

PACIFIC NORTHWEST ADVENTURE

- WHO: Participants entering grades 12
- WHEN: Sessions 4 &5: July 20 – August 15, 2008
- WHERE: North Cascades National Park, WA and Desolation Sound, British Columbia, Canada
- NOTE: ***Must bring a passport, or photo ID and official birth certificate, to airline and Canadian travel. We strongly recommend a passport for Canadian travel; start the application process now.***

As a tripper, you will come to Camp Echo to have a couple days of training and pack out all necessary materials. The group will then be shuttled to the airport for a flight to Seattle, Washington. Once in Washington, we will drive to North Cascades National Park and get explore the beautiful forests, rivers, and mountains at the trailhead. The next day we will wake up and hit the trail for 12 days of hiking. While hiking, the group will experience amazing sights including old growth forests, glaciers, mountain passes, and alpine lakes. Within our 12 days of travel, we will have two layover days, allow us to leave our large packs at the campsite and explore. Our daily schedule will begin early, breaking down camp and hitting the trail after breakfast. We will hike on average seven hours per day with plenty of breaks for lunch, water, and snacks. We will try to arrive at our campsites by late 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.

After backpacking, we will load into the vans and begin the journey to British Columbia, Canada ending at Powell River. Once we reach Okeover Inlet, the group will spend the afternoon receiving sea kayak instruction at the Powell River Sea Kayak Paddling Center. The Powell River staff will focus on paddling techniques, kayak safety, and rescue techniques. The following morning the group will put in on the water and be immersed in the magnificence of BC's coastal range, abundant marine life, and surprisingly warm waters. For the next nine days, we will explore bays, inlets, waterfalls, and islands along the coast. An average day will begin with an early morning wake up and breakfast. After eating, we will take down camp, review the course for the day, pack up the kayaks, and hit the water. Distances traveled each day will vary depending on weather conditions, tides, and the abilities of the group. The flexible paddling pace will allow us to take in the scenery, converse with others, and reflect on the bay's remote beauty.

TRAVEL TO CAMP: Trippers will ride to Camp Echo along with Session 4 campers on the buses, if not already at Echo for layover. Please make note of the bus schedule in the Parent Packet (coming in April).

Sun. 7/20: Trippers arrive at Echo (*swim tests; health checks; begin in-camp training; group initiatives*).

Mon. 7/21: Continue in-camp training (*pack gear and food; review maps and itinerary; take loaded hike*).

Tues. 7/22: The group is shuttled to airport for the morning flight to Seattle, WA. In Seattle, the group will drive to North Cascades National Park and camp for the night.

***Check-in with Camp Echo.**

Wed. 7/23 – Sat. 8/2: The group will spend the next 12 days hiking in North Cascades National Park.

Sun. 8/3: Trippers finish hiking, return to van, and drive to Vancouver.

***Check-in with Camp Echo.**

Mon. 8/4: Take ferries and drive to Powell River for half day safety class with Powell River Sea Kayak.

Tues. 8/5 – Tues. 8/12: Kayak the beautiful Desolation Sound.

Weds. 8/13: The group will finish kayaking section and camp nearby.

***Check-in with Camp Echo.**

Thurs. 8/14: Travel to Vancouver. Clean up and Celebrate!

Fri. 8/15: Drive to Seattle and take a late afternoon flight to Chicago.

TRAVEL HOME: Pacific Northwest trippers will return to Chicago via airplane, and parents will need to pick up campers at the airport. Parents will be provided with detailed flight information closer to the actual start of Session 4.