



FILE

The first-ever "Float and Boat Parade," scheduled for Saturday at Cane Creek Landing, will be the start of what the Oconee Young Professionals group hopes is an annual, family-friendly event that takes advantage of one of the county's biggest assets — Lake Keowee.

# Oconee Young Professionals to host aquatic parade

BY CAITLIN HERRINGTON  
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SENECA — With sunshine in the weekend forecast, Oconee Young Professionals organizers are spreading the invitation to the first-ever "Float and Boat Parade" far and wide.

The family-friendly event isn't limited to young professionals by any means, organizer Jocelyn Plum said.

"We want it to be a parade like you would do a Christmas parade," she said. "People are going to be dressing up — we've got Wonder Woman, pirates, Vikings — and having a great time. Bring your parents, bring the kids, bring whoever. It's going to be a fun day."

The parade will start around 1 p.m. at Cane Creek Boat landing

and glide across Lake Keowee to island IC, where the boats will anchor for some live music and giveaways. Plum hopes all those in attendance take time to relax and enjoy a little bit of professional networking in a laid-back atmosphere.

"We just want to have a big networking event just so everybody understands about OYP and gets involved, but that's not the whole point," she said. "We want this to be a fun, free community event that we get to host every year."

Fellow organizer Reah Smith said all types of watercraft are invited to the parade.

"We're welcoming motorized, non-motorized and individual entries into the parade," she said. "So kind of think about it like your old high school home-

coming parade, where you're building a float and it's all about having a good time."

Plum said there will be free food from 313 Café, giveaways from event sponsors and an all-around good time.

"There's no set order for the parade, but we'll go across and then just hang out, listen to music and do some giveaways," she said. "There's a contest for best costume for person, best boat and the best non-motorized watercraft. Bring snacks if you want and whatever to cool you down."

She recommends floats for hanging out in the water, sunscreen and possibly chairs for the beach if it's not too crowded.

So far the parade is set to include Wonder Woman and her visible jet ... boat, a few pirates

and possibly some Vikings. Smith said any themed ideas for boats and costumes are likely to get high praise in the contest and mentioned mermaids, "Gilligan's Island" and even Tom Hanks and Wilson from the film "Castaway."

"Decorate your vessel, decorate yourself," she said. "If you're an individual without a boat, come in costume and we'll ferry you over to the island."

Both advised RSVPing on the Facebook event so they know how many people to plan for.

The café is providing snacks for 100 people, and Oconee Young Professionals will have cold water on hand for those who stay longer than anticipated and need to cool off.

B.J. Callahan, the executive director of the Westminster

Music Center, and Eli Edwards will be providing the live music for the day. Plum said Edwards planned to do some acoustic entertainment so the weather won't impact his plans too much.

"It's rain or shine," Smith said. "Stay tuned to the weather and come anyway."

The best option for arrival is to arrive by water at Cane Creek Landing, located at the end of Cane Creek Landing Road in Seneca, according to Plum.

"The last resort would be to come in at Cane Creek Landing," she said. "But it doesn't really matter to us how people get there, as long as they show up and have a good time."

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