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## WORLD'S TOP KAYAKERS TO COMPETE AT THE RENO RIVER FESTIVAL MAY 12-14, 2006

**RENO, Nev. (Spring 2006)** – The world's top kayak competitors, including current world freestyle champion Eric Jackson and 2003 world freestyle champion Jay Kincaid, will hit the water in downtown Reno this May 12 – 14, 2006, to battle it out at the 3rd annual Reno River Festival. The three-day festival, held at the Truckee River Whitewater Park in the heart of Reno's bustling downtown entertainment district, brings together a series of competitions and clinics, plus a whitewater expo, food, live music and more for a jam packed weekend.

"Each year the best of the best in the kayaking world come to Reno to show off their extraordinary skills in the water, and we are excited to be bringing back such big-name athletes to compete here in America's Adventure Place," said Deanna Ashby, executive director of marketing with the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA).

Eric Jackson, current World Freestyle Kayak Champion and winner of last year's Reno River Festival, is founder of Jackson Kayak. Jackson, known in the industry as EJ, is a three-time Olympic athlete with a mission to help push the sport as head of Team JK (Jackson Kayak), his personally-sponsored kayaking team. Jay Kincaid, a northern Nevada local and the 2003 World Freestyle Kayak Champion, finished second in last year's Reno River Festival following his crowning as champion in 2004. Kincaid is now a member of Jackson Kayak team but has every intention of bringing the Reno River Festival crown back to the Reno-Tahoe area in 2006.

Other invited competitors include: five-time U.S. kayaking team member Jimmy Blakeney; 2005 Reno River Festival Women's Invitational Freestyle champion Tanya Faux; silver medalist in the 2003 International Freestyle Paddling Competition Andrew Holcombe; New Zealand native and world-champion kayaker Nikki Kelly; 15-year veteran and five-time member of the U.S. Men's Freestyle Kayak Team Bryan Kirk; U.S. Freestyle Team Member, Tanya Shuman; four-time national champion Brooke Winger; and 12-year-old kayaker Dane Jackson competing again this year with his sister Emily.

For more information on the 2006 Reno River Festival or the athletes competing in this year's event, visit [www.RenoRiverFestival.com](http://www.RenoRiverFestival.com). For more information about Reno-Tahoe, America's Adventure Place or to book a trip, logon to [www.VisitRenoTahoe.com](http://www.VisitRenoTahoe.com) or call 800-FOR-RENO (800-367-7366).

*The Reno River Festival is held at the \$1.5 million Truckee River Whitewater Park, located in the heart of Reno's booming downtown business and arts district. The park, with rapids rated class 2 and 3, is both Nevada's and the region's first whitewater park and kayak slalom racing course, totaling 2,600 feet in length and featuring north and south channels that surround an outdoor amphitheater and park. There are 11 "drop pools" and specially-placed boulders for kayaking maneuvers, a slalom racing course, and 7,000 tons of smooth flat rocks along the shores for easy river access and spectator seating.*

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