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The New River features opportunities to stop and swim and enjoy water games.



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Calling Future River Rats; Kids Raft Free in Southern West Virginia

LANSING, W. Va., February 13, 2020 - Put a paddle in a child's when they're young, and you might see an improvement in their grades. Or more willingness to help with household chores. Or an enhanced relationship with their little sister. Better yet, you might just inspire your child to become a river rat.

Take it from [Adventures on the Gorge](#) (AOTG), Southern West Virginia's largest river rafting outfitter, which employs more river-loving guides and offers more guided rafting trips on the New and Gauley Rivers than any other outfitter in the region.

This year, Adventures on the Gorge is introducing [Kids Raft Free](#), for kids 11 and under with a paying adult.

Rafting brings families and friends together.



Adventures on the Gorge offers more than just rafting.

“Even a single rafting trip can help build self-esteem, teamwork and an appreciation for natural places,” said Roger Wilson, CEO of Adventures on the Gorge. “Screen-free time on the river is also a great way for family members to thoughtfully re-engage. I’ve observed siblings climb into the rafting bus bickering and sniping at each other and then happily trot off the bus after rafting to play cornhole together as if they’d been best friends all their lives.”

Wilson describes a river rat as someone who can never quite get his fill of river time, whether rafting or kayaking it, camping by it or simply watching its flows as the sun goes down. They are intensely protective of the rivers they love, and they tend to take offense if they observe disrespectful behavior like polluting its waters with trash.

“River rats are fun-loving conservationists and underlying all of that ‘woo-hooing’ you hear when a child is rafting, a foundation is being built for a lifelong dedication to preserving the health of a river.”

Best AOTG rafting trips for kids 11 and under

Adventures on the Gorge offers two rafting experiences for kids 11 and under:

[Upper New River Full-Day Whitewater Rafting](#) (minimum age six; adults \$109, children six-11 free; season begins May 2). With mostly Class I and Class II rapids and occasional bigger waves of a few Class IIIs, the Upper New River is an ideal river for first-time and beginning rafters who paddle the river in large rafts or small one- or two-person inflatable kayaks called duckies.

This full-day trip includes up to six hours of river time along with a hearty riverside lunch and a solemn guide guarantee that no rafter will ever go hungry.

[Glade Creek Canyon Full-Day Rafting and Hiking](#) (minimum age eight; adults \$139; season begins May 26). Another family favorite, this trip begins with a hike to a waterfall along Glade Creek on a path that winds through rhododendron thickets and Hemlock forests. After a swim in the pool below the waterfall, guests return for a picnic lunch and a half-day of rafting on the New River.

Other special deals for kids

In addition to the [Kids Raft Free](#) program, Adventures on the Gorge offers special deals for kids six and 12. Six-year-old kids can also be part of the “Almost Seven” special which means that along with a rafting trip on a river that is decidedly “almost heaven,” six-year-olds receive a personalized rafting certificate and an “Almost 7” T-shirt. Although 12-year-olds have obviously aged out of the Kids Raft Free program, they can raft half-price on Saturdays when accompanied by a paying adult.

Children as young as five can participate in a half- or full-day kids camp, with supervised playground time, arts and crafts, scavenger hunts, swim time in the Canyon Falls Swimming Pool and more. Parents with children with a range in ages will frequently choose the kids camp for the young ones while experiencing an adventure with a higher age minimum like [ziplining](#) (minimum age 10; adults \$79, children \$49.50; year-round), [rock climbing](#) (minimum age eight; adults \$79, children \$74; season begins April 1) and [TimberTrek](#), an aerial adventure park with seven obstacle courses (minimum age four; adults \$59 kids six - 12 \$34.50; open year-round).

More information about [Kids Raft Free](#) and other family friendly experiences at Adventures on the Gorge is available [online](#) and by calling 855-379-8738.

What to know about Adventures on the Gorge

Named one of the top six adventure resorts in the country by [U.S. News & World Report](#), Adventures on the Gorge is located on more than 250 acres along the rim of the majestic New River Gorge near Fayetteville, W.Va. The resort provides an array of outdoor experiences including whitewater rafting on the New and Gauley Rivers, aerial adventures, rock climbing, rappelling, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, fishing, mountain biking and hiking. There are also restaurants, bars and shops as well as a small-group conference center. Visitors can choose from a variety of [accommodations](#) and [vacation packages](#).

Travelers can find out more about Adventures on the Gorge [online](#), by calling 1-855-379-8738, or connecting on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Google+](#), [TripAdvisor](#), [YouTube](#), and [Vimeo](#) and signing up for AOTG [e-newsletter](#).

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