

# Stotesbury In Brief

The Stotesbury Cup Regatta, which claims to be the largest high school rowing regatta in the world, is held every year on the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia on the Friday and Saturday of the weekend before Memorial Day weekend. Rowers come from as far away as Florida in the south and Toronto in the north. Because it is highly competitive, not all team members row in this regatta. Winning medals in this regatta is a major rowing accomplishment, and B-CC Crew often returns with at least one boat winning medals.

## **I. The Schedule**

Boat rosters for Stotesbury are finalized roughly a week before the regatta. The rowers will learn this directly from their coaches. Rowers board a chartered bus with their teammates at noon on Thursday.

Rowers arrive in Philadelphia Thursday afternoon in time to rig their boats, and take a few practice turns. On Friday morning, each boat participates in a head race (or time trial), which determines if it will qualify for a heat, and for which heat. Some boats complete their heats on Friday afternoon, but most run their heats on Saturday morning. Boats are eliminated at each stage. Finals are run Saturday afternoon. Medals are awarded as each final race is completed. The last race, weather permitting, is about 5pm on Saturday. The regatta organizers strive to keep on schedule.

Last year's race schedule is a good first estimate to this year's race schedule, which is posted only a week before the regatta. After B-CC's last race has been run, the rowers de-rig their boats, load them, and return home Saturday evening by chartered bus. Rowers unload and re-rig boats the next morning. It is a stressful, adrenalin-filled three days, punctuated by excitement and disappointment. All rowers are expected to stay the full duration of the regatta to support each other, a hallmark of the B-CC team.

## **II. The Practical Parts**

### **a. Rowers**

Rowers are required to and do stay together at all times, throughout the full regatta. This keeps their focus on the regatta and on the team. They are required to ride the chartered bus together; they eat together at pre-arranged restaurants; they are housed together in a prearranged hotel

### **b. Parents**

Parents are not expected to provide supervision to their children individually; rowers are expected to be - and in fact are - self-disciplined in keeping with the program and with the group. Parents and family do, however, provide essential support to the team during the regatta, in the form of general supervision; assisting with provision of food; driving rowers to and from the race course as they are needed for rowing; attending to headaches, sprained ankles, and wet clothes; providing general oversight; and, most importantly, cheering, consoling, and congratulating, although sometimes from a respectful distance. If your son or daughter has been invited to join the Stotesbury team, then your help at Stotesbury is both needed and expected to make it a success for your rower. You wouldn't want to miss it, anyway.

### **c. Logistics**

All costs are kept to a minimum in regatta planning, however each rower is required to pay for the bus-restaurant-hotel-food package negotiated for the team. The last year the cost was close to \$300. This is payable as soon as the price is finalized, about a week before the regatta when the list of rowers is finalized, and before departure for the regatta. Depending on bus departure times, buses may stop enroute to or from Philadelphia for light meals; rowers will be expected to cover those expenses on their own. Rowers often bring extra money for non-essential food and for souvenirs.

Accommodation in Philadelphia is at a premium during Stotesbury.

Parents can check for accommodation for themselves at the team hotel, the Marriott Courtyard Downtown Philadelphia on Juniper Street, a surprisingly acceptable hotel. Other hotels are listed on the [Stotesbury website](#).

It is not possible to park close to the Stotesbury race course. Parking is in satellite lots with a shuttle bus to the river. Leave plenty of time for the trip from the parking lot to the river. Bring everything you'll need with you, including a chair.

The B-CC crew tent set up on the river becomes the gathering place for rowers between races and for spectators. Prearranged breakfasts and lunches are served at the tent. Rowers' food is covered by their regatta fee. Parents and siblings may choose to eat on site with the crew for breakfasts and lunches if they reserve ahead - last year the cost was \$20/person/day. The other food choices on the river are surprisingly bleak. Many team parents eat together in the evenings

#### **d. Who's in charge?**

Of course, the coaches are in charge of the most important parts - the rowers - but a parent is in charge for overall regatta arrangements each year. Transportation arrangements - hotel to river to hotel logistics - is done by a separate transportation coordinator parent. If your rower is invited, you'll be hearing from them, as they set up the matrix of volunteers to cover the various essential tasks.

#### **III. More Information**

See the [Stotesbury website](#) for regatta history, race schedules, and directions to the regatta site, as well as recommended hotels.