Just Want to Watch the Mississippi River Challenge?

If you would like to see your friend or family member in action during the Mississippi River Challenge, here are a few great vantage points and times that we would recommend. The Night at the Fort festivities are also an excellent opportunity to socialize and show support for your paddler. Please do not attempt to meet with paddlers at any of our designated rest stops aside from Historic Fort Snelling.

Saturday:

Launch at Coon Rapids Dam, 9750 Egret Boulevard in Coon Rapids at 9:00 AM
Please note: this spectator point is on the opposite side of the river from where the paddlers put-in the water.

Plymouth Avenue Bridge in Minneapolis, from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Stone Arch Bridge and/or Lock & Dam #1 in Minneapolis, from 12:30 – 2:30 PM

Washington Avenue Pedestrian Bridge in Minneapolis, from 1:30 – 3:00 PM

Ford Parkway Bridge and/or Ford Lock & Dam in Saint Paul, from 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Historic Fort Snelling – Night at the Fort festivities begin at 6:00 PM
Please note: if you are interested in supporting your paddler at these festivities and you would like to partake in the meal, you will need to register at least one week in advance and pay the admission fee. Those not wishing to eat may pay the admission fee at the gate.

Sunday:

Launch at Fort Snelling State Park, at 8:00 AM
Please note: you will need a valid State Park Pass to drive into this area.

Wabasha Street Bridge in Saint Paul, from 9:15 – 10:30 AM

Grove Street Overlook Park, 2nd Ave & 10th St in Newport, from 12:00 – 2:00 PM

Paddlers are allowed to travel at their own pace, within the bounds of the lead and sweep boats, so the times listed above are only estimates. Communicating with your paddler is the best way to ensure that you will actually see them pass and have them hear your cheers.