



## Expedition Florida 500 Returns Home from First Conservation Paddle

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Expedition Florida 500's (XF500) first Conservation Paddle from July 21 -27, 2012, down the Apalachicola River was a huge success. The seven-day journey covering the entire 107 miles of the river was an opportunity to experience the rewards and challenges that lie ahead as they paddle board the entire state of Florida in 2013 with their Viva Florida 500 project, Expedition Florida 500 (XF500). The Apalachicola River and the area around it has plenty of history, which they learned about firsthand from the locals. Throughout the journey the team was tested with all the elements a typical Florida summer has to offer, braving a few thunderstorms and getting relief from the hot sun by swimming in the cool river.



One of the goals of the XF500 Conservation Paddle is to help clean up these wonderful parts of Florida. The Apalachicola River, like many of our natural resources, suffer as a result of modern life- from debris and pollution along the river, to drought and flow problems. The XF500 conservation paddlers embraced their responsibility by cleaning up the river along the way. With their newfound lessons and experiences, the team hopes to pass on their conservation messages and preserve the unique natural - and wild - heritage of Florida for another 500 years.

The XF500 team is excited to move forward in their training for the year-long journey around Florida.

Upcoming Conservation Paddles will take place:

- **August 18-27:** Traveling from Islamorada to Miami
- **September 22-28:** Traveling along the St. John's River
- **October 20-29:** Traveling along the Kissimmee River
- **November 24 – December 3:** Traveling in the Wilderness Waterway

To see pictures from the Conservation Paddle and follow Expedition Florida 500's future progress, visit [facebook.com/XF500](https://www.facebook.com/XF500)