



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ijams River Rescue Needs Volunteer Site Captains for Annual Cleanup April 15

Ijams Nature Center is looking for volunteer site captains for its 34th annual Ijams River Rescue on Saturday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This one-day cleanup annually brings together 500-800 volunteers to remove between 10-40 tons of trash from the Tennessee River's shorelines and tributary creeks.

"In 2022, 557 volunteers safely removed more than 21 tons of garbage from 44 sites," Ijams Development Director Cindy Hassil said. "This year's goal is to tackle 40 sites in Knox, Anderson, Blount and Loudon counties, so that will require about 80 site captains because we'd like to have two co-captains at each site."

A site captain's duties range from checking in volunteers and going over safety procedures to completing a brief cleanup report. There are one to two site captains at each location. These volunteers receive training prior to the event.

The Ijams River Rescue is held rain or shine, but if severe weather is predicted for April 15, the event will move to April 22.

The deadline to sign up to be a site captain is Feb. 15. To sign up, email Hassil at chassil@ijams.org.

A general call for cleanup volunteers will go out in March.

Sponsors to date include Tennessee Valley Authority, City of Knoxville Stormwater Engineering, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Vulcan Materials Company, Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union, Waste Connections of Tennessee, and Thompson Engineering. The deadline to be a sponsor is Feb. 15.

Ijams Nature Center is a nonprofit, 318-acre educational nature center for all ages, abilities and walks of life. Ijams' 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. Located just three miles from downtown Knoxville, Ijams features 12+ miles of hiking and mixed-use trails, a public access river dock, swimming, boating, biking and more. The center offers hundreds of educational programs annually for all ages. The Ijams grounds and trails are open every day from 8 a.m. until dusk. The Visitor Center is open daily from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, visit ijams.org.

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