



Drift South Expedition
mile XXXX
day XX

Drift South Expedition: Grassroots Science Comes to Town—Let’s Talk River Health, Local Challenges, and Solutions

September 2025 – The *Drift South Expedition* (DSE), a grassroots science and storytelling initiative, is paddling more than 2,000 miles down the Mississippi River—and it’s stopping in **[town name]** this week to hear from locals.

“We embark on this journey to advocate for the river and the people who depend on it,” says Charles Lampman, environmental scientist and project lead for DSE. “We’re here to listen—to understand your connection to the river, your challenges, and your vision for its future.”

Beginning at Lake Itasca, Minnesota, and continuing to the Gulf of Mexico, the expedition winds through 10 states, including a stop here in **[town name, state]**. Along the way, the crew collects water samples to support scientific institutions studying the river’s health.

“These institutions—whether public, academic, or nonprofit—serve as a vital line of defense between communities and environmental threats,” says Lampman. “They deserve public support and sustained attention.”

In the recent administration, shifting policies and funding cuts have made it harder for scientists and watchdog organizations to monitor pollution and ensure safe, clean waterways. The consequences of inaction—whether ecological, economic, or public health-related—affect everyone.

“Dirty water isn’t a partisan issue—it’s a community issue,” says Morgan Skinner, Media Lead for DSE. “This river connects millions of Americans. Regardless of your politics, we all rely on it.”

The Drift South crew invites residents to join the conversation during their visit to **[town name]**, from **September XX to XX**. Whether you're concerned about water quality, local flooding, fishing, or have river stories to share—your voice matters.

“We want to hear what it’s like living here—your experiences, concerns, and hopes for the river,” says Skinner. “And yes, we’re also happy to chat about paddling next to barges and through locks!”

For more information, visit www.driftsouthexpedition.com or follow them on social media [@driftsouthexpedition](#). You’ll find stories from the river, behind-the-scenes updates, and ways to get involved in science, advocacy, and volunteer projects in your region.

The Drift South Expedition’s mission is to “enable institutions to continue studying, monitoring, and advocating for the Mississippi River through grassroots science support, community engagement, and amplifying awareness through media.”

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