



Battle of the Bighorn

Watermelons, a memory puzzle, and popsicles are just the start to a fun, challenging and crazy day on the river as you navigate one of the most popular sections of river in the United States. [Bighorn Sheep Canyon](#) and the Arkansas River in Colorado serve as the playing field for Echo Canyon's signature experience - Battle of the Bighorn!

This timed challenge is best described as an obstacle course that meets the river. You will battle alongside your teammates to be the first raft through Bighorn Sheep Canyon (Class II-III) while completing a series of challenges along the way. However, the first team to reach the finish line may not be the winner as time penalties and credits will determine first place! Each team is staffed by an [Echo Canyon river guide](#), so no experience is needed to enter the fray.

Groups have the option to add on additional components to this event including a prize package, a post-race party back at our [8 Mile Bar & Grill](#), and a custom photo and video package.

Who should consider this trip?

Battle of the Bighorn has been designed specifically for groups. This is the perfect afternoon activity for corporate team building groups, wedding parties, family reunions, sports teams, and other groups and clubs.

What are the details of the race?

Guide Draft

- Not all guides are created equal, or at least our guides think so! Your guide can make all the difference for your team. Guides will introduce themselves providing a brief bio and teams will be able to select their guide in a playground style draft before we head to the river. We will draw straws to see which team is able to choose first or you can opt to bid on your guide with all proceeds going to the charity of your choice.

Salt Lick - The starting point for Battle of the Bighorn!

- BUCKET TOSS - The first team to toss a rock into a bucket will win a sixty second head start on the race. The second place team in the rock toss will get a six inch barrel pump versus the standard four



inch pump other teams will be using to inflate their rafts.

- MEMORY PUZZLE - Teams will be shown the answer to a three dimensional puzzle which they will have to solve at the end of the race.
- START PUMPING - Teams must inflate their raft. Don't be fooled; this is an exhausting exercise!
- HEAVY RUBBER - Teams carry their raft a distance of roughly one hundred yards to the river. The race is on!

Five Points Rapid

- WATERMELON DROP - Teams must retrieve a watermelon thrown from the Five Points overlook and carry it all the way to the finish line.

Spikebuck

- WATER SHUTTLE - Two members of each team will 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 bucket needs to remain filled to the minimum line at the second beach to successfully complete the challenge.
- ICE BATH - One member from each team exits the raft and plunges into a bath of ice water. The team member must fully submerge themselves in the frigid water to complete the challenge.

Harvey's Beach

- BRAIN FREEZE - Each member of your team must eat a popsicle as fast as possible, and all popsicles must be eaten before the boat can leave the beach. Popsicle sticks must be turned in to the judges for verification of completion. This is considered to be one of the most "uncomfortable" challenges in Battle of the Bighorn!

Double Dip Rapid

- ELDDAP - Paddle spelled backwards! Teams must paddle backwards through Double Dip rapid to Whale Tail rock, a distance of about a quarter mile. Guides will be allowed to face forward in order to remain competitive and to safely guide the raft.



Old Parkdale

- HELMET BRIGADE - Boaters must use their helmets to fill their team's bucket to the top with water from the river. Sounds easy enough until you realize our helmets are vented with large holes! This is considered to be one of the funniest challenges in the event.

Harvey's Bridge

- T-PADDLE - The finish line is finally in sight but we are not done making it challenging. Teams must turn their paddles over and are only allowed to use the T-grip portion as they paddle to the beach. This removes about 97% of the paddle power for the final sprint.

Echo Canyon Beach

- STORM THE BEACHHEAD - Teams must carry their raft to their assigned parking spot.
- RUNNING ON EMPTY - At least one team member must run a quarter mile loop at the Echo Canyon beach while carrying their team's watermelon and bucket.
- MEMORY PUZZLE - Teams will be provided with a bag of three dimensional puzzle pieces which must be reassembled at this time. All team members, the completed puzzle, watermelon and bucket must make it into the finish circle at which point the team's finish time will be documented.

When is this trip offered?

Echo Canyon is able to offer this experience from May through September depending on water levels. We are only able to offer this experience in the afternoon, typically departing our office at around 2:30. This enables other commercial river traffic which typically launches well before 2:30 to be downstream so we have more of the river for your Battle of the Bighorn trip.

Cost of Battle of the Bighorn

There is a base price of \$600 to launch your private Battle of the Bighorn. In addition to the base price, the cost is \$77 per person. We require a minimum of three teams which may have from five to seven participants per team depending on water level. The



maximum for this event is ten teams. Time of year will dictate the need for wetsuits which are available at an additional cost. Prize package, post-race catered party, photographs and custom T-shirts incur additional cost listed below.

What does Echo provide for this cost?

Battle of the Bighorn will always include private transportation to and from our Echo Canyon river office. Each team has an experienced raft guide and will receive a safety orientation and paddle instruction. Personal flotation devices (a.k.a. life jackets) and helmets are included. Three Echo Canyon judging teams will be utilized so each challenge station will be managed for fairness and safety. Our private riverside landing will be used exclusively for your group and our other standard trips will be detoured to a public access point downstream. Members of the Echo Canyon management team will also be on site overseeing the event.

What can be added to make this even more fun?

Prize Package: Pricing is based on six person teams at a rate of \$550. Everyone loves a winner! Be sure to add our Battle of the Bighorn prize package to be given away at the awards ceremony following your experience. Each six person team receives the prize listed below.

- 1st Place - Eighteen inch wooden paddles with "Billy" the Bighorn laser engraved on one side. Your company logo can be added to the paddle at an additional cost of \$5 per paddle, so you can hang it proudly at the office to the chagrin of your co-workers.
- 2nd Place - \$25 Echo Canyon gift cards to be used in our retail store on merchandise of your choice.
- 3rd Place - Echo Canyon Nalgene water bottles with bottle belt and Echo Canyon carabiner.
- "Red Light" - Commonly known as last place, but you gave it your best shot so team members receive a Prairie Fire shot from our bar!

Post-Race Party: The fun of this event doesn't have to end once we get off the river! Echo Canyon can offer a post-race catered party back at our [8 Mile Bar & Grill](#) located on site at Echo Canyon. Reveling in your victory and your friends defeat should be enjoyed and we know how to make that happen! Our full restaurant and bar is able to cater your after party and several meal options are available. Ask our group coordinator



cost information about our catered meals. We are able to offer a private event; we ask that you contact us for pricing and availability as the 8 Mile is open to the public Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Photograph / Video Packages: Photo and video packages must be booked in advance in order for us to make necessary arrangements.

\$65 per team photo package includes all digital photo files shot at one rapid.

\$115 per team package includes all digital photo files and all GoPro video and still image files on a custom USB.

The obligatory fine print

Be advised, this trip is as physically strenuous as you make it. A very competitive and driven team will be working aggressively for extended periods of time. Due to the physical nature of this activity we encourage participants to be at least 18 years of age to participate, however, participants between the ages 14 and 17 are allowed to participate if a parent is present and on the minor's team. Remember, this event is meant to be fun and even though competitive we ask that all participants keep this in mind. Our standard group cancelation policy applies to this experience, however, custom t-shirts and custom prize packages are not refundable once initial payment has been received.

Battle of the Bighorn schedule

- 1:30 Arrive at Echo Canyon with your waivers completed in advance. One waiver per person must be completed including the participant's name, full mailing address, phone number, email and most importantly any medical conditions or physical limitations.
- 1:45 Guide draft, description of all race rules and event details.
- 2:30 Depart Echo Canyon for Salt Lick. Safety orientation will be provided during the ride.
- 3:00 Paddle instruction by your team's guide followed by the Rock Toss challenge to determine starting positions. The race is on!
- 5:00 Optional post-race party and awards at 8 Mile Bar & Grill located at Echo Canyon.