

Know Before You Go - Stotesbury Cup Regatta (Spectators)

Thursday, May 14, 2026 - Saturday, May 16, 2026

Dear Stotesbury team,

The Stotesbury Cup is one of the largest high school regattas in the country, and it's an exciting (and very busy!) couple of days on the Schuylkill. We're looking forward to a great experience for our athletes and families. As with any big event, logistics can shift and things may not always go exactly as planned – so we appreciate everyone's flexibility, patience, and good humor. Most importantly, this is a chance to support our rowers, make memories, and enjoy the journey together.

This guide is intended for **Woodson parents and spectators** to help navigate team-specific logistics (tent, food, transportation, etc.).

This is not a substitute for the official regatta information. Please review the official website for the most up-to-date details on parking, schedules, and event operations: <https://stotesburycupregatta.com/>

One recurring theme for the weekend: **keep an eye on Slack**. Unlike Sandy Run, cell service is actually reliable at Stotes, so we should be able to communicate in real time.

A Few Things About Stotes

Stotesbury is big. Really big. That means a few things for everyone:

There is **no easy parking near the racecourse**, and most spectators will need to park up on the plateau and either take a shuttle or walk down. The walk is about half a mile and not bad going down... just remember you have to come back up later.

Use this address for your GPS to get to the upper parking lots: 3800 Mt. Pleasant Dr., Philadelphia, 19121. While this is not exact, it will get you in the general direction, after which you can follow signs or be directed by those managing parking.

Shuttles run every 15-20 minutes, and there are a few different ways to get to the venue, but no matter what you choose, plan for it to take longer than you think. If you're trying to catch a specific race, give yourself a buffer.

The course itself is 1500 meters along Kelly Drive. The finish line (near the grandstands and Kelly Statue) is the best place to watch races, but you can also walk along the river and follow the action. It's a great venue—but you will get your steps in.

Also worth noting: bring comfortable shoes (this is not optional advice), hat, sunscreen, and a chair if you want/need one. Seating provided by us in the tent is reserved for athletes - they deserve a comfortable spot.

We sign onto a green pledge, which means minimal use of single use plastics and our pledge to ensure nothing ends up in the river. Well-behaved dogs are welcome, but must be kept on a leash at all times.

Our Team Setup (applies all days)

Our team tent will be located along Kelly Drive. Once we have the exact location, we'll drop a pin in Slack along with the tent number (they're all numbered). This will be our home base for the weekend.

This is where athletes will come to eat, grab drinks and snacks (RAFT items), and regroup between races. It's also where parents tend to gather throughout the day.

We will be providing food for athletes, coaches, and anyone who has purchased a pass in advance. For those who prefer other options, Stotesbury Village has plenty of food vendors.

Running the tent takes a group effort. We'll need help with setup, cooking, keeping things stocked, and packing everything up at the end of the day. There's no complicated system—just jump in where needed. If you see something that needs doing, it probably does.

Athletes eat on their race schedule, not ours. Some will want food early, some late, and some will only grab something small before racing. We keep things available and flexible throughout the day.

Hotels (applies all days)

Athletes will be staying at:

Residence Inn, 3701 Island Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19153

Parents will be staying at:

SpringHill Suites, Ridley Park, 201 Industrial Hwy, Ridley Park, PA 19078

Please use the following address in GPS and internet mapping systems: 598 West Sellers Avenue, Ridley Park, PA 19078

The athlete hotel is all-suite, which means we typically have four kids per room. In some cases, rooms may only have a king bed due to availability, so if your child prefers not to share a bed, please consider sending a small air mattress or sleeping bag. This helps us manage room assignments while keeping everyone comfortable.

Thursday - Travel, Practice & Hotel

Athletes will leave Woodson High School at approximately 10:15 AM. All athletes should report to school as usual, attend the first period, and then head to the loading point for departure. **Kids will load the bus at Door #3 near “the rock”.** Field trip forms will be submitted by the team, so you do not need to call the school to report your athlete absent—it should happen automatically. If you do happen to get one of those “your child is absent” calls (it’s happened to plenty of us), don’t panic—just let them know they’re on the Stotesbury field trip.

We’ll be traveling with two mini-buses along with coaches and parent chaperones. Unlike prior years, there are no bathrooms on the bus since this is a mini-bus. The bus will stop once at a rest stop area before proceeding to Philadelphia and the same applies on the way back. Once in Philadelphia, the team will go straight to the river, unload boats, and get a practice in.

After practice, athletes will head to **their** hotel, have dinner, and (in theory) get to bed early. Room checks will be done by coaches to make sure everyone is where they should be.

Parents who are helping unload the chuckwagon should plan to be at the tent at the assigned time. Otherwise, you can make your way to the hotel at your convenience.

Thursday lunch - kids will need to pack lunch for the bus ride. Dinner will be provided for athletes at the hotel.

That evening, athletes will be told what time they need to be ready the next morning. All athlete instructions come **ONLY** from the coaches.

Friday - Racing Begins & Tent in Action

Friday is when things really get going. With time trials and early rounds, the schedule can feel a bit scattered, and athletes will head to the course at different times depending on when they race.

The tent will be up and running all day. This is our first full day of feeding athletes on-site, and it tends to be a steady flow of activity.

Lunch mains will be burgers and hot dogs off the grill—simple, quick, filling, and exactly what’s needed. Throughout the day, we’ll also have lots of fuel for the kids; fruit, snacks, water, and drinks available.

Parents helping out can jump in with grilling, serving, restocking, or just keeping things moving. There’s always something to do, and extra hands make everything smoother.

Saturday - Finals, Brunch & Heading Home

Saturday follows a similar rhythm, but with higher stakes as we move into semifinals and finals.

We’ll head back to the course in the morning, and (hopefully) still have plenty of crews racing throughout the day.

Food at the tent shifts to more of a brunch setup—French toast, sausage, ham sliders, grilled cheese, and potatoes—along with the usual snacks, fruit, and drinks throughout the day.

As racing wraps up, we’ll begin breaking everything down, loading equipment back onto the chuckwagon, and preparing for the trip home. Any help with breakdown is very appreciated—by that point, everyone is a little tired, so more hands really help.

Athletes will be sent with a sandwich and any leftover RAFT items for the bus ride home, so they will have something to eat on the way back.

The team will depart once everything is packed and racing is complete. Arrival time back at Woodson (near “the rock”) will depend on how the day unfolds. Pick up is at Woodson, please keep an eye on slack for ETA and also so you can grab your athletes right away - they will be tired and cranky.

Those helping out with unloading the chuckwagon, please proceed to the designated place on the SUG, so we can quickly unload perishables and figure out where they can be recycled.

Final Notes

Bring a chair if you want one, wear comfortable shoes (again, can’t stress this enough), and plan for a lot of walking.

Dress for the weather, and have a backup plan with extra layers. This is not the weekend for anything nice—conditions are often muddy, and by the end of the day most shoes and pants have seen better days.

Keep an eye on Slack for updates, especially for the tent location, race results, schedule changes and pick up times.

Most importantly, enjoy the weekend. It's a big event, a lot of fun, and a great opportunity to support our athletes.

Good luck to all our teams – Pull for Woodson!!