2021 New River Gorge Bridge Day Rappel Guidelines

Bridge Day, Saturday, October 16, 2021

We hope that you will be able to join us this fall for the 42nd Annual Bridge Day. The following is the timeline, registration process, fees, and other important information. Thank you!

Timeline	**June 1 – 19**	Teams register online at **www.bridgedayrappel.com**
	June 21 – July 10	Team members complete an online application
	June 30, Wednesday	Lottery Drawing for rappel anchors
	September 1-20	Last minute additions for individual registration Bottom pass registration available online
	October 15, Friday	Noon-6 pm Registering 7:30-9:30 pm Orientation at Memorial Building (Fayetteville)
	October 16, Saturday	9 am - 3 pm 42nd Bridge Day
Fees	**Team Fee**	$260 Fourteen to eighteen members (14-18) $275 Ten to thirteen members (10-13) $355 Seven to nine members (7-9) $400 Four to six members (4-6)
	Team Members Fee	$165 per person registering **June 21 – July 19** $210 per person registering **September 1-18**
	Bottom Pass	$110 per person registering **September 1-20**

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 June 1-19 and pay the **non-refundable team fee** at **www.bridgedayrappel.com**.
2. Teams will be assigned a rappel site based on the lottery drawing on Wednesday, June 30. 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.

Individual (Team Member) Application

4. Individuals need to complete an online application June 21 through July 19 at **www.bridgedayrappel.com.**
5. Please legibly and with correct spelling complete the entire online application and pay the **non-refundable inividual fee** at **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 15.** 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.

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. **Please inspect your 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 2021 is cancelled for any reason.**
33. **Robert Barbarini is the Safety Officer for the 2021 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 2021. Their decisions are final.

Bottom Pass

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**. Incomplete applications will **not** be accepted.
37. **Individuals can complete the bottom pass application September 1-20.**
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 2021 is cancelled for any reason.**
42. **There are no refunds** if you are unable to come. You **MAY** try to find someone to take your place.
    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 30.