



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Volunteers Needed for Ijams River Rescue March 21

(KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, 2/23/2026) – Volunteer and make your community a cleaner, healthier place to live, work, and play during the 37th annual Ijams River Rescue on Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A severe weather date is set for Saturday, March 28.

Ijams Nature Center’s annual cleanup event brings together hundreds of individuals, families, Scout troops, businesses, and church groups to remove tons of trash and tires from sites along the Tennessee River, creeks, and streams.

“Ijams’ goal is to fill about 500 volunteer slots at 36 sites in Knox, Anderson, and Blount counties,” Volunteer Manager Brandy Cox said. “If you’re looking for a fun way to get outdoors and make a positive difference in your community, grab some friends and join us!”

Last year’s 518 volunteers removed an estimated 17.2 tons of trash, 100 tires, large household appliances, and car parts from 34 sites along area waterways.

Potential volunteers can learn more and sign up for a cleanup site at [Ijams.org/ijams-river-rescue](https://ijams.org/ijams-river-rescue). Slots fill on a first-come, first-served basis, and typically book quickly. The deadline to register is March 15, or until all slots have been filled.

Site captains will be stationed at each site. Bags, gloves, and other supplies will be provided.

Volunteers will receive a free t-shirt featuring a frog that is passionate about clean water. It was designed by Stephen Lyn Bales.

The 37th annual Ijams River Rescue is made possible by City of Knoxville Stormwater Engineering, Dow, First Horizon Bank, Borderland Tees, Brunswick Boat Group, Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Vulcan Materials Company, Old Sevier District, Tailwater Properties, and Tennessee Valley Authority. Additional partners for this year’s event include the City of Knoxville, Knox County, Keep Blount Beautiful, Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful, and Little River Watershed Association.

Ijams Nature Center is a 320-acre nonprofit educational center in the heart of Knoxville and serves visitors of all ages, stages, and abilities. Its mission is to encourage stewardship of the natural world by providing an urban greenspace for people to learn about and enjoy the outdoors through engaging experiences. Ijams features 14 miles of hiking and mixed-use trails, a public access river dock, swimming, boating, biking, and so much more. Hundreds of world-class educational programs and events are coordinated and offered annually. Ijams’ grounds and trails are open every day from 8:00 AM until dusk. For more information, visit [Ijams.org](https://ijams.org) or call 865-577-4717.

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