

2010 Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Program

For Minnetonka Students completing grades 7 – 11

*“ . . . It's the flash of paddle blades gleaming in the sun
and canoes softly skimming by the shore.
It's the tang of pine and bracken coming through the breeze
that calls me to the waterways once more . . . ”*



Join us on an incredible six-day canoe adventure in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Experience the beauty of the outdoors, develop leadership skills, challenge yourself in new ways, and have the experience of a lifetime!

Seven campers and two guides per group.
Guides are Minnetonka teachers experienced in wilderness camping.

June 21-26

Fee: \$550

*Gunflint Northwoods Outfitters provides all food and equipment **except:**
sleeping bags, clothing, rain gear and personal items.*

*The fee covers pre-trip orientation, round trip transportation,
BWCA camping fees, complete outfitting, meals, and leadership.*

Your guide will schedule your pre-trip orientation meeting sometime in May.



Sponsored by Minnetonka Community Education.
For more information, please call 952-401-6800.

Boundary Waters Trip

June 21 – 26, 2010

Parent/Camper Information



Departure and Return:

- Monday, June 21, 5:30 am -- Meet in the MCEC parking lot. Be sure to bring lunch and other food for the bus ride, but do not bring more than you can eat.
- Short breakfast stop at Toby's in Hinckley.
- 12:00 pm (approximately) - Arrive at Gunflint Lodge. Canoeing by 2:00 pm and camping that night.
- June 26, 9:00 am (approximately) -- groups return to Outfitters. Showers, BBQ, and depart around 11:30 am.
- 6:30 pm (approximately) -- Arrive back at MCEC. Please call Mr. Lewis' voicemail on Saturday afternoon (after 12:00 pm) for a more precise time of arrival (952-401-5777 ext 5387).

Packing:

Be sure to follow the guidelines provided in the packing list. If you have any questions contact your lead guide.

- At home: Pack most of your items in zip-lock bags. Packing your clothing in zip-locks is recommended, and helps with organization. Use a variety of sizes of zip-locks, up to 2-gallon size. Clothing that is too big can be put into a small garbage bag. **Note: Get as much air out of the zip-locks and garbage bags!**
- At the outfitters: Your "End of trip bag" will be stored in the "Owl's Nest." Personal Duluth packs are provided by the outfitter – everything needs to fit inside!☺

Emergency Information:

If an emergency arises and you need to reach your student, you may call the Gunflint Outfitters in Grand Marais, MN at 1-800-362-5251 (24 hours/day). The outfitters will do whatever they can to assist you.

Money:

Students will need to bring cash for breakfast at Toby's on our way to BWCA and for an afternoon snack stop on our way home. In addition, students may want to bring money to purchase live bait and items from the Outfitter's gift shop (souvenirs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.).

Group Responsibilities:

1. No Impact camping protocols
2. Campsite etiquette (noise level, gathering of wood, disposing of food scraps, what you can and cannot burn, etc.)
3. Setting up/taking down of tents and the entire camp
4. Gathering/cutting wood
5. Hanging food pack and other camp chores
6. Pumping water for drinking
7. Washing dishes
8. Cleaning your site before you leave
9. Portaging (carrying packs and canoes to next lake)

Rules:

1. Students and parents must agree to and sign the "Safety Rules and Student Expectations." Students will be expected to follow them.
2. Adhere to "lights-out" and "wake up" times set by your lead guide.
3. Drink a minimum of 8 oz. of water every meal, and eat a balanced meal 3 times each day.
4. Participate fully and willingly in all camp chores. Look for things to do and do them before being asked.
5. Use ranger box regularly. Waiting until you return to the Outfitters is NOT an option.

Activities at the campsite:

1. Swimming (with life vest)
2. Fishing
3. Canoe "wars"
4. Tent games (cards, etc)
5. Reading, journaling

Guides:

- The Lead Guide is responsible for the health, safety and welfare of all group members. Because of this, it is imperative that all campers are ready and willing to obey the lead guide and follow his/her direction at all times.
- The Guide Assistant helps in the leadership of the group and should be respected and listened to by all campers.



Thanks for your support of our program - we're looking forward to a great trip!



Boundary Waters Safety Rules and Student Expectations

As you venture into the wilderness, keep this thought in mind—

*“The only things we take back will be good memories and pictures . . .
The only things we will leave behind are footprints of experience.”*

Our wilderness trips practice “no impact camping.” This means that we respect the wilderness and leave it the same way we found it -- or better -- by removing the marks of other less considerate campers. Your guide will teach you how to camp in the wilderness without damaging its fragile ecosystems. These are skills you can use for a lifetime!

We also wish to treat each other with similar care and concern. **You are expected to treat all participants with respect and consideration.** Teamwork is the foundation of a great wilderness trek. We work best together when we show concern for each other and share our time and energy willingly.

Trip Rules & Expectations

Student behavior is governed by Minnetonka School District behavior and discipline policies. Because you are in the wilderness, special rules and procedures are required for the safety and enjoyment of everyone involved.

1. Listen to your guide! You’ll learn much about life in the wilderness, but your cooperation is essential for your safety and that of your group. If you cannot cooperate or follow your guide’s directions, *you will be sent home.*
2. Life jackets must be worn at all times when you are in or on the water. *There are no exceptions!* Swimming is allowed only with the guide’s permission and direct supervision. Cliff diving is not allowed. A jump is not worth life in a wheelchair. . . or worse.
3. **Think Safety!** Horseplay is even more dangerous in the wilderness where there are no doctors or “911” service. A moment of fooling around may result in an injury that requires the entire group to return to the base camp. Don’t ruin the trip for yourself or others by taking risks.
4. The group works best together. Whether it is pitching camp, portaging, cleaning up or gathering wood, you are not finished until the group is finished.
5. Check first with your guide before you fish, swim, canoe or leave the campsite. They must know where you are at all times. Go with a buddy whenever you leave the campsite.
6. Wear shoes at all times. There are lots of sharp rocks and even a lost fishhook or two. Wear your wet shoes when canoeing or swimming and your dry shoes in camp.
7. Walk in camp; don’t run. Campsites are not *that* big. The broken wrist you save may be your own!
8. Treat your equipment as if it cannot be replaced; in the wilderness, it can’t! Aluminum canoes can be punctured on rocks, and plastic cups will melt by the fire. Eating chili with your fingers because the silverware was lost, or paddling 4 days with a broken paddle is no fun! *Treat equipment...and people...with care and respect.*
9. Respect each other’s rights, uniqueness and privacy. Inappropriate language, behavior, and physical or verbal harassment will not be allowed. Serious disrespect may cause a student to be sent home.
10. Report illness, injury or broken/lost equipment to the guide immediately!
11. Respect the wilderness. It’s been around a lot longer than you have, but its life is just as fragile as your own.

Repeated or serious safety or behavior violations may result in a student being sent home at their parent’s expense. No refunds or adjustments are given for disciplinary issues.

In addition to these rules, you will learn many new procedures for life in the wilderness. You will learn to stack your canoes on shore each night so you don’t have to swim after them in the morning. You will learn to hang your food pack so that you -- not the black bears -- will enjoy your dinner. And you will learn to listen for the call of the loons.

We have read the trip rules and agree to follow them:

Camper

Parent/Guardian

Date

