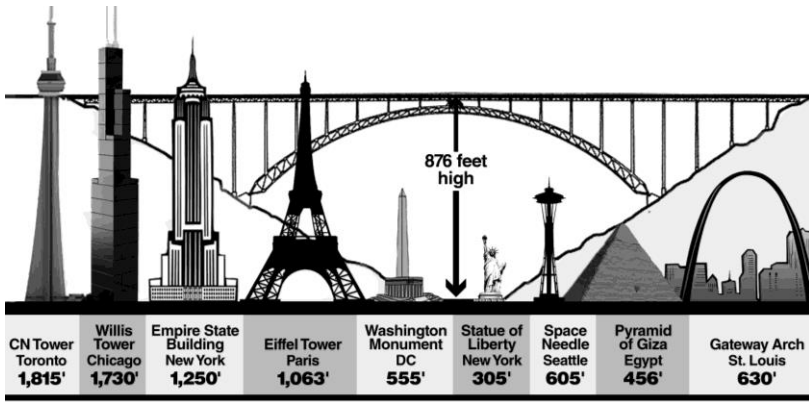
#### **Substitutions:**

- a. Individual must meet the requirements to rappel off the Bridge.
- b. Individual must be approved by the team leader.
- c. Individual must be approved by the team members.
- d. Individual must complete the rappel application.
- e. Individual must pay the person not coming.
- f. Individual and person **not** coming must notify Benjy Simpson of the change.
- g. Substitutions may be made through September 15.



# 1992-2019 Bridge Day™ Rappel Stats

Year	#	Rappel	Ascent	Male	Female	1st BDay	Age	Age	No Show	Team	State	Injury	HighLine	BWalk
							Mean	Range			Country			
1992	95	141	16	81	14	59	28	14-55	0	10	9	None		
1993	92	147	7	77	15	28	35	21-65	10	10	12	None		
1994	96	234	22	81	15	51	35	18-61	13	11	11	None	36	
1995	134	284	31	108	26	58	35	20-61	11	14	13	None		
1996	187	344	44	158	29	82	34	16-58	12	19	16	None		
1997	145	309	24	121	24	49	36	17-60	11	12	14	None		
1998	211	454	38	180	31	82	37	19-70	23	21	16	None		
1999	249	563	32	200	49	90	37	18-62	26	21	19	None		
2000	269	497	16	224	45	97	37	20-72	26	21	20	None		
2001		C	A	N	C	E	L	L	E	D		None	19	
2002	305	526	24	256	49	115	39	21-74	31	24	21	1	101	
2003	296	557	25	239	57	108	40	18-75	28	24	20	None	107	
2004	292	418	8	239	53	97	39	18-76	26	24	17	None	91	
2005	271	649	7	221	50	85	39	18-77	25	21	17	None	129	
2006	309	698	23	241	68	108	39	19-78	34	23	19	None	125	
2007	318	803	22	247	71	106	38	17-79	28	23	18	None	103	
2008	302	895	74	230	72	79	38	18-80	26	23	19	None	168	
2009	355	803	45	271	84	95	39	16-81	24	25	21	None	123	
2010	335	832	48	255	80	88	40	17-64	29	22	25	None	93	
2011	311	868	30	243	68	86	41	17-73	26	23	28	None	177	39
2012	301	752	31	226	75	55	39	18-67	31	22	22	None	148	104
2013	283	792	36	217	66	63	40	19-75	20	19	21	None	149	73
2014	290	988	42	226	64	100	41	18-69	30	25	25	None	151	121
2015	296	731	51	224	72	75	42	16-77	16	23	30	None	156	159
2016	314	925	47	226	88	75	42	17-78	24	24	26	None	118	123
2017	329	973	69	230	99	77	43	8-71	39	24	27	None	132	162
2018	334	977	65	236	98	78	42	15-72	34	25	22	2	132	98
2019	316	910	72	230	86	40	43	16-73	30	25	22	None	160	170
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,035</b>	<b>17,070</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>5,487</b>	<b>1,548</b>			<b>8-81</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>558</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>2,418</b>	<b>1,049</b>



Si Du River Bridge (World's Highest Bridge) China 1,550' | Royal Gorge Bridge Colorado 1,053' | Hoover Dam Bypass Bridge Nevada/Arizona 900'

- Longest single arch bridge in the Western Hemisphere
- 3rd longest single arch bridge in the world
- 2nd highest vehicle carrying bridge in the United States
- 5<sup>th</sup> highest vehicle carrying bridge in the world
- 3rd highest bridge in the United States
- 13th highest bridge in the world
- On the West Virginia State quarter
- On a United States postal stamp
- A national and international landmark in engineering
- Listed on National Register of Historic Places
- Bridge Day™ celebrated 3rd Saturday every October

