

GIRLS TRAILBLAZERS

WHO: Girls entering grades 7-8
WHEN: Session 2: Saturday, June 21 – Thursday, July 3
WHERE: Northern Coast of Michigan's Upper Peninsula

As a tripper, you will come to Camp Echo to have a couple days of training and pack out all necessary materials. Training will include instruction in canoeing and backpacking, backcountry camping and how to stay healthy on an adventure trip. We will leave for the Upper Peninsula early on the morning of the third day, driving most of the day to our starting point on the trail. The next seven days will test the skills we learned at Echo as we spend three full days canoeing the Big Two Hearted River and three more backpacking the North Country Trail. There will be a layover day spent in-between, at the Lake Superior Forest Campground, where we will be able to relax and enjoy the beach. Our daily schedule will begin early, breaking down camp and embarking on the day's adventure after breakfast. We will try to arrive at our campsites by mid-afternoon so that there is time for exploring and relaxing. At night the group will all pitch in to help with the dinner duties, and then kick back under the stars. We will return to Echo via a stopover at a campsite along the way. Upon arrival at camp, the group will clean and put away all of the group gear as well as celebrate our experiences together.

Since this is your first Camp Echo Adventure trip, we strongly suggest you read through all the materials in this mailing and on the website carefully. The "Girls Trailblazers" program page on the website contains helpful links including a packing list, information on preparing for your trip, and a detailed itinerary. If you do not have access to the web, contact the McGaw YMCA Program Support Office for a printed copy.

TRAVEL TO CAMP: Trippers will ride to Camp Echo on the buses departing from the McGaw YMCA, if not already at Echo for layover. Check the bus schedule in the Parent Information Booklet.

Sat. 6/21: Trippers arrive at Echo (*swim tests; health checks; begin in-camp training; group initiatives*).

Sun. 6/22: Continue in-camp training (*low ropes; learn canoeing techniques; first practice hike*).

Mon. 6/23: Continue in-camp training (*continue skills development; pack gear and food*).

Tues. 6/24: Drive to Upper Peninsula
***Check-in with Camp Echo**

Wed. 6/25 – Fri. 6/27: Canoe on Big Two Hearted River

Sat. 6/28: Layover day on Lake Superior; fishing, swimming, and relaxing
***Check-in with Camp Echo**

Sun. 6/29 – Tues. 7/1: Hiking the North Country Trail.
***Check-in with Camp Echo (Tues)**

Wed. 7/2: Return to Camp Echo. Clean gear. Relax and enjoy closing ceremony.

Thurs. 7/3: Return home to McGaw YMCA

TRAVEL HOME: Trippers will take the bus from Camp Echo to the McGaw YMCA in Evanston. Bus departure information and progress is posted and updated every 30 minutes on the Camp Echo website. In order to meet your child on time and avoid waiting at the McGaw YMCA for the busses to arrive, please check the website frequently. Participants signed up for another Echo program for Session 3 spend three nights at home and take the busses departing from the McGaw YMCA back to camp.

Backpack Rental Request

If you need to rent a backpack, please return this rental request slip to the Program Support Office with a \$20.00 check as soon as possible *or* call Program Support 847-475-7400 x236 and pay by credit card.

I would like to rent a backpack for my Trailblazers trip. Please reserve one for me.

Camper's Name: _____

Session on trip: 2