

## First Hand Account ...

# River rafting on the LeHigh

I was delighted when I saw an invite for a company outing. Doubly delighted when I heard we were going rafting. I had never rafted before and had been meaning to try it for some time. Also, being new to Iris, 'hop on board' sounded particularly welcoming.

We decided to car pool to Lehigh, PA which gave me an opportunity to get to know my teammates a little better. After a speedy registration, we were split into 3 rafts – turned out that most people on mine had never rafted before, same as me. Somehow the fact that these were Level II rapids sounded comforting. The weather couldn't have been any better - bright, clear with a warm summer breeze blowing. So onto the raft and off we went. The excitement was exhilarating but short-lived because we soon realized we had virtually no control over the raft. We kept going in circles, getting stuck over rocks and generally not making too much progress. This, after we listened to all instructions with rapt attention!



It was time to switch gears – with a few changes in positions and a little bit of synchronizing our efforts, we started to do better. Half way through the rapids, we were seriously rafting and having a lot of fun. The views on both sides were nothing less than spectacular. From then on, downstream was a breeze! Barring a few minor accidents, we pretty much all finished in one piece. Phew!

It was an awesome experience. Really taught us how to work as a team and, also that sometimes, you have to go with the flow. Most importantly, it reinforced our respect for nature. I can't wait for our next trip.

Did I hear skiing? Bring it on...

### Sanjay C.

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*Located near the beautiful Pocono Mountains in Eastern Pennsylvania, USA, Whitewater rafting on the LeHigh river are there for everyone to experience and enjoy – May through September every year. – Ed.*