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National Mississippi River Day Returns June 2 with Record Participation Across the River Basin

With 42 events and 23 proclamations to date, this year's celebration brings strong momentum, unifying communities on behalf of the River.

LA GRANGE PARK, IL — One Mississippi and its 80 Mississippi River Network member organizations are proud to announce the second annual National Mississippi River Day on June 2, 2026. This year, 23 states, cities, and counties across the watershed have issued official proclamations with more expected to join. A record 42 events are registered for the accompanying River Days of Action program running June 1–15.

The states of Louisiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota, along with 19 municipalities including Minneapolis, Memphis, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Davenport, Dubuque, and Burlington, and Louisa County, Iowa, have officially proclaimed June 2 as National Mississippi River Day. More proclamations are expected this year. Individuals can now add their name to the National Mississippi River Day proclamation alongside cities and states.

National Mississippi River Day was launched in 2025 to raise awareness and foster greater engagement in protecting the Mississippi River, which faces urgent threats. National Mississippi River Day is the opener for One Mississippi's River Days of Action, June 1 - 15. The 2026 program includes a series of events that span the full length of the watershed and reflect the River's many dimensions: from the River Day Blessing in Dubuque, an Indigenous Water Ceremony honoring the River as a living, sacred being, to legal education, film screenings, habitat restoration, paddling trips, and advocacy efforts from Minnesota to Louisiana.

Organizations and communities across the watershed are driving the movement. "When we learned about National Mississippi River Day, we knew we wanted to bring it home. Working with Minneapolis, Fridley, and some of our other cities to issue official proclamations was just the beginning. River Days of Action has given us a platform to engage our whole community, from daily online actions people can take for the River to events that bring people together around our shared waterway. This is what collective impact looks like," said Abby Moore, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.

Haley Gentry, Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy, also connected the institution's work to this important moment, "There is no central governance for the Mississippi River, and the patchwork of federal and state legal frameworks makes it one of the most complex systems in the world, and most people who depend on it have never had a clear way to understand how decisions about it get made. We chose National Mississippi River Day to launch our *Law of the Mississippi River* initiative because this is exactly the moment for it. People are paying attention, showing up, and asking the right questions."

One Mississippi Executive Director, Kelly McGinnis, recognizes the significant movement inspired by National Mississippi River Day, "What we are witnessing with National Mississippi River Day is something truly special, a movement growing from the ground up and the top down at the same time. Cities, counties, and states are issuing proclamations. Organizations are hosting events, communities are gathering, and everyday people from Minnesota to Louisiana are adding their names and saying: This River matters to me. The River is bringing us together, and that is something worth celebrating."

In 2026, River Days of Action includes a Sweepstakes to inspire greater involvement. For those who enter, three winners will be selected to win one of three prizes, including one Grand Prize of an overnight stay at The Ingram Distillery grounds, complete with dinner, tours, and a special private tasting.

National Mississippi River Day celebrates a River that spans approximately 2,350 miles from the wild rice beds of northern Minnesota to the oyster reefs of southern Louisiana, drains 32 states, provides drinking water for more than 20 million people, and serves as one of the world's most significant ecological corridors. For thousands of years, the River has been deeply woven into the lives of Indigenous peoples, sustaining communities and holding profound cultural, spiritual, and ancestral significance. And yet the Mississippi faces urgent threats: in 2025, it ranked first on American Rivers' list of America's Most Endangered Rivers®.

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One Mississippi, MississippiRiver.org, is a growing national movement of over 20,000 people and 80 organizations committed to protecting the people, land, water, and wildlife of the Mississippi River. River Days of Action, June 1–15, is made possible with support from Walton Family Foundation, Audubon, Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund, Minnesota Paddling Opener, The Ingram Distillery, and National Wildlife Federation.

The [National Mississippi River Day](#) webpage includes the proclamation and information about how cities, states, and other municipalities, along with individuals, can sign.

The [River Days of Action](#) webpage includes a full calendar of events, including excursions, webinars, conservation efforts, cleanups, and more.