



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA BOATERS DAY

- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia is blessed with some 70,000 miles of rivers and streams, more than 425,000 acres of reservoirs, 4.5 million acres of freshwater wetlands, and some 100 miles of coastal waters, many of which offer the freedom and ability for Georgians to use for personal recreation and enjoyment, benefitting the state’s economy and greatly enhancing the quality of life for Georgia residents and visitors; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia is home to dozens of recreational water trails, representing some 2,900 miles of outdoor recreation destinations for residents and visitors; and
- WHEREAS:** Outdoor recreation on Georgia’s waterways played a significant role in Georgia welcoming a record 174 million visitors that generated \$82 billion in total economic impact and supported more than 470,000 jobs in 2024; and
- WHEREAS:** Boating and fishing alone generated \$1.1 billion in economic activity in 2023; and
- WHEREAS:** Hundreds of fishing guides and some 70 small businesses offering canoe, kayak, tube, raft, and paddleboard rentals operate on Georgia’s waterways; and
- WHEREAS:** Of Georgia’s 159 counties, 96 percent are home to streams that can offer recreation opportunities in small motorized vessels, canoes, and kayaks; and
- WHEREAS:** Floating boats down Georgia’s streams has been an important part of the state’s culture and economy since the inception of the Georgia colony and remains so today; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 12, 2026, as GEORGIA BOATERS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.



  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST  
  
CHIEF OF STAFF