



Tuolumne River Trust seeks paddlers to go the distance with Paddle to the Sea!
(All are welcome to apply, regardless of paddling experience)

Are you an experienced river guide ready to take it to the next level? A passionate environmentalist who hasn't ever really boated before? Someone who drinks water from the Tuolumne River every day (Bay Area residents, this means you) and wants to give something back? The Tuolumne River Trust is looking for dedicated river lovers to become "Principal Paddlers" on an epic expedition from the Sierra to the Golden Gate, raising money and awareness to protect the River.

The fourth annual *Paddle to the Sea* is being organized for June 1- June 30, 2012. Paddle to the Sea is an approximately 4 week journey down the Tuolumne River and the American River encompassing several different kinds of paddling, including whitewater rafting, kayaking, canoeing, and sea kayaking. Last year, the event included more than 250 paddlers and we were joined by over a thousand people at riverside events along the way. Most paddlers just paddle for a day or two of the trip, but each year we seek a couple of intrepid souls to make the entire journey from the Sierra to the Sea. There are two options for people looking to complete an entire Paddle to the Sea – they can either start on the Tuolumne River or on the American River. The two teams will meet up in the Delta and continue on together to San Francisco Bay.

Note: there are some breaks in the schedule – we don't paddle every single day. All legs of the trip will involve a professional guide and even beginning paddlers are welcome to apply for the chance to make the entire trip. Certain legs are more physically demanding than others, but we have had novice paddlers with a general level of physical fitness apply and be successful.

The Wild & Scenic Tuolumne River runs through many terrains and many communities as it courses from the Sierra to the Sea. *Paddle to the Sea* is designed to engage the communities that love and rely upon these magnificent Rivers in their protection and restoration. As a principal paddler, you will not only help to protect the River, but you will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get to know the length of a river from the headwaters to the ocean. As Brian Coggan, one of our paddlers from 2010, put it, "Paddling an entire river is like really getting to know a person, rather than just talking to them for a couple of minutes."

Opportunities and Responsibilities

- Paddlers who are chosen to make the entire trip will see first-hand how people and wildlife depend on the River, they will learn about the challenges it faces, and they will gain valuable knowledge and insight into river ecology and California water issues in general.
- These paddlers are likely to be asked to act as spokespeople for *Paddle to the Sea* at events and for the media.
- Those interested in river issues will be trained and invited to participate in the educational portions of the trip as guest teachers and educators for the public participants.
- Those with previous river guiding experience may be given the opportunity to co-lead certain legs of the trip.

Paddle to the Sea is a paddle-a-thon fundraiser that raises awareness about the Tuolumne River and also raises funds to help protect it. Paddlers chosen to make the entire trip (on either the Tuolumne or the American) are expected to

participate in the fundraiser and are asked to set a minimum goal of \$1000. Staff support is available to assist you with all aspects of the fundraiser. Principal Paddlers will have all fees and equipment costs associated with the trip waived.

Depending on your interests and level of availability, Principal Paddlers are also welcome and encouraged to become part of the Paddle to the Sea organizing team. If so desired, this can be turned into an internship which may allow for college credit. Contact Paddle to the Sea Director Jessie Raeder at jessie@tuolumne.org if you are interested in learning more about this possibility.

All are welcome to apply to become Principle Paddlers and join the Trust for all of *Paddle to the Sea!*

The following qualifications are especially desirable:

1. A positive can-do attitude
2. Enjoy working with people from different backgrounds.
3. An interest in rivers, outdoor recreation and an environmental ethic.
4. Experience with canoeing and kayaking.
5. Current first aid and CPR certification.
6. Experience in river guiding.
7. Fluency in Spanish.

Women and people of color are especially encouraged to apply!

To apply, please send a resume and a one page letter describing why you are interested in becoming a Principal Paddler, what qualities, contributions, or perspectives you think you could bring to the trip, and any concerns or challenges you see regarding becoming a Principal Paddler. Please specify whether you are interested in being a Principal Paddler starting on the Tuolumne River or the American River (both groups will be together at the end of the trip). You may send your application by email with the heading "Paddle to the Sea Principal Paddler" to Jessie Raeder at jessie@tuolumne.org. You can also mail it to: Tuolumne River Trust/Attn: Paddle to the Sea, 111 New Montgomery Street, Suite 205, San Francisco, CA 94105. If you have questions before sending in your application, you are also welcome to call Jessie at 415-882-7252 ext. 301. After reviewing your written application, you will be invited for an in-person or phone interview with the Tuolumne River Trust's Paddle to the Sea Director and Recreational Outreach Coordinator.

Paddle to the Sea Background

Paddle to the Sea 2012 is a 4-week paddle-a-thon from the Sierra to the Golden Gate celebrating and fostering better stewardship of the Tuolumne River by vividly demonstrating our shared dependence on this limited resource. Last year Paddle to the Sea directly involved over 1,400 people. We will reach many more through media coverage generated by the event. Ultimately, Paddle to the Sea will educate and involve thousands of people in our effort to protect and restore the Tuolumne River. This year, for the first time we are adding the American River to Paddle to the Sea, in an effort to allow even more people to participate in the journey.

The Tuolumne is a Wild & Scenic river and the lifeblood of communities from the Sierra to the Sea. It connects the fly fisher in Yosemite, to the farmer in Modesto, to the thirsty family in San Francisco, to the salmon fisherman in the Pacific. We depend on this river to grow our food, provide clean drinking water to 2.5 million people in the Bay Area, and power our homes and businesses.

Our reliance on the Tuolumne also comes at a price as dams, water diversions, and developments have taken their toll on the River. The Salmon population has plummeted from tens of thousands to just a few hundred, the Lower Tuolumne no longer meets Clean Water Act standards, and the recreational value of the River has diminished. Paddle to the Sea 2011 will build public support that is critical to reversing these trends.

The Tuolumne River Trust

The Tuolumne River Trust (TRT) is the voice for the river; ensuring that it is healthy, vibrant, and teeming with fish and wildlife for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. Founded in 1981, the Trust won Wild and Scenic designation for 83 miles of the Tuolumne in 1984, saved the Clavey from being dammed in 1994, and won higher flows for salmon in the Lower River in 1995. In 2008, we organized thousands of citizens to defeat a plan by San Francisco to divert an additional 25 million gallons of water per day from the River. TRT has 12 staff based in Sonora, Modesto, and San Francisco. For more about TRT visit www.tuolumne.org