



Heading to the finish line. With upside down paddles.



Filling up the bucket with water would be easier if the helmets did not have holes.

For Immediate Release
Photos Available

Echo Canyon River Expeditions Offers “Battle of the Bighorn” Teambuilding Program

CANON CITY, Colo., Feb. 21, 2018 - Cañon City’s [Echo Canyon River Expeditions](#) has developed the “Battle of the Bighorn” package that combines physical and mental challenges in a competitive and fun format that brings groups closer together. It is a perfect afternoon activity for corporate team building groups, wedding parties, family reunions, sports teams and other groups and clubs.

“Businesses looking to get their employees working together and heading in the same direction may want to consider a teambuilding trip on the Arkansas River that requires, well, working together and heading in the same direction,” said Andy Neinas, owner of Echo Canyon River Expeditions.



Eating a popsicle as quickly as possible is not as fun as it sounds.



Team members are always smiling after completing the Battle of the Bighorn.

Echo Canyon is among the oldest and largest tourism companies on Colorado's Arkansas River and the resort offers a variety of rafting adventures and an array of accommodations including new luxury [Royal Gorge Cabins](#) and glamping tents completed in 2017. The resort also offers a full-service restaurant, bar and event space. The resort is a convenient home base for exploring regional adventures such as the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park and Royal Gorge Route Railroad.

"We are proud of the Battle of the Bighorn and put a lot of thought into developing it," said Neinas. "Participants realize fairly quickly that this is much more than a race with time penalties that make the competition a cerebral as much as a physical exercise. In fact, I am still waiting for the day when the first team across the finish line is the overall winner."

Although navigating Class III-IV rapids through Bighorn Sheep Canyon might be the most exciting part of the teambuilding exercise, there is much more.

Some of the components of the program include:

- At the starting point for the Battle of the Bighorn, teams take on four challenges before they ever get on the river, including tossing a rock into a bucket to gain a 60-second head start on the race and manually inflating their raft.
- Teams must retrieve a watermelon thrown from the Five Points overlook and carry it all the way to the finish line.
- Water Shuttle requires two members of each team to disembark from the raft, fill their team bucket with water from the river and carry it through the parking area and down to the next beach. They must also carry their team's watermelon and rejoin their boat on the second beach.
- The Elddap ("Paddle" spelled backwards) challenge requires teams to paddle backwards through Double Dip rapid to Whale Tail rock, a distance of about ¼ mile.
- During the Helmet Brigade boaters use their helmets to fill their team's bucket to the top with water from the river. The catch is helmets are vented with large holes.
- Although the finish line is finally in sight teams must turn their paddles over and use only the T-grip portion as they paddle to the beach. The Battle of the Bighorn is available in the afternoon from May through September depending on water levels.

The base price is \$600 to launch a private Battle of the Bighorn. In addition, the cost is \$77 per person. At least three teams are required with five to seven participants per team depending on water level. The maximum for this event is 10 teams. Time of year will dictate the need for wetsuits which are available at an additional cost. Prize package, post-race catered party, and photo/video packages are not included in the prices.

Prize packages are also available. The first-place prize for each team member includes 18-inch wooden paddles with "Billy" the Bighorn laser engraved on one side and the map of Bighorn Sheep Canyon the other side. Second-place finishers receive \$25 Echo Canyon gift cards while third-place finishers take home Echo Canyon Nalgene water bottles with bottle belt and Echo Canyon carabiner. The "Red Light" finishers - also known as last place - receive a Prairie Fire shot the bar for giving it their "best shot."

Echo Canyon can offer a post-race catered party back at our [8 Mile Bar & Grill](#) located on site at Echo Canyon. Photo and video packages can be booked in advance.

Stay and Play

Built in 2017, the resort's nine one- and two-bedroom luxury cabins and four glamping tents are the most luxurious accommodations in the region, with expansive views of the Sangre de Cristo mountains and private outdoor space. The cabins feature fully equipped kitchens, living areas accented by indoor/outdoor fireplaces, private parking and contemporary furnishings. Additionally, the resort offers a three-bedroom vacation home and campground.

About the resort

Situated near the famous [Royal Gorge Bridge & Park](#), Echo Canyon operates a variety of rafting adventures on the Arkansas River, the popular [8 Mile Bar and Grill](#), luxury cabins, glamping tents and campground with tent sites. Additionally, the resort offers an array of [group services](#) with special event space and an innovative teambuilding platform.

###

[Echo Canyon River Expeditions](#) is the leading whitewater destination resort in central Colorado and one of the country's top [adventure resorts](#), according to *U.S. News & World Report*. The resort is located west of Cañon City, Colo. on U.S. Route 50. Drive time is approximately two and one-half hours from Denver and one hour from Colorado Springs. The Colorado Springs Airport (COS) offers non-stop service from several major cities throughout the country including Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Chicago and Phoenix.

Contact Echo Canyon by email at info@raftecho.com or by calling 1-800-690-3246, or follow the resort on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#) or by signing up for the resort's [newsletter](#). Travelers can also read about visitors' experiences on [TripAdvisor](#) and see why Echo Canyon is consistently named the No. 1-rated tour in Cañon City.

Related Hashtags:

[#raftecho](#)
[#bigwaterbigfun](#)
[#whitewater rafting](#)
[#rafttheroyalgorge](#)

Media contact:

Mesereau Travel Public Relations
1-970-286-2751
mona@mesereaupr.com
tom@mesereaupr.com