



## News Release

For Immediate Release

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### Dragon Boats are Coming to Springfield

Springfield, MA. (06/06/13) — Individuals and teams from Springfield, and the surrounding northeast region will converge on July 20th at the Connecticut River Walk for the inaugural Springfield Dragon Boat Races. With the assistance of the Greater Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau (GSCVB) and the Western MA Sports Commission, a newly-established division of the GSCVB, High Five Dragon Boat is beginning their strategic effort to create and recruit teams to participate in this one-of-a-kind event.

Dragon Boat Racing is great fun for anyone, young or old. This local event will attract primarily co-ed teams from corporations, public service groups, small businesses, high schools, colleges and universities. It is also expected that a handful of dragon boat "club" teams will travel to Springfield for the weekend to participate from Boston, Hartford, Burlington and throughout New York. There are now over 70 communities hosting Dragon Boat Festivals in the U.S. alone, and over 60 million participants worldwide.

Entering your own dragon boat team in the races is easy! Paddles, life vests, boats, and steerspersons will be provided as well as a one training session in advance of the event. Each team just has to provide 20 paddlers, a minimum of 8 must be female, and a drummer. On race day each team will race in three heats on a 400m course.

If you're interested in entering your own Dragon Boat team, visit [www.springfielddragonboat.com](http://www.springfielddragonboat.com) for details on how, or contact High Five Dragon Boat at 813.426.3544.

The GSCVB, an affiliate of the Economic Development Council of Western MA, is a private non-profit destination marketing organization that generates economic growth for Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley by marketing the region as an ideal destination for meetings and conventions, group tours and leisure travel. For more information about the GSCVB and the region, visit [www.valleyvisitor.com](http://www.valleyvisitor.com).

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