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To sign up for a trip or find out more about the Outdoor Program, call 686-4365 or stop by the office, located near the loading docks in the basement of the EMU.

Chuck Solin of the Eugene Parks and Recreation Department says his classes in rafting are primarily educational.

"We don't offer just an experience on the river," Solin says. "We give people skills to do the activity on their own."

The first meeting includes a pool session, a classroom meeting, and a slideshow on environmental education prepared by the Outdoor Program.

For \$32 you can attend

the orientation and spend two days on the McKenzie. Participants must provide their own lunch. The program is strictly paddle rafting with the intention of getting maximum involvement from each class member. Solin can be contacted at 687-5329.

For individuals looking for a quick adrenaline fix — and who don't want to be bothered with attending meetings and classroom sessions — the best route is to contact a commercial outfitter.

Galand Haas, a University graduate in parks and recreation, heads Northwest Whitewater Excursions. Haas offers a one day paddle raft trip package

down the McKenzie for \$25. For \$10 extra you can travel effortlessly in a driftboat.

Thrillseekers challenging the McKenzie's 40-degree water will be provided transportation to the river, lunch, and about seven hours of floating fun. For more information on Northwest Whitewater Excursions, call 342-1222.

Kayaking is another river sport, although it demands a greater skill level than rafting. River guides stress that no one should attempt to kayak without some instruction.

Cascade Outfitters in Springfield (747-2272), the Eugene Parks and Recreation Department, and the Outdoor Program all have

different programs aimed at the potential kayaker.

If you have your own raft or kayak, there are cheaper whitewater alternatives, including a float from Island Park in Springfield to Alton Baker Park in Eugene.

But don't be lulled into complacency by the quietness of the Willamette River, which claims at least one life annually from among the ranks of the rafters, tubers and swimmers passing through the spillways directly northeast of Eugene and the rapids underneath the various footbridges that span the river.

For safety's sake, stay to the far right of the spillways, avoiding them

completely.

Also, keep in mind that numerous stolen bicycles lie across the floor of the Willamette underneath the footbridge, and that they pose a potential hazard for swimmers and rafters tossed out of their craft.

A trip from Island Park to Alton Baker Park takes approximately three hours. If you're in doubt about the distance, the Willamette River Mileage Guide is available for free from the Eugene Parks and Recreation Department.

If you're going to be whitewater rafting this spring or summer, wear a life jacket and go with someone experienced.



The University Outdoor Program offers a raft co-op service that helps rafting enthusiasts get together to indulge in whitewater rafting.