



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RIVERKEEPER ALLIANCE AND HIGH FIVE SEEK LOCAL TEAMS FOR THE DRAGON BOAT RACES SET FOR THIS YEAR'S CRYSTAL COAST PADDLE FESTIVAL

SWANSBORO, NC – The White Oak-New Riverkeeper Alliance has partnered with High Five Dragon Boat, LLC to bring a new and exciting event to Swansboro! Together they are seeking local teams from Onslow County to compete in the fun dragon boat races to be showcased at the Crystal Coast Paddle Festival the weekend of September 7 and 8. The festivities will be held at Hammocks Beach State Park in Swansboro.

High Five provides registered teams with boats, paddles, life vests, a steersperson, and training prior to the event. Training includes practicing the proper paddling techniques and racing etiquette. Each dragon boat is 30-feet in length and coed teams consist of 10 paddlers with a minimum of 4 being female, plus a drummer (no experience necessary!). Participants must be 14-years of age or older. The fun event involves three race heats during the day on a 250-meter course. Participants can enjoy the Paddle Festival activities between the various heats.

"This is a great way for local businesses and other organizations to promote team-building while promoting their brand," explained Christine Canevari with High Five. "We already have early interest from the area and our goal is to also attract participants from the surrounding counties." The event is being supported by local agencies including the [Swansboro Tourism Development Authority](#) and the [Jacksonville-Onslow Sports Commission](#).

Dragon boat racing is popular worldwide with hundreds of events each year throughout the U.S. and many other nations. Most participants race for fun, but there are also highly-competitive club level teams. The world championship was held in Tampa in 2011. Registration information is available at www.swansborodragonboat.com along with helpful guidelines.

About White Oak-New Riverkeeper Alliance

The White Oak-New Riverkeeper Alliance was founded in 2008 to meet the strong need for a program that would restore and protect our local rivers. We need informed, engaged citizens to stem the tide of actions which continue to threaten fisheries, recreation and our health. Independent, accurate monitoring, educating, and enforcing existing regulations will provide citizens and policy makers the facts needed to keep our public waters healthy. We want to reestablish a full time Riverkeeper to help us all have healthier water and a healthier community. Join the Dragon boat fun and help to make our water cleaner! www.wonriverkeeper.org



About Swansboro

Situated along the White Oak River, Swansboro is the perfect place to enjoy a view, history and outdoor activity. Visitors can take a walk through historic downtown Swansboro for shopping, dining, historic houses, fishing piers, marinas and a great sunset. Swansboro is also home to Hammocks Beach State Park which allows guests to take a ferry over to Bear Island for a picnic and beach play, as well as, kayak and canoe trails. The "Friendly City by the Sea" has the 2012 Connie Award and Circle of Excellence Award winning Hampton Inn and Suites for your lodging needs. All of this is just the start to what Onslow County showcases to visitors. From the beaches of North Topsail to the history of Richlands to the Marine Corps Bases and City life of Jacksonville – Onslow County has something for everyone. Visit www.OnlyInOnslow.com for more information about the area.

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