

To the participants in the June 20 rafting event:

Welcome to this whitewater rafting experience! We are very excited to have you with us. For those of you who have no rafting experience, be prepared for an exhilarating time. For those who have done it before, I am sure you know how much fun it will be. Here is information that may help all of us:

The stay at our house –

- We understand that you will be bringing tents. There is a large space near the house where it would be easy to locate tents. Water, electricity, and a Porta-Potty can be available there. But we own 35 acres, and you are welcome to find tent sites wherever you think it would be comfortable. Our ground is rocky, so bring padding to place under the sleeping bags.
- We have a large covered deck where more than twenty people have slept before previous raft trips. You are welcome to sleep there, but it may be a little too cold for some of you – it is your decision.
- It would help us plan the weekend if we know of your expectations of arrival at our house, and when you will return home. My email address is marcyoder1@gmail.com
- It gets cold here after the sun goes down. Bring sweaters, sweat shirts, or jackets.
- Because people plan to be outdoors here, they should bring close-toed shoes — unless they want to live dangerously. We have lots of low-lying, sharp cacti here, and sandals or flip-flops don't give much protection.

The raft trip –

- We are using Arkansas River Tours (ART) as our rafting outfitters. It is located about a mile west of Cotopaxi on Highway 50. We will begin the rafting trip there, and raft the Big Horn Sheep Canyon.
<http://www.arkansasrivertours.com>

- We will go rafting — RAIN OR SHINE.
- What should you bring for rafting?
 1. Please bring clothing that dries easily. (I learned that jeans are not good the first time I rafted. Now I wear swim trunks and a quick drying shirt.)
 2. Shoes or water sandals are required, so bring shoes that can get wet. (No flip-flops.)
 3. Water proof sunscreen is a must.
 4. Some people wear sunglasses and hats.
 5. You may bring a water bottle. We will have bottled water available.
 6. If you want to take pictures — a waterproof camera.
 7. Each raft has a waterproof bag to hold personal items, and that bag also contains ART's windbreakers in case someone gets cold. (The water is around 54 degrees.)
 8. It depends on the air temperature as to whether wet suits are needed or not. ART rents them for \$10.
 9. It would be good to bring towels to dry off afterwards. You may want to take a shower at our house. We have lots of towels in case you forget.
- Each person will need to sign a waiver form. I have forms at the house.
- ART provides life vests and helmets. The guides will snug the vests for us.
- There will be a safety talk before we go out on the water.
- On the Bighorn Sheep full-day trip, we will stop for lunch at noon. ART provides the lunch as part of the trip. There are bathrooms at the lunch stop. For the Family Float, ART does not provide lunch.
- The Bighorn Sheep trip lasts until 3:00-3:30 depending on how fast the river is running. The Family Float is about 2 to 2 ½ hours long.
- A bus will transport us back to the headquarters. After we arrive, they will be trying to sell photos and a CD. Don't feel obligated to buy them!

Be ready for lots of fun!
Marc Yoder