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# Montana Dragon Boat Festival 2016

Megan Schultz

*The University of Montana - Missoula*

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# Montana Dragon Boat Festival 2016

Lakeside, Montana

Megan Tanner Schultz, M.S.

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Prepared by

Megan Tanner Schultz, M.S.

Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research

College of Forestry and Conservation

The University of Montana

Missoula, MT 59812

[www.itrr.umt.edu](http://www.itrr.umt.edu)

Case Study Report 2016-19

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## Abstract

This study was conducted for the Kalispell Conventions and Visitor Bureau, to provide insight into the characteristics of attendees of the 2016 Montana Dragon Boat Festival. Paper surveys on site and a post-event web survey were completed by 479 attendees and/or participants of the event. Results show that 58% of respondents were residents of Montana and of those Montana residents, 69% were from Flathead County. Out-of-county respondents spent an average of 3.72 nights away from home. Of those nights, an average of 2.42 of those nights were in the city of Kalispell and 2.89 nights in other Flathead Valley locations (outside of Kalispell). Hotel/motel/bed & breakfast/rental property purchases received the highest total dollars spent during the event of any spending category. Respondents to the survey reported a total spending of \$131,773 in the Flathead County area. Results provide event organizers and the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Bureau with useful data for future event planning, making improvements to the event, event marketing/promotion, and understanding the visitor spending associated with the event.

## Executive Summary

The Dragon Boat Festival attracted out-of-county Montana residents (17%) and out-of-state (42%) visitors to the Flathead County area. The attendees of the event make important economic contributions to the Flathead Valley area. The results of the study are worth considering for future planning of the Montana Dragon Boat Festival.

- 92% of visitors who reside outside of Flathead County spent at least one night away from home. The mean number of nights spent in Kalispell was 2.42 nights; mean number of nights in other Flathead Valley locations was 2.89.
- 44% of respondents reported staying in a hotel/motel/b&b, followed by 25% staying in a rental cabin/home.
- More money was spent by these out-of-county visitors in hotel/motel/b&b/rental (\$44,797), restaurant/bar (\$26,908), and retail goods (\$19,695) than other spending categories.
- 64% of respondents reported that they were spending for a travel group size of at least two or more people (including respondent). The average travel group size was 2.47 people (travel group spending size).
- Attendees were mostly travelling with an organized group/club (36%). Other group types with high response were: friends (16%), family and friends (16%), and couples (11%).
- Respondents traveled with a variety of age categories in their group – the highest percentages were 45-54 years old (61%), 35-44 and 25-34 (53% each), and 55-64 years old (54%).
- Attendees heard about the event mostly from word of mouth (49%), a group or club (43%), email from event planners (17%), social media (15%), event website or newspaper (13 each%).
- 42% of respondents indicated they planned to attend the event 1-6 months in advance with another large majority (30%) making plans to attend over 6 months prior to the event.
- Overall, attendees of the event were satisfied with the Montana Dragon Boat Festival, and 87% of respondents indicated that they would attend the event next year.

## Management Implications

Survey results indicate that Montana Dragon Boat Festival visitors are travelling from outside of Flathead County to attend the event. This event brings both resident and nonresident visitors to the Flathead Valley area, and the attendees of the event make a variety of monetary contributions while visiting.

A large number of people who attended the Dragon Boat Festival were non-residents from out-of-state, with 35% residing in Canada. Non-resident visitors bring new money into Montana and make valuable economic contributions to the area. Event organizers should continue their efforts to attract non-resident visitors to the Flathead County area for future events.

It is recommended that the organizers review the respondents' comments from Appendix B to gain more insight into people's likes and dislikes of the event staff (most satisfied), parking (least satisfied), location of the event, and many other aspects.

## **Introduction**

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Montana Dragon Boat Festival was hosted on Flathead Lake in Lakeside, Montana over two days from September 10<sup>th</sup> through September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This was the second year the event was held in Lakeside. Previous Dragon Boat events were held in Bigfork, MT. Dragon Boat racing has a long history that dates back 2,300 years ago to China. The Montana Dragon Boat festival attracts a diverse crowd of participants and spectators from around the region.

This event is organized by the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitor Bureau. This organization works to improve the business environment for Kalispell and the Flathead area community. Kalispell's Chamber has been around since 1904 and is committed to strengthening the economic opportunities for the greater Kalispell area.

The purpose of this study was to provide the organizers of the 2016 Montana Dragon Boat Festival with an understanding of the characteristics of visitors to the event, visitor spending in Flathead County, and levels of satisfaction with different aspects of the event.

## **Methods**

Data was collected in two ways:

- 1) Surveyors intercepted participants and spectators 18 years of age or older for on-site completion of the survey during the two day event. Surveys were given to people by random selection in an attempt to represent the event attendee population. People willing to fill out the questionnaire were given a clipboard, pen, and a survey. This survey asks them to record all spending for their group (including themselves and any non-participants). If a respondent indicated they were a spectator but were attending the event with a participant of the Dragon Boat Festival, they were not asked to record their spending in the Kalispell/Flathead Valley Area. This is to eliminate over-representing the amount of money spent in the area since all participants received an invitation to the same questions via a web survey after the event (see data collection method 2).
- 2) An email invitation to a web survey was sent by the Kalispell Chamber/CVB to capture the group characteristics, spending, and satisfaction of the participants of the 2016 Dragon Boat Festival. One reminder email was sent to participants asking them to complete the survey.

No documentation of the number of refusals was recorded.

## **Limitations**

As in all research, there are limitations to the study. Limitations for the Dragon Boat Festival study include the following:

- Data was collected by Kalispell Chamber/CVB staff and/or area volunteers who received a short training from ITRR and the survey contact person at the Kalispell Chamber/CVB on how to intercept people and how to obtain completed surveys.
- ITRR personnel were not present during the data collection for quality control.

## Results

Of the 421 valid responses to the residence questions, 58 percent (244 people) were from Montana and 42 percent (177 people) were from out-of-state or Canada (see Tables 1 and 2). Of all Montana respondents, 69 percent (169 people) were from Flathead County while 31 percent (75 people) were from other Montana counties.

**Table 1: Residence of all Respondents**

Place of Residence	# of total	% of total
Flathead County	169	40%
Other MT County	75	18%
Montana=244		
U.S. State	45	11%
Canada	132	31%
Total all Residences	421	100%

**Table 2: Out-of-State and Canadian, and International Residences**

Residence	# of respondents
Alberta, Canada	98
Arizona	5
British Columbia, Canada	30
California	9
Canada (Unspecified)	4
Colorado	3
Florida	2
Idaho	1
Minnesota	2
Nevada	1
North Dakota	1
Oregon	4
Pennsylvania	1
Texas	1
Washington	15

Seventy-eight percent of respondents were registered participants. Of those who were not registered participants, just over half (52 percent) were not in a group with a participant and were solely spectators of the event. The mean age of respondents was 49 years old. Of those who were from outside Flathead County and responded to the survey, 231 people reported that they spent at least one night away from home. Of those nights spent away from home, the greatest percent of respondents (53 percent) spent two nights in Montana. The mean number of nights spent in Montana was 3.89 nights. The mean number of nights spent in Kalispell was 2.42 nights, and the mean number of nights spent in other Flathead Valley locations was 2.89 nights. A full breakdown of nights spent as well as results of all other questions in this survey can be found in Appendix A.

## Expenditures

Spending information was asked of event attendees (participants and spectators who were not in a travel group with a participant) who reside outside of Flathead County. The survey asked that they report their best estimate of the total amount of money they and their family/travel group (if applicable) spent in the Flathead Valley area in the following categories: accommodations, restaurant or bar, groceries or snacks, gasoline, transportation, auto rental, retail goods, and entertainment or recreation.

Table 3 presents the expenditure data of only the non-resident respondents (those who reside outside of Flathead County) who reported spending money in the categories. The mean expenditure of those who spent money for each category can be found along with the percentage of people who reported that they spent money in that category. The last column provides the total dollars spent by those respondents in each category. The total reported expenditure for respondents who spent was \$131,773.

**Table 3: Expenditure Data: Expenditures calculated using only non-residents (those who live outside of Flathead County) who spent.**

<b>Expenditure Category</b>	<b>Mean expenditures of non-residents <u>who reported that they spent money in these categories</u></b>	<b>% of respondents who reported spending money in each category</b>	<b>Total dollars spent in each category <u>by respondents who spent</u></b>
Hotel/motel/b&b/rental	\$322.28 (n=139)	55%	\$44,797.00
Restaurant/bar	\$129.99 (n=207)	81%	\$26,908.00
Retail goods	\$172.76 (n=114)	45%	\$19,695.00
Groceries/snacks	\$92.02 (n=162)	64%	\$14,907.00
Gas	\$69.65 (n=186)	73%	\$12,955.00
Auto rental	\$300.56 (n=18)	7%	\$5,410.00
Entertainment/recreation	\$81.90 (n=50)	20%	\$4,095.00
Campground	\$92.53 (n=32)	13%	\$2,961.00
Local transportation	\$11.25 (n=4)	2%	\$45.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$131,773.00</b>

## Appendix A- Results

**Q1. Are you a registered participant of the Dragon Boat Festival? n=474**

78% Yes (Skip to Q2.)      22% No (answer Q1a.)

**Q1a. Does your group include someone who is a registered participant of the Dragon Boat Festival? n=94**

48% Yes (Skip to Q14. On back)      52% No

**Q2. Are you a resident of Montana? n=427**

58% Yes      42% No (skip to Q4.)

**Q3. Do you reside in Flathead County? n=244**

69% Yes (skip to Q14. on back)      31% No (skip to Q5.)

**Q4. In what state, province, or foreign country do you reside?**

See Tables 1 and 2.

**Q5. Is this your first time visiting Kalispell or the Flathead Valley area? n=253**

20% Yes      80% No

**Q6. Was attending this event your primary reason for being in the area? n=251**

92% Yes      8% No

**Q7. For what other reasons are you visiting the area? (Check all that apply.) n=186**

28% Vacation/recreation/pleasure      2% Just passing through      1% Business/convention/meeting  
10% Visiting friends/relatives      10% Shopping

**Q8. For this event, how many nights did you spend away from home? n=251, mean=3.72**

8% 0 (skip to Q.12)      2% 1      20% 3      6% 5      1% 7      0% 9  
49% 2      12% 4      1% 6      0% 8      2% 10 or more

**Q9. How many of those nights were in Montana? n=229, mean=3.89**

0% 0      53% 2      9% 4      1% 6      0% 8      1% 10 or more  
2% 1      25% 3      6% 5      2% 7      1% 9

**Q10. Of your nights in Montana, how many did you stay in Kalispell? n=107, mean=2.42**

3% 0      65% 2      8% 4      0% 6      0% 8      0% 10 or more  
2% 1      19% 3      4% 5      1% 7      0% 9

**Q10a. Of your nights in Montana, how many did you stay in other Flathead Valley locations? n=131, mean=2.89**

1% 0      43% 2      12% 4      2% 6      0% 8      1% 10 or more  
7% 1      28% 3      5% 5      2% 7      2% 9

**Q11. In what type of accommodation(s) did you stay in Kalispell or the Flathead Valley? (Check all that apply.) n=232**

44% Hotel/motel/B&B      7% Private campground      1% Resort/condominium  
25% Rental cabin/home      17% Home of friend/relative      <1% Guest ranch  
7% Public land camping      3% Second home/cabin/condo      2% Vehicle in parking lot



**Q12. Please enter your best estimate of the TOTAL amount of money in US dollars you (and your family/travel group, if applicable) spent in the Flathead Valley area in each of the following categories. If you did not spend money in a category, please leave it blank. (See Table 3 for expenditures).**

**ACCOMMODATIONS in Flathead Valley**

**Hotel/motel/bed & breakfast**

**Campground**

**FOOD in Flathead Valley**

**Restaurant/bar**

**Groceries/snacks**

**TRANSPORTATION in Flathead Valley**

**Gasoline/diesel**

**Local transportation**

**Auto rental**

**RETAIL/SERVICES in Flathead Valley**

**Retail goods**

**Entertainment/recreation**

**Q13. How many people does the above spending represent (including yourself, i.e., your travel group size)? n=241; mean= 2.47**

<b>36%</b> 1	<b>5%</b> 3	<b>2%</b> 5	<b>1%</b> 7	<b>&lt;1%</b> 9	<b>4%</b> more than 10
<b>42%</b> 2	<b>8%</b> 4	<b>1%</b> 6	<b>0%</b> 8	<b>1%</b> 10	

**Q14. What option best describes the group with whom you attended this event? n=473**

<b>3%</b> Self	<b>7%</b> Immediate family	<b>16%</b> Family/friends	<b>9%</b> Business associates
<b>11%</b> Couple	<b>2%</b> Extended family	<b>16%</b> Friends	<b>36%</b> Organized group/club

**Q15. Please select all the ages represented in your group: n=471 for each age category**

<b>5%</b> 0-5 yrs.	<b>10%</b> 11-17 yrs.	<b>53%</b> 25-34 yrs.	<b>61%</b> 45-54 yrs.	<b>25%</b> 65-74 yrs.
<b>3%</b> 6-10 yrs.	<b>23%</b> 18-24 yrs.	<b>53%</b> 35-44 yrs.	<b>50%</b> 55-64 yrs.	<b>8%</b> 75 and over

**Q16. What best describes your annual household income? (In US dollars) n=421**

<b>6%</b> Less than \$20,000	<b>17%</b> \$60,000 to \$79,999	<b>5%</b> \$150,000 to \$199,999
<b>14%</b> \$20,000 to \$39,999	<b>16%</b> \$80,000 to \$99,999	<b>5%</b> \$200,000 and over
<b>19%</b> \$40,000 to \$59,999	<b>19%</b> \$100,000 to \$149,999	

**Q17. How long before this event did you make plans to attend? n=470**

<b>3%</b> The day of the event	<b>14%</b> 1-4 weeks before the event	<b>30%</b> Over 6 months before the event
<b>11%</b> 1-7 days before the event	<b>42%</b> 1-6 months before the event	

**Q18. How did you hear about the Dragon Boat Festival? (Check all that apply.) n=471 per selection**

49% Word of mouth      6% Posters      43% Group or club      15% Social media  
 13% Newspaper      2% Magazine      0% Retail outlet      3% Other website  
 5% Radio      2% Direct Mail      2% Flyer  
 2% Television      17% E-mail from event planners      13% Event website

**Q19. Please rate your satisfaction with the Dragon Boat Festival:**

Satisfaction	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Mean	Total respondents
Organization of the event	<1%	1%	3%	27%	69%	4.64	n=471
Event staff	<1%	<1%	1%	16%	83%	4.80	n=473
Cost of the event	1%	2%	10%	29%	59%	4.42	n=444
Location of the event	1%	3%	9%	22%	66%	4.50	n=469
Concessions available	<1%	4%	12%	31%	52%	4.30	n=462
Number of people at the event	<1%	2%	8%	36%	53%	4.39	n=472
Parking	2%	6%	11%	33%	48%	4.20	n=461
Sound system	1%	2%	7%	33%	57%	4.43	n=470
Variety of activities	1%	3%	15%	34%	48%	4.26	n=460
Signage/directions	<1%	1%	8%	38%	53%	4.43	n=468
Cleanliness	<1%	<1%	3%	25%	71%	4.67	n=473
Availability of restrooms	<1%	1%	5%	26%	68%	4.61	n=471

\*N/A responses were re-coded to be a missing response for the most accurate mean score.

**Q20. What is your age? n=479; Range=22-78, mean=48.77**

**Q21. What is your gender? n=472**

36% Male      64% Female

**Q22. When might you come to the Dragon Boat Festival again? n=473**

87% Next Year      12% Within 5 Years      <1% Never

**Q23. Please tell us what you liked about the Dragon Boat Festival.**

See Appendix B

**Q24. Please tell us what you did not like about the Dragon Boat Festival.**

See Appendix B

**Q25. What suggestions do you have for improvements to the event?**

See Appendix B

## Appendix B: Open-ended Responses

### Q23. Please tell us what you liked about the Dragon Boat Festival.

A fun sporting event with friends, & beautiful lake and mountain scenery
A good water sport. Our team enjoy Flathead Lake. My last year comment, complain about parking. You organize good free parking this year. Thank you
a lot of community involvement
access to coffee early in the morning
all
all of it
All of it
All of the event organizers - volunteers and officials - were really upbeat, professional and friendly...incredible hosts...2nd to none! And, the venue/location was so beautiful, even when skies were gray. PLUS...Kalispell is a lovely surprise in and of itself...being my first time there. The sense of welcome from the Lakeside and Kalispell communities was genuine, and the sense of a 'dragonboat community' is strong there.
All races done early in the day
All the creativity and being part of a community event
all the groups
ALL THE WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS
always a fun, good group of people
Always fun, well organized even with tough weather situations
Amazing people
Atmosphere
Atmosphere, beer, 80's music friday night
ATMOSPHERE, COMMUNITY SPIRIT FOR EVENT
Beautiful lake and mountains; small town atmosphere
beautiful location and super friendly town
Beautiful location, organized staff and good communication. Musical entertainment was fantastic! Appreciated the shorter races on Sunday to get through all races. Timing was perfect before the storm came in.
Beautiful location, event is well organized and runs smoothly. The staff is friendly, helpful and welcoming. Size seems about right.
Beautiful mountain lake setting.
Beautiful scenery. Friendly people.
Beautiful setting and very well organized
beautiful venue
Beautiful venue, concert, fun organizers and staff, enthusiastic volunteers and great community support. And beautiful Medals!
Beautiful venue, good music, great community teams
Beautiful, liked it when changed to a shorter race, if in same location I would shorten the race initially
beer
Beer folks were great!
being in the races
Being part of a community event.
being part of the dragonfly team
Brings a variety of people to our community
Camaraderie with friends
camping availability, great staffing and organizing

clean beautiful lake, friendly staff
Clean family fun
Clean lake, close to everything. Lots of friendly volunteers.
Clean, friendly staff, entertainment
Close to home, great community activity
close to home. Well organized. Cross walk volunteers were awesome.good pricing.
color
comaradarie, friendliness of people, traffic control volunteers
Combined holiday and festival
community
community event, free to attend
Community feel, great supportive crowd
community involvement
community involvement, location, vendors
community spirit friendly participants and spectators wonderful race directors - Kevin and Team wonderful organizers and volunteers
Competition and people
competition of the teams, great family event
Competitive but friendly
Coolness
despite winds, they made fun activities to keep people on site
Diversity, age, ethnicity and at the same time seeing America the beautiful. Montana resident - thank you for being you.
Done early
Energy, community spirit, competition
enjoy the race
Entertaining, beautiful day in Lakeside
event coordinated
Event staff, location, community
Everyone was happy friendly and helpful. Extremely well organized.
Everything
Everything
Everything
everything
Everything
Everything! Breast Cancer, paddling, music, food, all of it!
Everything! You have a fantastic group of volunteers & a very tolerant community at Lakeside! Thank you all so... much!! Vonnie you are amazing. Volunteer extraordinaire is Hildie!!
Everything!! The organizers and volunteers, the dragon boats, the beauty of Montana, the local community and people from all over coming together to watch and/or participate in such a fun event. Please keep it coming!!!
Everything, great job
excellent organization
excellent, organized
Exciting, enthusiasm, teamwork
family friendly
family friendly, accommodating for seniors
fellowship of all the paddlers, friendliness of organizers and staff.It's a VERY positive and rewarding experience. Organizers did an excellent job with some rough weather.
Festive activities

first time participant, awesome fun
Found out about it by accident researching Montana vacations on the web. So glad we came. Very fun.
Friendliness of everyone
Friendliness of everyone involved. Great physical activity.
Friendly
Friendly people. Beautiful location. Well organized despite the weather conditions.
Friendly staff, diverse participants
Friends
friendship
friendships
fun
fun
fun
fun
fun
Fun and competition
Fun community event
fun community event
fun environment
Fun event
fun event - beautiful area
Fun event and like it better in Lakeside than at the Flathead Lake Lodge
Fun Event!, Our team enjoys racing with others from around the states and Canada! We enjoy being involved in the community and look forward to next year!
Fun event, friendly competition
fun event, well planned
Fun time
Fun time, great location
Fun with people
fun!
Fun!
Fun!
fun, good cause
Fun,fun. We came in first in our mixed division however did not medal..still figuring that one out.:
getting together with so many other people from every where and everyone willing to help out
Good event for a good cause
Good event for the Lakeside community
Good organization, good number of teams participating, friendliness of everyone
good people
good people and personalities
Gorgeous lake, mountains, rural location, small town atmosphere, shuttle service to parking area.
Great atmosphere and good responses to adverse conditions. The volunteers were the bomb!!
Great atmosphere.
Great cancer survivor community
Great chance to visit Montana and time with Granddaughter
Great energy, friendly competition, great cause

great event
Great event and location
Great event lots of fun and team comraderie. Lots of volunteers willing to help whenever and whenever needed.
Great event. I'm a volunteer
great family event
great family event; fun being on a team
Great for all ages, easy to access, many things to see/do. So happy it is in Lakeside - great community/venue
Great job at taking the safety of all the paddlers into account when the weather became too much.
Great location in Lakeside and the teams were very friendly and helpful to those of us that were brand new to the sport and event. Very encouraging.
Great location, friendly people and organized
Great location, lots of parking. Awesome volunteers.
Great opportunity to witness teamwork and fun
great outing, nice to get friends come down an dvisit and participate and help out
Great people, great event
Great people. Everyone having fun.
great positive fun event
great venue
Great venue, finish line of races right out front, docks make getting in & out of boats easy. Great people & community participation.
great venue, impressive
Great volunteers and the organizers tried to get all the boats out. Well done and thank you!
Great volunteers, well run event
Helpful, friendly staff. Liked the solid floating walkways or docks. Admired the decision to shorten up the length of races due to weather conditions.
Highly-spirited and competitive and fun people
hometown function, good cause
I appreciate all the volunteers that helped out, having them stop traffic to cross the road and shuttles back and forth were very nice. Starting the races earlier in the morning worked out well
I enjoy the festival, people and talking to the volunteers. it's not only the race but it is also the beautiful lake area and the sportsmanship I am drawn to.
I enjoyed it all - very organized, clean
I enjoyed the races, when we were able to race because of the weather. seems like there should be discount on price next because we got shorted. not happy with this year
I just like being apart of the races
I like that there are so many participants and a lot of team spirit.
I like the bands and kids area.
I like the races themselves
I liked having plenty of volunteers at line up and to assist with loading and unloading of boats. Loved the rose ceremony.
I liked that it was well organized and the volunteer staff were great.
i liked the location. the little town was the right size for something like this and not too far from my friend's house.
I liked the people putting it on and it was very organized this year (I have been coming to it for 5 years)
I love everything about the festival!! It is so incredibly well run... the announcer is not just able to be heard but also understood... the venue is beautiful... I just love love love this event!!!
I love how fun the event is and the overall atoshere
I love the community spirit and diversity
I love the competitive spirit and willingness to help others that all of the teams demonstrate.
I loved the whole atomosphere, the staff was incredible, everything was great.
I thought it was well organized and there wasn't too much downtime between races.

Initial registration process was great!
involvement of the community
It felt a little more organized this year at the new location and having the tents closer was nice. The beach/viewing area is a good size too.
It is a blast
It is a great event for all people, participants or not
It is very well organized, the officiating is very fair. Even when the race official made a mistake, they will let everyone know and correct it.
It was a lot of fun! Great way to meet more people.
It was exciting, fun and good exercise!
It was fun
it was fun
It was organized and fun. I enjoyed paddling with other teams and getting to know others associated with dragon boating in our region.
It was very well organized and fun!! We had a great time at the races!!
It's a lotta fun
It's a unique and fun event that gets you outside. Very friendly competition.
its all fun
It's always a good time.
It's always fun getting out on the lake and racing. :)
It's an amazing, unique event combining participants from varying locations and spectators. I loved getting to meet other paddlers and I learned a lot from the helmsmen and women assigned to our boat. I enjoyed paddling in it and my friends and family members enjoyed participating in the event as well. The volunteers were awesome sauce!
It's awesome
Just the event in general
Keep up the good work
Kevin keeps things rolling and on time
Kevin Kwan and staff did a great job communicating to team leaders, and organizing the event. Website & FB page were helpful to update teams leading toward the event. Food and parking seemed well-planned. Music on Friday (80's cover band at Welcome Party) and Saturday at race site (90's Pearl Jam sound) were well received. Band on Saturday night, paddlers party, not so much.
Kids activities and vendors were good.
Lakeside location
Lakeside location, tent set up, location of race course. Like the 225 meter races.
live music, location
Location
Location and amenities
location and race organization
location, atmosphere
Location, breast cancer event
Location, intimate atmosphere.
location, organization
Location, the band was amazing!
Location, volunteers
Location, volunteers, live music
location/organization
Location/venue is awesome
Lots of fun and tons of people
Lots of fun people, adrenaline rush while paddling

Love Kalispell and the Flathead lake area...so beautiful Residents of Lakeside are so friendly Great venue, appreciated the free parking Well organized event How well Kevin and his head staff handled our boat capsizing, the debrief and reassurance after the incident. They were amazing!! They were there for us and handled the situation so professionally
Love Montana, have attended before and great group of people that organize and work it!
Love the Dragon Boat races. Our 4th year doing it and will be back next year.
Love the sport
Love the team atmosphere, venue, fun, music, all of it
love the team spirit. Helpfulness of the dragon professionals. This is a super great event!!
Loved the other teams, first time attendee
Lovely park, great organizer, accessibility to view races, beautiful lake
Meeting new friends.
meeting new people
meeting people and the racing
Montana area, lake, size
MT, beautiful lake, other teams, fun atmosphere
music
music, friendly people
music, people
New experience
Nice end of the summer event
nice people
Once again you knocked it out of the park.
organization, location
organization, volunteers
Organizers were on top of weather and conditions
Overall organization, shortening races Sunday when weather cancelled some, relaxed & friendly dock volunteers & race officials, great morale competitions, toilet paper restocking was awesome
Overall the festival was great. I really enjoyed it.
Overall very fun. Good people, great volunteers
Paddling and friends
Paddling, food, beer
participating
people
People
People are amazing. volunteers are amazing! The space and open area.
People were very friendly and helpful. Staff was knowledgeable, and organized. Safety was #1 which made our team more comfortable since we are novice paddlers.
people, venue
Pleasant volunteers and workers
Positive athletic vibe
Positive atmosphere and amazing sportsman ship!
Proximity to boats - you can see them easily
race /competition
Racing
Racing!
Really liked the testing and samples of the local liquor and wine.
relaxed



Relaxed atmosphere of the festival, best one to go to at the end of the season. Friendly and everyone is excited, just great to attend and finish on a high note.
Relaxed venue and friendliness of the teams Being able to recruit members of other teams to fill the boat Honoring BCS's and children
Seeing the races, competition, Lakeside location
Shorting the races to 200 meters. Seemed more exciting and got through races. Weather played a lot into finishing both posted races for that day.
Shuttle service and free parking
Sitting by the lake watching the boats
small festival
Smaller and beautiful lake
so much energy and fun!
team effort, and paddling
Team environment, unique event
Team Spirit and organization.
teamwork
Teamwork and seeing old friends
Thank you for putting on such a nice event. We thoroughly enjoyed it.
That we have fun and it's for a good cause. Love to get 20 plus people to do one thong row our burrs off
The announcer is incredible. He does an excellent job.
the atmosphere
The camaraderie fun and friends and being outdoors on water
the camaraderie was amazing!
the canadians
the ceremony for cancer patients, survivors and those that had died
The community
The community and venue
the competition and atmosphere; beauty of the area and venue
The competition spirit
The completion in a light hearted way. The event staff were very very friendly and helpful.
The energy is awesome
The event and staff were wonderful.
The event coordinators, their enthusiasm and flexibility, The Saturday night dinner and dance (the band sucked), but the atmosphere was great. Really liked the the shortened races due to weather conditions. Organizers did a good job with this! Survivor Ceremony was well done.
The event staff were very helpful and well organized
The event was quick with getting the boats ready with people & moving the races along. It was also nice to have the carts to cart you back n forth to your vehicle, especially when you had a lot to carry in.
The festive atmosphere - concessions, bands, megatron, awards
The food trucks, things were on time (generally, nothing could be done about the weather
The friendly atospere
The fun atmosphere and costumes
the fun of watching
The fun, healthy vibe
The helpfulness of volunteers and staff, especially when dealing with bad weather...the paddlers party had excellent participation by business...silent auction, beverage tasting.
the lake, free beer
The location is beautiful, lots of great food vendors, runs smoothly. Festival merchandise is really nice, good price.

The location was awesome. The lake is a beautiful place to paddle. The site is small enough so I can easily watch the races or see other teams. The event planners made a very wise decision to alter the races on Sunday so we all had a chance to paddle - and completed the whole event. Well done organizers!
the location, clean water
the love
The management by Kevin Kwan's organization, the venue, quality of teams, fairness of the races, the guts & glory 2000 meter race, the site layout.
The organisers and volunteers are top notch. This makes us all feel welcome and safe.
The organizers really knew how to get us through the heats even though the wind did not cooperate.
the people
The people
the people
The people and the paddling
The people at Lakeside are top drawer. It is too bad that some bad luck is taking place with weather, etc., because I think it is giving this location a bad name but the people are not to blame.
The people from Calgary that looked after the boats on the water, offered steerspeople if required
the people, shuttle service
The setting @ Lakeside: beautiful park & facilities! The friendly volunteers! Great concessions! Shorter races on Sun due to weather forecast for later!
The shore setup for the festival, and the location is Beautiful
The spirit, camaraderie, and playful competitiveness of the races.
the spirit, the organization and the paddling
The steersmen were fun/cool/funny
The team, racing in the boat
The teams' camaraderie
The teamwork and concessions
The Teamwork! The event the staff the whole event. Was inspiring.
The venue and its volunteers/organizers are wonderful and we like to support the local restaurants, etc. at Lakeside.
The venue and the organization and the team fun off the water. The best was the way the organizers adapted to the changing water conditions. They were super.
The venue and volunteers have been great
The venue was nice, and I found all participants to be friendly and supportive. There were many different teams, but there wasn't an overcompetitive spirit which made mingling and making friends very easy
the venue was wonderful...the people friendly and the organization fantastic
The volunteers were all so friendly Always willingness not to help. No matter the question
The volunteers were exceptionally friendly. The scenery was spectacular. The event was very well organized.
The whole weekend was fun
There is a strong camaraderie among the different teams of paddlers
This is a lot of fun.
This was my first time at the festival my wife has been apart of a group for this was her 2nd year we both are now no pun intended hook line and sinker for it!
This was my first!
This was the first festival I have participated in. I thought it was well done. Your volunteers are wonderful.
totally super spot!
variety of teams and costumes
vendors, great location
Venue
venue
venue

venue is so much better/more accessible than the old F.L.L. Love lots of beach for viewing the finish line. super organized
Venue, organization
Venue, people, weather all good
Venue, staff, competition
Venue/location is awesome
Very clean and positive atmosphere! Very friendly people. Beautiful location!
Very entertaining
Very friendly, organized
Very fun, upbeat atmosphere.
very joyful and family friendly
Very organized
Very organized
very organized
Very organized! Fun event to watch.
very smoothly run; everyone was super friendly and accomodating
Very social event.
very well organized and the volunteer staff was exceptional .I love that there were so many different categories and so many medals handed out ... This will surely keep A much broader spectrum of interest for future events
Very well run, great location and vendors
volunteers and dragon boat officials/organizers are all so great. I haven't attended any other races besides Lakeside so can't really compare with other sites/venues but I think it's probably among the top in the NW US and Canada; Fri. pre-event was really fun and diverse (food, band, etc.)
volunteers were excellent, locations was also good
Volunteers, organizers, quick response when boats flipped, rose ceremony, proximity of parking to venue, band at Friday night party
was a blast
watching daughter
We help provide recycling services at the event and the staff is great to work with. Very well organized and responsive to questions.
Weather
weather and people
well organized
Well organized
well organized - helpful and friendly
Well organized, event ran on time as scheduled. Nice selection of vendors.
Well organized, friendly organizers.
Well organized, friendly people and a lot of fun
well organized, friendly, interesting
Well organized, good variety of vendors, great friendly volunteers, great PA system always knew what was going on
well organized, great staff and volunteers
well organized, location, survivor ceremony
well organized, very friendly
well organized, well run, awesome volunteers
Well run
We'll run and organized. I love the location, vendors and volunteers.
what's not to like?
Winning

**Q24. Please tell us what you did not like about the Dragon Boat Festival.**

1. Lack of vendors. Other than food vendors, I could find only 2 selling merchandise 2. Although beyond the control of the event organizers, the races had to be called because of weather 3. The paddlers dinner and dance was very lackluster. The food was good but although the band was good, in my opinion, that is not the kind of band that encourages dancing & fund. Might be better to have a cover band that does country & old time rock & 80's music so ther is a variety for all ages.
a little disorganized
A little tightly packed for space
Almost tipping into a cold lake
band was...something...
bathrooms ran out of toilet paper
Being so late in the year - the weather gets 'iffy'. As 'steer' for our team's dragon boat, I much prefer to have 4 marked lanes and not the '2 box' setup where two teams race in each box keeping to their designated side of the box.
bummer because of the wind
Can you please make sure the weather cooperate? Smile.
challenge of parking, wind
Condition of the water, (only because we tipped) not much we can do with the weatherman. Appreciated the staff when we tipped and the warm tents.
cost and doing after Labor Day
Could do without the water conditions (not the fault of anyone!)
Could have been more local camping, events and preparation on Friday practice day..
Couldn't see boats from tents like we could in Bigfork.
crazy waves
Crossing the street HY93
Did not like the VIP tents not having walls. Found getting into the dragon boat somewhat difficult.
diesel fumes from warming tent
Dragon Bash...dinner not worth ticket price
Everyone did not receive medals this year :(
Everything was awesome!
Flathead dragonflies should be more helpful.
friends in race
gesssh,,,,,nothing
Getting up so early on the weekend, but I do think it is best because the water is usually calmer in the morning and overall it was for the best.
hate that it gets windy and races canceled; newbie boats should not be in lane 4
Having to wait to see if the race was cancelled on Saturday
high winds, second day concessions were not open early when teams arrived for early starts. More selection of food available, gluten free options
I can't think of a single deficiency or shortcoming that affected my family's enjoyment of the Festival or our stay.
I did not like all the exhaust in the air from the generators. the video screen was not worth all the exhuaust we breathed. The whole time we were at the marshalling lines and the dock, we were breathing terrible exhaust. I like scenic dragonboat races because they are not next to freeways. I did not expect all the exhaust and might not come back again for only this reason.
I did not like how rude the volunteer staff was for the beer gardens to pay for your tickets. Before I finished my sentence I was cut off to get my driver's license & also didn't receive the correct amount of change back. When asked to get my

correct changed I was treated like I was lying about it & they never gave it back. instead I was given a free drink, which in reality I should got \$16.00 dollars back instead of \$6.00
I did not like the location, to crowded and too much wind on the west side of lake. Vendors sucked this year not a good selection, needed island noodles. Very crowded for even have fewer people. and parking sucked. Also didnt appreciate the kyak rental guy complaining that the event was going on. Not a good year at all. not sure if ill be back next year.
I didn't like how busy the roads were trying to get there from parking
I didn't notice most of the food trucks until day 2.
I do still feel that the event was better when it was at Big Fork. If there was a way to solve the parking issue it would be great to go back there. The race times were all over the place, and it was hard to keep up. I feel the race times should be more accurate by now, given that there is a history of this event - we shouldn't always be running behind schedule (and I do recognize the wind attributed to this). Perhaps there could be more focus to getting the teams loaded/unloaded quicker, and in their start lanes faster. Minor, but it was always a scramble selecting the right size paddle. It'd be great if there were separate piles for short and longer paddles.
I feel that there should be some recognition for top 8 teams that get to the Mix A (maybe all participation medals) and then top 3 get medals and team trophy of something. For non traveling teams it seems unfair to try hard to get to that level and see Mix B down get medals while slower. In years past everyone got a participation medal to take home (to remember the event).
I find the Saturday night Bash has lost it's attraction. The band this year were great musicians but I am tired of the exact same dinner each year. Found the drop in numbers had a large impact on the event.
I have a serious problem with having the event in September when weather can be bad. Three out of 5 years this event has had to change or compromise the races or cancel races due to weather. The idea that having it in September somehow extends the tourist season dollars into the Flathead cannot be proven & is delusional. If the race continues to happen in mid September it will continue to lose team participation and eventually cease to exist. The cost of the event continues to go up as teams reduce and it's result is community teams won't spend over \$900 to do the race, particularly when weather causes cancellation of races. Ditto now for many out of market teams. The event should aggressively solicit more sponsors to off set costs & that is not happening. I know of sponsors who used to be asked to sponsor & no longer are asked to do so. Why ? - I'm very frustrated with the lack of participation continuing every year & equally as frustrated with the attitude of people who manage the event in the Flathead making lame excuses as to why teams are dropping in participation each year. The current status quo of managing the event is a losing proposition. Either fix the status quo or watch the event dwindle into non existence. I love the event but I'm very displeased with the philosophy behind why it happens ( allegedly to fill motel rooms & restaurants in Kalispell ). I also think Kalispell needs to be more inclusive with the surrounding communities. Paddlers, volunteers, teams and spectators come from Columbia Falls, Whitefish, Somers, Lakeside, Polson, Bigfork, etc. Why Kalispell refuses to share in the advertising & promotion of the event with those cities - yet relies upon their citizens for attending or paddling - is unfair on multiple levels and causing resentment & needs to change. The race date also directly competes with races in British Columbia and most importantly the Portland Festival on the same weekend & we lose a lot of out of market teams because of this.
I hope for more teams!
I liked everything, even the challenging waves.
I loved it all
I prefer the old venue at Big Fork. Not enough vendors for shopping
I think that the response could have been better when a boat capsized.
I thought the Bigfork was a better location for the races for a couple of reasons: 1. Not as windy typically as Lakeside 2. Spectators have more room to watch. 3. Team tent area was a pretty tight.
I was disappointed when I was going to get Kettle corn and the vendor had a very mean spirited tshirt "Clinton for Prison". This is not appropriate for a non-political event
I'm a breast cancer "survivor" of eight years and joined the others at the dock. I thought this program was the lowest experience of the weekend. I could barely stand through the song which I found needlessly weighted emotionally and melodramatic. I have had the personal experience of all breast cancer has to offer and have lost countless friends and family members to breast cancer. I appreciate that I was standing in the midst of those in the throes of their diagnosis, disease, and treatment as well as those in grief, trauma and loss and I deeply respect all others are going through. I did not appreciate having those emotions and experiences played on in such a dramatic way. I think we can be respectful, acknowledging and affirming with dignity, strength, and confidence in ourselves and one another without theatrics and drama. I won't be on the dock next year. Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts and feelings.
I'm not sure you can control the wait between runs but if there is that would be great!
It seemed to take too long to finally announce the end of paddling on Saturday. We left without hearing the final word because we saw the packing up.
It wasn't as eventful as last year with the vendors and the activities going on during.

I've got nothing... I attend many festivals & you folks are doing an amazing job !!!
Just make a bracket of all the teams, not classes. Our B Team beat an A Team's time...
just the weather
Just the wind
Kind of windy
lack of organization/vendors
Lack of safety - people on docks without PFDs
Lack of souvenir vendors
Lack of space
lack of support from other dragon boat communities
lack of taxis in Kalispel
Liked the Bigfork location better; more waterfront area for viewing of race
Location is not protected from wind, so if there is someplace that is, might consider moving it...
Location of vendors moved to another parking lot to allow room for kids events. Would have like to have to lots for vendors switched with lot for kids events.
Location, Foy or WF would be better
Loose children
Losing
loved everything except the wind :)
loved it all
mother nature's windy side
N/A
N/A
N/A
N/a
N/A
NA
Need more food around
Need more food vendors
need more teams
Need more/faster food vendors.
Needs more good vendors
Needs to be dog friendly-I would have spent more time and money at the festival but had to go back to the campground to ensure their safety.
No dogs
No dogs :(
No dogs allowed
no taxis
not a thing!
Not as many vendors for food - Island Noodles?
Not being able to race 2nd round on Saturday due to weather , but that's unpredictable :) Overall a great event!
Not dog friendly. Dragon boaters often travel with there dogs:)
Not enough food vendors
Not enough races for the registration fee. Did not like the requirement to set up tents on Friday - difficult for out-of-state competitors.
Not enough short paddles.
Not enough toilets

Not qualified to be critical.
Nothing
nothing
Nothing
NOTHING
Nothing
Nothing
Nothing
Nothing really .. couldn't help the weather. And it didnt stop us from having a great time
Nothing. When we arrived to register, the lady at the table had our last year's (2015!) reservation roster! Luckily we registered our team early so we didn't hold up other teams also trying to register. Everyone did a great job!!
Now if you could only control Mother Nature!
obviously the wind that came up
Parking
parking
parking
parking
Parking
Parking \$ some places
parking a bit inconvenient for schlepping all the boating gear; glad there was shuttle available but it required waiting and we were always pressed for time
parking is difficult, I ended up paying because it was too hard to haul items so far
Parking is to far away and visitor attendance was disappointing
Parking was awful, registration price is way too high, poor communication prior to the event, captain briefing/paddler party was obviously an attempt to get people to the live at lakeside event, We used to get a lot more for our money including a catered captain's briefing and more practices that don't cost so much. Music was terrible and it was nearly impossible to hear our marshaling and times over the bad music. Video screen was completely pointless.
Parking was better than last year but still terrible
parking.... that's about it.
Party in Kalispell pulled people away from spending money in Lakeside.
Paying for parking. Not enough teams,timing of event so late in year. Weather
Paying for parking. Parking should be free for paddlers no matter what.
people smoking, people with dogs
Poor directions for Fri. eve location to sign up
Races should have been called off sooner due to lake/weather conditions on Saturday
Racing times changes without good communication
rescue planning for flipped boats. Too long in the water.
seemed a little disorganized
September weather
Skittles : )
So far...why not have it in a polson?
Some of the steer persons are very rude. THis is a fun event and they need to lighten up. For some of us it is our first time in a boat. We couldn't hear the announcer over the loud music playing.
Speaker was too loud for me
team chants should have been done by the sound system
the band
The band at the paddlers party did not play music that would've kept paddlers there like last year.
The band poor. The weather out of your control. the site was tight but ok. No Survivor race, too bad that couldn't have happened first thing Sunday morning but understand weather conditions.

The boats were ahead of schedule and we were not warned until the last second, making it hard to gather our team members who weren't prepared to get on that early.
The boats were very tippy, and the weather was not too cooperative, but the event organizers were flexible so the overall experience was great.
the dock was too high, difficult locating boats
The dragon bash had good food, and location, but the entertainment seemed to be a little off. They were a good band, but with no variety in sound, after an hour or so everyone grew weary of the environment. The food was good. It would be nice to have a non alcoholic event to draw in those that don't drink.
The fact it was 2 days.
The hard part for me is the weather, and just racing in the waves
the lack of vendors and the "PARKING" there should be parking for the people in the races and more disabled parking
The lake was too unpredictable. We spent a lot of money to have day 1 cancelled and short races on day 2
The location and time of event, the weather is always bad.
The old man smoking; the heaters did not work in the tent- absolutely unacceptable!!
the organization
The Pearly White team borders on unsportsmanlike conduct. They are the only ones that are seriously confrontational.
The portable toilets did not include a water / washing station.
the rush to get races in in the morning, and the uncertainty of the waves. Going to the festival prepared to race 500 meter races, and ending up paddling sprints, and to be clear it isn't the distance i didn't like, (I really like to race sprints) it is the fact that we prepared for and were expecting 500 meters, and ended up racing sprints at the last minute.
The Saturday night dinner and dance was a dud
The size of the lake makes for issues when the wind picks up. Missing races is the biggest let down of the weekend. The tent area is really crowded. The sound system can be hard to hear in some spots
The time of year we hold the event, it's on the cusp of the seasons and we've had 2 years now where races had to be cancelled/cut short due to weather on the lake.
the waves
The weather
the weather :( Our group only got to race once, and i was really disappointed about that
The weather was rough.
The weather! I was on two teams and there was no space between races.
The weather(out of their control) and I prefer the other location at Bigfork, this location was okay but not the same as the Lodge.
The weather, but there was nothing the organizers could do about that. The cost of the hotel was a little high.
The weekend was a bad weekend. Fall sports, school and activities just started and it is a hard time to get so many people to commit to a weekend long event.
the wind
the wind
the wind and my lack of being in shape!!
the wind did pick up during Saturday, I wish the plan was to hang out for a few hours, then resume instead of cancelling for the rest of the day.
The wind that can't be helped.
The wind! :)
The wind, which I realize you have no control over!
The wind. The docks are too high!
The windy weather was not ideal, but the organizers refigured race times to help that.
there is no place to take or leave your dogs
There needs to be a smoking only section in the tent areas. No one on our team smokes but the neighboring team tent did and it was very uncomfortable. We didn't really want to hang out in our tent area.
There was some terrible waves (wakes) on the lake on Saturday, but you can't control the weather
there was very little in the way of activities for young children so I was glad I did not bring my family
This year would have been the lake conditions. Also very disappointed in the unprofessionalism of the steers persons (our steer in particular) and the a group of volunteers. Our team was in shock and rattled after capsizing. Something



we would not like to experience again....but it was especially hurtful when members from our team over heard our steer blaming us for the capsize and another volunteer making fun of us for being scared of the waves, and thats why we capsized. It was ALL our fault cause we stopped paddling! Our Go-pro attached to our drummer tells otherwise, We were leaning out, paddling through the tough waves and were hit out of nowhere. I think for future festivals, volunteer steers and volunteers for the event should be professional and keep their comments/thoughts to themselves or discussed privately. You never know who is in ear shot, standing right there and can hear your hurtful words We were in enough shock from capsizing.....and hearing volunteers who we trust and value as part of the event talking negative ...was just another blow. It was very hard to get back in the boat on Sunday with the same steer.....We knew what he had said behind our backs and that day he lied and said we did nothing wrong re: capsizing.
Timing - September is not the best time for me
Tipping the boat in rough waters
too bad it got windy
Too many classifications of entries
Too windy to complete the races
turn off the wind machines!
unclear about race times - often having to rush at last minute to avoid missing race because times had been changed
unpredictable weather
venue was a bit crowded but adequate
Very cramped
Very disappointed that there were no water stations outside the toilets.
Want more races
water and wind
water too choppy
waves
waves
Waves and wind
We felt that the Dragon Boat Bash Dinner is losing its attractiveness and we could see that in the attendance numbers. We would probably not buy tickets for the dinner next year and make our own arrangements. We also noticed the number of teams entered was down, so we hope that it continues to build as it is a very good event and we enjoy coming to it.
We should not have been out on the water for a few of those races. It was too rough, too dangerous. Our safety should have been paramount, not trying to get all the races in.
We were A non professional team who does not travel who had the 4th fastest team and received no recognition and no award of any kind ....There Are many other amateur teams who were considerably slower and received medals
weather
Weather :P, was very dicey
Weather could have been warmer!
Weather lol
Weather lol
Weather...wind, waves, etc. This has happened the last two years with it held in Sept. Should be a July or August event.
weather/ time of year
weather/small tent area
weather/wind called event
When things got rough Saturday, they questioned to cancel the races. Sunday was better
When we first changed locations we were told the area was much more sheltered. Unfortunately the last 2 years to not seem to support that, as the weather/water has been a problem. The Dragon Bash event was also a huge disappointment. The band was good, but not a dance band. And to be honest I am very unimpressed with the Red Lion, and their staff, as a whole. They don't seem to want to take care of the dragon boaters at all. I didn't stay there this time, and won't in the future.
Whitecaps on lake
wind

Wind
wind
wind
Wind
wind
wind
wind
wind
wind
wind
wind
wind
wind
wind
Wind
wind
wind
wind
wind
Wind
wind
wind
WIND
wind
wind and cold
Wind and cold temperatures on race days were tough foes. Late changes to race grid. Waiver e-mail was rather late in summarizing for team leaders.
Wind and the date. The date is always the same date as the Portland OR races. August would be better. I'm not sure if that would help with the wind. They should have called the afternoon races after the second boat capsized.
wind caused cancellations
wind location poor
Wind on Saturday
wind, length of time between races on Saturday, parking
Wind, tent area was small
Wind, the registration system could have a few more directions. Also if I could get my team's waivers to me ahead of time, they'd all get done.
wind, waves
wind, waves
Wind. Live music was weak.
Windy location
windy weather
Wish paddlers that are new had a few more practice event before the festival!
With the races being so far out in the water, it is hard to see what's going on and to tell which boat is which.

## Q25. What suggestions do you have for improvements to the event?

A small fenced in area for dogs so that paddlers with dogs could put them in there when they are racing
Absolutely none. You do a wonderful job.
add an art craft fair in park around perimeter
Add feedback on recycling services to this survey so we can look at ways to continue to improve these.
all goood
allow dogs
Although the band on Saturday night was good it was not the kind of band that was meant for dancing....more popular music, rock classics.....
an area for people with dogs
Any vendor selling dragon boat paddles or accessories?
arrangements with local businesses for better parking
As a new dragon boat paddler, I'd love an opportunity to take a class or workshop from one of the pros! The weekend itself is too busy in and off itself perhaps to add this type of event but there are many of us who would appreciate more time and professional instruction.
August date.
Bathrooms ran out of tp. Enjoyed event.
beer garden location was not inviting
Begin advocating a little earlier to obtain more participants
Better directions to sign up
better mics and speakers - hard to hear
better organization. last night was disorganized
better parking with handicap parking, more food booths and things for children to do
Better parking. Wish we could have had some kind of practice run prior to racing. Even if it was b4 races started as the weather was bad Friday. Maybe do it a little earlier so can have better weather hopefully.
Better promotion and include other communities and more sponsors
Better sound system. The only place you hear the announcements is at the beach. If you are ANYWHERE else...you dont hear a thing. Even if you are in a boat trying to hear times...it was difficult.
Better weather lol jk
Bigger tent area
Bigger tent areas
bigger tents and more music
Bigger venue
brew pub bus tour
Bring AC/DC to play
build a
Can't think of any.
can't think of anything
Change date.
change the date to mid-summer
Change the event to July or August. Share in the advertising and promotion with other Lake & county cities. Lower the cost of entry fee for teams. Get more sponsors from businesses, institutions & cities around the Lake.
cheap beer
Choose an earlier date in the year to host the event, mid to late August.
Cleaning port-a-potties on the Saturday, they were pretty rank by Sunday
Consider a date change, so festival does not fall on same weekend as Portland & Penticton races. Also, if moved earlier in Sept, perhaps we'd get warmer temps.

Consideration of other social activities would be nice rather than just the dinner/show traditionally done.
Different loading/docks? Took a bit longer to get in/out of the boats which probably added up overall. At the old location it was super easy to get in/out of the boats and probably helped in getting races going faster. Aside from that, well run and adjustments were made well due to circumstances.
do it earlier in the year when the weather is calmer
do it in another bay without wind
dog area, fenced, am willing to pay extra
doing a great job
Don't change a thing! Can't wait till next year!
drawing a blank here also
Earlier date in summer maybe
earlier in year
Earlier in year.
earlier race starts to avoid bad weather?
Earlier start time and cut the length earlier in the day if the wind is coming.
Entice more dragonboaters to come. You all did a great job and were so helpful with helmsmen and extra paddlers.
Everything is set up great.
Figure out weather control! :D
find a location where we don't have to as 250s (?)
free parking for participants
Free parking for the participants
generator for warming tent not near que up, use cleaner fuel
Great event, great volunteers
Great group of hard working people, don't know what to suggest to get more participants and not sure how to improve the weather, maybe having it in August instead.
hard to find event day of or days before on local websites
have a dog run area where racers can leave their dogs for an hour
Have it again
Have more teams! More practice for new ones! With proper guide!
Having more options for practice times for the local people here who work and can't make it Friday during the day. Informing the captain better about where to park and what to do for the tent site set up.
Having the event Labor Day weekend or earlier would allow more of our teammates who wanted to race here to attend
Heard it is common to have wind and waves in the afternoon which typically calms down early evening. Maybe either start early in morning like we did on Sunday or consider having races in the evening? Not sure how it would work logistically.
Heaters, fire pit to keep warm. As a racer if you get wet and its chilly it would be nice to have a place to warm up. If its a hot weekend, then a mist area to cool. Add a women's changing area too (I didn't see one). Thanks!
here should be parking for the people in the races and more disabled parking
I did miss Island Noodles this year.
I don't know. There is nothing that can be done about weather unless there is a different sot on the lake that is not as affected by weather. More merchandise vendors
I received a medal in the A division. I would love it to say A division on it. I'm guessing the D division medal is the exact same.
I think it is a great event. It's too bad the evening social isn't better attended. Not sure how to fix that.
I think it should be held before labor day.
I think it's great. Will come back as long as I'm living here.
I think something has to change in terms of how the event is run if it stays in Lakeside. The wind seems to come up in the late morning / early afternoon and then seems to settle down again. Perhaps having a longer break in between would keep people there supporting the vendors, etc. Maybe another date needs to be considered as well. And forget about the Dragon Bash. Maybe look to get something going in Lakeside itself. I'm certain it could be done, and be much more entertaining. Maybe Lanny and the Tamarack can step up? :)

I think that the announcer should keep the crowd interacted in the races, let them know which team is leading and times ect. Make things more exciting/interesting for the people watching
I think the festival needs to be held earlier in the year. The weather obviously, is unpredictable this time of year.
I would hope to think more businesses, such as outdoor stores, would have had a booth at the event and advertised their goods - at least PFDs and paddles.
I wouldn't mind seeing more concessions with healthy "grab and go" foods like yogurt, fresh fruit, veggies, cheese, juices, muffins, etc. At our home event in Lethbridge our team brings these things to share, but staying in hotels makes it difficult to do at the Kalispell event. None of us likes to load up on heavy or fried foods before races, so having some fresh, lighter fare would be great.
If the event were earlier like August the weather is almost guaranteed to be nicer and more predictable. We may get more of the summer viewing crowds as well. More food/swag vendors would be nice, the hula dancers were good, perhaps if we added to that.
if there was a more sheltered place that was also very nice like Lakeside. Whitefish possibly?
In my opinion, when the boat capsized, the paddlers were left in the water too long. Paddlers should have come out of the water first and the designated "rescue" team to deal with the boat.
Include lake county in survey
include more local bars and restaurants
Is the Dragon Bash worth it?
Is there a smaller lake in the area that can accommodate this festival? Heat in the change tents or just in case for boat tip overs.
It worked out great that the event ended by noon on Sunday, as we have a 4 hour drive home after. It'd be great to keep it this way, and while it was early this year due to the conditions and shortening the race to 200m, I do wonder if some time could be saved by dropping the consolation heats on Sunday in the future.
It would be nice to move it to a different location when the weather is bad, seems like the water always has whitecaps and big waves.
It's good.
Kalispell party would be better attended if there were some sort of bus shuttle....too far away from race venue/campsite
Keep adding vendors
Keep it going
Keep running this wonderful festival! It is such a great experience and I know my team had alot of fun regardless of the water conditions. Train your steers and volunteers to be professional in their words and actions.
Keep up the good work
keep up the great work
larger viewing area for the races
Less exposure to the waves would be nice but I recognize the constraints.
less wind
Let's do it again!!! So fun.
located on another area of lake less prone to wind warnings
Lower clock
Make it earlier in the year when weather is not such a problem.
Make it just one day.
Mandatory practice pre-race helpful for first years
map of vendors
maybe better parking
Maybe earlier in the season...
Maybe have event in late August which would probably conflict w Canadian events.
Maybe have in late August (weather)
Maybe karaoke at the paddler party?
Maybe start and hour earlier to beat the potentially rough waters Would like the option of entering a shorter race. OR have the morning races short. 225 to 250 meters would be perfect. Especially in rough waters. I personally think many teams would enjoy a sprinting option.
Maybe turn one of the speakers around towards the team tents. It was hard to hear what race was being called/marshaled.

maybe whitefish lake.
Meet Lanny McDonald!
Might want to move back to Big Fork, seemed more windy in Lakeside
More advertising
More advertising, community involvement in all areas
More attention to local businesses - tell us where to go between races. Get local businesses more involved with specials, etc.
More bathrooms and coffee places
More beer
More beer
more boats
More communication.
more concessions; food trucks
more food
more food and better entertainment
more food truck options
More food trucks and no wind.
More food trucks? More different types of food readily available for people attending the event
More food vendors
More food vendors
More food vendors.
More free kids activities
more info re shuttles
More kids games
More parking
More practice times for teams-it was too hard for our team to get there to practice due to work.
More publicity
More retail on site. I'd love to shop the local products, but there's no time to get away from the festival.
More selection of food available, gluten free options
More shopping would be good
More short paddles 47 or less. For people 5'4" and under.
More space, more activities and vendors
More spaced out tent area
More stable boats? But really had a great time!
more teams
More teams would be fine, but the venue and the timing (to beat the winds and waves later in the day) may not accommodate many more teams UNLESS there was an additional set of boats to speed things up a little...but that would create more work for the already hardworking volunteers (who were awesome, I should repeat).
More toilet paper/paper towels in the restrooms and more food vendors that are reasonably priced.
More vendors from the flathead valley!
More vendors
more vendors (not food)
More vendors , concessions and Child activities. Stage performances.
Move event to August
Move it back to Bigfork.
MOver the date up earlier in August so we wont have the issues with the weather like we did this year
Move the event to the other side of the lake. offer more vendors and more friendly parking. not happy with this years event. sorry

Move the weekend
Move to "secret cove"
Move to Polson!!!!
music for afterwards
N/A
N/a
N/A
Need a shuttle to the party Saturday night-we didn't want to drink beer before and at the event and drive back-so the party needs to have transportation(10.00 per person) or needs to be where the event is.
Need more food vendors
New location
no generators!!
no smoking or dogs
No suggestions
no wind
none
None
none
None
none at this time, this was my first event ever and I was impressed about the whole thing
None, I think it is a really great event. Although I think the other location at Big Fork was 'nicer' though it was probably more expensive to rent/lease for the event.
None, just hope economic in Alberta will be better. So more people can afford the trip.
None.
on site, would like to see the hand wash stations return.
Other than space it's great.
paddlers party - music was good but we wanted more 70-90's music - easier to dance to. we were not there as couples so it was a little awkward to dance to that music.
Paddlers party on site or in Lakeside
parking
Parking & access are SO important. You did very well. Don't let that slip.
Perhaps start earlier both mornings while water calm.
Please keep it in Lakeside!
Possibility for different venue, very windy/wavy
Possibly to hold it in August to be luckier with weather. Although the temperature was perfect, it is highly possible to have snow in Kalispell in early Sept. - like you did two years ago - that was awful; so cold!
Post marshaling and race results on the video screen instead of that repetitive stuff that was on it. Move to a better location. lower registration fees, give everyone medals, resolve the parking issues, have the event earlier in the year when the weather is better, and STOP ADVERTISING FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES THAT AREN'T FREE!
Post times and schedule on monitors periodically
Pray for better weather :)
Provide a better dinner and a dance band, like in previous years, or cancel the dinner and dance altogether
See above
See above.
See above. Also, we really did not have enough room for our two teams, give area for tents more room.
see Q24
See Q24. Maybe hold earlier
Set up a break water boom (string of floating logs or ???) to minimize waves. Use floating docks with height same as dragon boat gunnel height.

shorter race course for recreational teams - like we had on sunday - might give everyone a better chance to finish before the wind picks up. let competitive racers run the full 500 meters - or at least the final rounds can be the full distance. all great fun, thank you!
shorter surveys
Some location where the wind doesn't affect the festival to a large extent
Some will say that the 2nd round of races on Saturday should have been cancelled earlier, but I looked at it is as 'white-water rafting in a dragon boat'!! Though I am not scared to fall into the beautiful crystal clear water of Flathead!!
Space out two like teams
Start earlier and keep the races short - wind is most likely to occur so plan on it.
Start earlier so that wind action is minimized.
Start race times earlier (8am) Offer a 200/250 metre race category
start races by 8:00am to take advantage of calmer waters
Start races earlier
Start the event on Friday.for longer fun
Sunny, no wind
Tents a little closer to the speakers. The tents in the back (closer to the highway) couldn't hear what was being said.
The Dragon boat Festival Evan was another big success I would say the only thing I would change is to have early breakfast ready for people who need to leave early in the morning I stay at the red lion and the buffet breakfast didn't open until 7:00am.
The ideal solution would be to find a location that is a bit more protected from waves (Unlikely I know). Staying in that location I would recommend planning to race sprints from right from the start, setup the schedule so all races end at noon on way or the other.
the race times varied on when they were given. could have been said right after the races.
There needs to be A series of awards for fastest time A regardless of category ....awards for top six fastest teams would be nice recognition for those who performed very well yet received no medals ....awards would not be for the six fastest times ,They would be for the 6 fastest teams .
There were so many vendors everyone stayed inside the venue and didn't venture out to support the Lakeside community who so graciously allowed us to be there. I think we need to give back by having less vendors so more businesses benefit during race weekend
think about white fish lake for area.If possible. Just do the festival Friday night party and not Sat.Sides on tents. More parking signage.more dragon boat equipment vendors.ie:paddles.
Time of year of race. September is to unpredictable in Montana. The event should be end of Aug or earlier.
turn down wind
Van Halen
Walls for the VIP tents and 2 tables provided.
Water stations for washing up. Anti-bacterial gel is not enough.
Well done on all accounts
what happend to the national anthem? some people can't read the no dog rule
Would like to see a different race result board
You guys are the best