



Capital Lakes DragonFest

TEAMSurvivor Madison, Inc. (TSM), in conjunction with Race Day Events LLC (RDE), American Dragon Boat Association (ADBA) and Megan Kress, consultant, would like to produce a dragon boat festival at Vilas Park on Lake Wingra on Friday and Saturday, June 25 and June 26, 2010.

TEAMSurvivor Madison, Inc. is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that provides year round fitness programs for women affected by any cancer diagnosis. The activities offer women the opportunity to reclaim their fitness, gain a sense of accomplishment, build a social support system and achieve renewed comfort with their bodies and health.

The sport of dragon boating is growing in popularity throughout Wisconsin, the Midwest, the Nation. Dragon boating holds a unique distinction with cancer survivors as it's the only internationally sanctioned sport that acknowledges "survivor" as a category of entry. It has much international appeal, most recently being highlighted at the winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia. A dragon boat festival involves teams of paddlers competing in 300-500 meter races. Paddlers move in unison and combine strength with teamwork in a boat whose elaborate design originates in ancient China.

Dragon boats are the world's largest flat water racing canoes, propelled by a crew of 20 paddlers, plus a drummer and a steersperson. Teamwork is everything in dragon boat racing. Synchronicity is more important than strength. A perfectly synchronized team will almost always beat a stronger, but less coordinated team.

Dragon boat racing is exciting for the competitors, and equally as captivating for the spectators that line the shore. The Capital Lakes DragonFest will be family friendly and provide a fun, festival style atmosphere. The festival is expected to include food and drink from local non-profit vendors, entertainment, information about the sport of dragon boating and TEAMSurvivor Madison, Inc. The proximity to the Henry Vilas Zoo will also provide an opportunity for families and spectators to enjoy the day at the park.

Given Madison's characteristic of being a very active city, coupled with its lakes, Madison and Vilas Park are the perfect venue to host the Capital Lakes DragonFest—the City's first dragon boat festival. With the calm waters of Lake Wingra and the open area of Vilas Park, the Capital Lakes DragonFest will provide a community-based event for all ages, exposure to a new sport, entertainment and a great way to raise awareness about TEAMSurvivor Madison, Inc. All proceeds from the event will support the efforts of the organization.

TSM, Inc./RDE are requesting the use of Vilas Park (Friday and Saturday, June 25 and 26, 2010) and the shelter in the park (Saturday, June 26, 2010).

- The event will be coordinated by TEAMSurvivor Madison, Inc. with support provided by Race Day Events, LLC (event logistics), American Dragon Boat Association (boats and staffing for on-the-water logistics) and Megan Kress (consultant and festival director). Race Day Events, LLC is a local event production company with experience producing events of all types. The American Dragon Boat Association, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has provided equipment and staffing for numerous dragon boat festivals. Megan Kress, consultant, has served in several capacities for Midwest dragon boat festivals, including team director for the Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival (one of the largest in the Midwest).
- The event will be well organized, safely produced and follow the guidelines outlined by the City of Madison, Parks District and other governing bodies
- The event aspires to build fitness, fun and community spirit through dragon boating.
- The event will raise awareness about cancer survivorship.
- The on-the-water portion of the event will include appropriate safety equipment and personnel, including lifeguards on shore and in kayaks.
- The event will have the support of community partners to assist in offsetting the cost of the event.