Welcome to the Weighted Lottery!

Use this website to select lottery applications for noncommercial Colorado River rafting permits:
1. Create and manage your user profile, which contains your contact information, points over the history, and all lottery applications you’ve submitted or are listed on.
2. Create and submit a lottery application for a noncommercial (private) river trip when a lottery is open.
3. For lottery application costs.

In addition, you may also use this website to:
- Opt-in receive notifications via email of upcoming lotteries.
- Make changes to your pending lottery application at any time before the lottery closes.
- Monitor the status of your pending lottery application and, if your payments were successful, verify Federal-Allen Trip Leaders (FATLs) have confirmed your RFL status, and double-check your lottery application.
- Find out whether or not your application was successful or unsuccessful.
- Fill out and submit your noncommercial (user) application, complete a trip participant list, and pay permit costs (if you’ve won a lottery draw).

For more information about the weighted lottery, visit www.rrfw.org or contact us at 928-959-9345 or 928-438-7842 (FAX only), MON-FRI, or 401-243-1993 (FAX only). www.rrfw.org

2020 Grand Canyon National Park Lottery Primer

prepared by
River Runners For Wilderness
www.rrfw.org
It all starts here
Let’s assume you have never set up a profile. Everyone wanting to play the lottery must have a profile. Click here.
Part 1 is to set up a username and password and your Date of birth and your Full Legal Name.
Part 2 of creating a profile wants your street address, telephone/email, river running history, and consent to get emails (DO THIS so you get notified about follow up lotteries!!)
Good job! Now you have a Profile... ...and are ready to choose lottery dates.
Not so fast... you must verify your DOB again
This is your main data page. Click here to choose dates...
Not so fast. Just checking on your last river trip...
This is a crowded page...

Let’s look at these details first...
Check these details out. 80% of lottery applicants do not use a PATL as doing so decreases your chances to win. This is a poison pill pitting chances to win against chances to make it to the put-in with a winning ticket.

- According to your profile, your last recreational river trip was February 2018. Launch dates won with inaccurate points will be revoked and fees paid to the National Park Service for that launch date will be forfeited.

- You can be listed on only ONE lottery application within a lottery. You can be either a trip leader or a Potential Alternate Trip Leader (PATL). Once you have been listed on one lottery application, you cannot be on any other application within that same lottery.

- You must be at least 18 years old on a chosen launch date, or the creation of the lottery application will fail.

- If your lottery application wins a launch date:
  - You will have to pay a trip deposit by Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 12pm MST. Deposit for a standard trip is $400, for a small trip it is $200. If you fail to pay, you will lose your launch date.
  - Your points will be reset to one, even if your trip is later cancelled.
  - You are required to have a qualified boat-operator on your river trip, a permit will not be issued without one.
OK, here is where you can choose 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 dates in the lottery. About 50% of “winners” get their $3^{rd}$, $4^{th}$ or $5^{th}$ choice so choose wisely…
This is the lottery Calendar... click here
Small dates are trips of 8 people or less and only launch in April through August.
Standard dates are trips of 16 people or less and launch year round. Commercial trip size is 32 by the by... and commercial trips operate from April 1 into October.
This screen pops up when you click on Standard Dates. You move it along here...

### Trip Dates

This lottery is for calendar year 2021 (NEXT YEAR) launch dates.

Please enter the date(s) of your trip in order of preference. You must choose at least one launch date; you may choose up to five launch dates. You can choose each date only once.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Date:</th>
<th>Standard - Jan 2021</th>
<th>Standard - Feb 2021</th>
<th>Standard - Mar 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Date:</td>
<td>Su      Mo       Tu   We   Th   Fr   Sa</td>
<td>Su       Mo       Tu   We   Th   Fr   Sa</td>
<td>Su       Mo       Tu   We   Th   Fr   Sa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Date:</td>
<td>1       2</td>
<td>1       2</td>
<td>1       2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Date:</td>
<td>3       4       5   6   7   8   9</td>
<td>7       8       9   10  11  12  13</td>
<td>7       8       9   10  11  12  13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Date:</td>
<td>10      11      12  13  14  15  16</td>
<td>14      15      16  17  18  19  20</td>
<td>14      15      16  17  18  19  20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17      18      19  20  21  22  23</td>
<td>21      22      23  24  25  26  27</td>
<td>21      22      23  24  25  26  27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24      25      26  27  28  29  30</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The grey dates are already taken by people on the old Waiting List. There are still over 1,000 of them waiting since the 1990’s...
When you click on a date, it shows as your first choice. Click the red X to change your mind.
Five dates chosen. Don’t forget you may win your 5\textsuperscript{th} choice... so choose wisely.
If your permit holder dies a month before your trip launches and no family members are on the trip, your trip will not be able to launch. Your $ will not be refunded. If you have a family member on the trip, they can take the trip over...

**Potential Alternate Trip Leader(s)**

A Potential Alternate Trip Leader (PATL) must have a profile in this system before they can be listed on your lottery application. To add a PATL, enter their **user name** below (NOT the PATL's legal name). The PATL must then log in under their profile and confirm their PATL status on your trip before the lottery closes. Your application can list as many PATLs as you want.

**PATL's user name from their river profile:**

[add PATL]

**Warning:** This lottery application is the only opportunity you have to list a PATL for this trip. By listing at least one PATL, you will be ensuring that your trip has a way to continue even if something comes up and you can't make it. See Noncommercial River Trip Regulations for clarification.
Can I add a PATL after the lottery closes and I win my launch date? 
The PATL requirement is that PATLs must be listed on the winning lottery application before the lottery closes and the launch date is won. The only exception to this rule is for direct family members of the original trip leader who have not been on the river in the same calendar year and are at least 18 years old at launch. “Direct family members” is defined here as legal spouses, children, parents, and siblings as well as legal spouses of these children, parents, and siblings. Permittees may request these direct family members be added as PATLs by the River Permits Office after a trip has been won and at least 1 week prior to trip launching provided:

1. The family member was not listed as a trip leader or confirmed PATL on any other application within the same lottery.

2. The family member’s lottery points would have been equal to or greater than the main applicant and all confirmed PATLs listed on the lottery application.
So... if your family members (18 years and older) are on the river trip you will automatically have PATL coverage... UNLESS they played the lottery...
The Lottery is weighted. If one does not participate in a river trip for five years, a lottery applicant receives 5 lottery points (MAX! 6 or more year stay-away folks only get 5 lottery points). It is designed to favor requests from those who have been unsuccessful. This is not an absolute mandate but “is designed to favor requests from those who have been unsuccessful.”

“The Weighted Lottery System is designed to meet the following objectives: 1) offer opportunities for new noncommercial users to succeed in obtaining a permit, 2) favor requests from those who have been unsuccessful in previous years, 3) minimize application process complexity, 4) preserve the group character of noncommercial trips (those who want to travel together), and 5) encourage people to apply for launches only in years when they are really interested in going.” Emphasis added, cite 2006 CRMP p 14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Confirmation Status</th>
<th>Standard Points</th>
<th>Bonus Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trip Leader</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Points (CONFIRMED ONLY)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Points (CONFIRMED and PENDING)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Application Points = 1

"Pending" PATLs do not contribute points to this application’s total chances in the lottery. Only "Confirmed" PATLs contribute points.

By submitting a noncommercial river lottery application, you are consenting to the use of your information as described in the Purpose and Uses section of the Privacy Act Statement below.
NOTE!! If your PATL has MORE points than you, your application has the least points. If your PATL has LESS points than you, your application has the least points.

Of course, there may be multiple persons (the trip leader and PATLs) listed on a lottery application. So how do we calculate the total weighting points for a lottery application as a whole? Simple: if no person listed on the lottery application has "bonus points" (see below), then the total weighting points for a lottery application is the minimum of all standard points held by the leader and all confirmed PATLs. So if the leader of a trip has five points, and there are two confirmed PATLs with three and four points respectively, the trip application will enter the lottery with three standard points, i.e., with three "tickets in the pot".

(CITE https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/upload/River_and_Weighted_Lottery_FAQs.pdf)
Some additional details about lottery fees, trip length and the use of motorized watercraft... and if you are on a winning application BUT DON’T GO, your points reset to 1.
This Warning Pops Up... SEE PATL discussion above...

**Warning:** This lottery application is the only opportunity you have to list a PATL for this trip. By listing at least one PATL, you will be ensuring that your trip has a way to continue even if something comes up and you can't make it. See Noncommercial River Trip Regulations for clarification.
Completed Application Looks Like This...
Pay Now Through pay.gov

IMPORTANT: Lottery application costs and river permit costs are nonrefundable.

Thank you, you are just a few short steps away from completing this payment using the Pay.gov service.

A balance of $25.00 is due. Please select the “Pay Now through Pay.gov” button below to pay.

IMPORTANT: When you are on the pay.gov payment page, scroll down the page to pay by credit card; pay.gov lists the debit card payment option at the top.

Pay Now through Pay.gov

Pay.gov is a web-based application allowing you to fill out and submit forms online as well as make online payments to government agencies by credit or debit card.

Pay Via Plastic Card (PC) (ex. American Express, Discover, Mastercard, VISA)

Required fields are indicated with a red asterisk *

Account Holder Name: *
Payment Amount: $25.00 *
Billing Address: *
Billing Address 2: *
City: *
State / Province: United States *
Zip / Postal Code: *
Country: United States *
Card Type: *
Card Number: *
Security Code: *
Expiry Date: *

Select the “Continue with Plastic Card Payment” button to continue to the next step in the Plastic Card Payment Process.

Note: Please avoid navigating the site using your browser’s Back Button – this may lead to incomplete data being transmitted and pages being loaded incorrectly. Please use the links provided whenever possible.
Payment confirmed. Last year, Grand Canyon took in $7,276 \times $25 = $181,900$ in the February 2019 Main Lottery application fees alone.
In 2019, 6,443 do-it-yourself river runners paid Grand Canyon National Park $100 each to raft Grand Canyon. That’s $644,300. Combine that with the Main Lottery application fees and the DIY river runner funds generated in 2019 exceeded $826,200.
So what happens when a permit system is set up to maximize revenue?

“Part of the wording of the National Park Service Organic Act, after preservation of course, is enjoyment. This is no longer enjoyable. This is a nightmare.”

Someguy, 2020
After paying almost a million dollars in river running fees last year to Grand Canyon National Park, *We the People* deserve a simpler and better lottery. A simple change is to allow anyone to apply to the lottery AND be listed as a Potential Alternate Trip Leader (PATL) on one other application. This would guarantee PATL use while allowing everyone to play the lottery. It is a win-Win.
If you agree, please send a handwritten note saying so to:
Superintendent
Grand Canyon National Park
PO Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ, 86023
and cc you congressional representatives as well.