



October 10th, 2026

For 53 years, Wilderness Southeast (WiSE), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has been steadfast in its mission to develop an awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the natural world to instill a sense of stewardship. Based in Savannah, Georgia, WiSE tailors experiences for families, schools, and groups of all ages, allowing participants to connect with the environment and each other. WiSE eco-discovery trips include expert naturalist guides, logistics, and equipment to illuminate the magic of the Georgia Coast.

On October 10th, 2026, WiSE is holding its 5th annual "Family Fun Day & Paddle Battle" for Fish Gotta Swim© (FGS), our flagship program for at-risk youth. Since 2002, FGS has provided a dynamic, in-person experience for students who may not have the opportunity to engage with nature in their daily lives. FGS is a hands-on, science enrichment course engaging participants in water quality explorations of our local wetlands. *(Despite proximity to the Georgia Coast, approximately 55% of students served in the FGS program have never been to the beach or coastal wetlands.)*

Today's children are often too isolated from the natural world, especially those who experience fundamental, sociodemographic obstacles. Help us give at-risk students at Title-I Schools in Savannah the exceptional, yet critical, experiences they need in nature!

Enclosed you will find information describing our "Paddle Battle Team" opportunities, available sponsorship levels, and the associated benefits that you as a sponsor will receive. We are grateful for any amount you can contribute, and rest assured that all proceeds will go directly to Fish Gotta Swim©!

Save the Date and join us for the celebration on Saturday, October 10th! On behalf of WiSE Staff and Board of Directors, we thank you for your generosity in supporting Fish Gotta Swim© (FGS)!

Sincerely yours,

Lisa Goodman
Executive Director
Wilderness Southeast

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ABOUT THE EVENT

Paddle & Party

The 5th annual *Family Fun Day & Paddle Battle for Fish Gotta Swim®* will be held at the Wilmington Island Marina on October 10th, 2026. This year, we are continuing to feature professional competitors from the SEP Series, which is the *Southeastern Paddle Series*. Paddlers travel around the nation and worldwide to compete!

Open to all willing participants: Compete in kayaks, paddleboards, or any non-motorized watercraft. There will be 5 K, 10 K, and 1-mile "FUN" races, Food Trucks, a Low Country Boil, Beverages, Live Music, Free Boat Rides, a Raffle, an Award Ceremony, and Kids' Games! We are encouraging families, individuals, and teams from the community to sign up for this event.

Team categories include (but are not limited to) the following:

- School Teams (Ages 12+)
- Corporate Teams
- Special Interest Clubs

Winners will receive prizes to be announced at a later date. To sign up, text 912-236-8115 or email naturesavannah@gmail.com.

LOW COUNTRY BOIL

AWARD CEREMONY

LIVE MUSIC

RAFFLE & GAMES

