

River Safety Committee

Initial Members

Established September 7, 2017

- * **Uptown Columbus**
Ross Horner/Becca Zajac
(Ed Wolverton)
- * **Parks and Rec**
Holli Browder/Becky Glisson
- * **Salt Life** - Larry Laska
- * **DNR** - Mitch Oliver/Jeremy Bolden
- * **Safe Kids Columbus** - Pam Fair
- * **Whitewater Express** - Dan Gilbert

- * **Columbus Regional** - Michael Zimmerman
- * **Georgia Power** - Michael Barnett
(Dawson Ingram/Ricky Wilburn)
- * **Columbus Fire & EMS**
Bruce Powell/Ricky Shores
- * **Columbus Police Dept** - Robert Greene
- * **Phenix City** - Shaun Culligan
- * **Outside World** - Chris Largent
- * **River Warden** - Henry Jackson

FIRST PROJECT: 2018 Pirate-themed Community Event



RIVER SAVVY KIDS

FREE LIFE JACKETS FOR KIDS!

presented by **Piedmont**
COLUMBUS REGIONAL

SAFE KIDS
COLUMBUS

Contributing Sponsors:



DATE:

Riverfest Family Day
Sunday, May 6, 2018

TIME OF EVENT:

1pm - 3pm

LOCATION OF EVENT:

Chart your course for
1000 Bay Avenue, Columbus, Georgia
*(Attendees must use entrance to the
Riverwalk in front of White Water Express,
near the children's playground)*

CONTACT INFO:

Safe Kids Columbus
safekids columbusga@columbusregional.com
706.321.6720

ON-SITE REGISTRATION:

FREE Life Jackets given
one per child (17 and under)
while Sizes and Supplies last!



SAFE KIDS COLUMBUS
IS PROUDLY FUNDED BY:



CAPT'S ORDERS:

Aaargh Pirates! - you must visit every site on ye map to reach the treasure! It could save ye life!

BAY AVENUE LEVEL

Information Booth:
Near Event Entrance on Bay Avenue
near children's playground

RIVERWALK LEVEL

- Station #1** "Ahoy There! Registration"
- Station #2** "It's the Law, Matees!"
- Station #3** "Be on the Lookout, Wee Lil Pirate!"
- Station #4** "X Marks the Spot, Claim Your Loot!"
- Station #5** "Every Pirate Needs a Captain!"

Learn more: safekids columbusga.org

EVENT PARTNERS:



PLUS:
Outside Works
Pleasant City, AL
Columbus Water Works



2018 / 2019

Initial Funding for the River Savvy Kids educational event that included **800** FREE Life Jackets for kids came from the Kiwanis Club of Columbus in 2018/2019



Pam Fair receives check from Kiwanis Club.

Safe Kids Columbus to give away life jackets on May 6

given out life jackets. That day there will be "River Savvy Kids" safety stations that are designed to teach water safety. Helping to make this possible is a three-year partnership formed with the Kiwanis Club of Columbus.

Fair said the deal is for three years with Safe Kids receiving \$5,000 each year.

Presenting a check from the Kiwanis to Fair earlier this week were Bob Poydasheff, Betsy Watson and Ronnie Blair.

Other Safe Kids partners include Piedmont Columbus Regional, attorney Gary Bruce, Growing Room and Aflac.

"We won't give the wrong size life jacket to a child," Fair said. She said this is the first time in more than 10 years that Safe Kids has

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Larry Gierer: 706-571-8581, @lagierer



Mayor's River Safety Task Force

- * The Mayor's River Safety Task Force was created on July 9, 2019.
- * An "Educational Sub-Committee" was formed.
- * This Sub-Committee combined with the existing River Safety Committee.



Funding/Grants

- * Kiwanis Club of Columbus
2018, 2019, 2020
- * Sea Tow Foundation
2020, 2021, 2022
- * Columbus Parks & Rec
2021, 2022
- * Academy Sports
2019, 2021, 2022
- * Uptown Columbus
2019, 2022
- * Georgia Power
2019, 2021, 2022
- * Safe Kids Worldwide Open
Water Grant 2022



Academy Sports, April 5, 2021

On-going Operational Funding continues to be a challenge
Making it difficult to Plan Strategically

Accomplishments

- * Multi-agency River Safety Committee comprised of area open water/safety subject matter experts since 2017
- * **Annual** River Safety Education FREE Life Jacket Events: River Savvy Kids
- * Swift Water Rescue Expert Assessments from Charlie Walbridge and _____
- * DNR Boating Safety Courses offered

