

MINNESOTA BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE TRIP

WHO: Teens entering grades 8-9
WHEN: Session 5: Sunday, August 3 – Friday, August 15, 2008
WHERE: The Gunflint District of Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness
WAIVERS: None

As a tripper, you will come to Camp Echo to have a couple days of training and pack out all necessary materials. Preparations will include packing food and equipment, learning and practicing the necessary canoe skills and building group camaraderie. We will then journey to Minnesota by taking a ferry across Lake Michigan and driving to our put in spot at Seagull Lake. The Boundary Waters consists of thousands of inland lakes, connected by portage trails and streams. The lakes are freckled with islands and there are no signs to point the way. We will determine our route as we go, giving the group a chance to practice map reading and take an active role in guiding their trip. Our days will begin early so we can take advantage of the daylight. After breakfast, we will take to the water. A typical paddle day will be five to seven hours. Our pace will vary depending on the desires and abilities of the group. There will be some times when the lakes aren't connected by waterway and we will have to portage. This challenge involves the unloading of all gear from the canoe and then carrying the gear and canoes along a trail to the next lake or stream. We will try and arrive at our campsites by mid afternoon, giving everyone time to relax, swim, read, fish, write or explore. We will have at least one layover day where we spend the day just enjoying the beautiful surroundings. Because the Boundary Waters are so remote, we will have a good chance to see some amazing wildlife. It is home to moose, beaver, bear, loons, bald eagles, marten, and wolves. The Minnesota Boundary Waters Canoe Trip is an experience that limits the group size to six participants and two experienced guides. The small group size allows us to travel to many pristine locations that limit group members for preservation purposes.

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.

Sun. 8/3: Trippers arrive at Echo (*swim tests; health checks; trip orientation; group building activities*).

Mon. 8/4: Canoeing skills in-camp training; pack equipment and gear.

Tues. 8/5: Take ferry across Lake Michigan; drive to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Wed. 8/6: Launch boats on Seagull Lake and begin the adventure.

***Check-in with Camp Echo**

Thurs. 8/7 - Wed. 8/13: The group spends the week canoeing and camping within BWCAW.

Thurs. 8/14: Canoe back to Seagull Lake to pull out and celebrate trip.

***Check-in with Camp Echo**

Fri. 8/15: Trippers return directly to McGaw YMCA, Evanston.

TRAVEL HOME: Trippers drive directly from the Minnesota Boundary Waters to the McGaw YMCA in Evanston, IL. Updates on the van's progress are posted on the Camp Echo website. In addition, the trip guide who is not driving organizes phone calls from each tripper to his/her parents with an expected time of arrival. In order to meet your child on time and avoid waiting at the McGaw YMCA for the van to arrive, please check the website.