

TROOP 850 2021 HIGH ADVENTURE FACT SHEET

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

When: Tentatively, Friday, June 18 through Saturday, June 26, 2020. We have some flexibility on the exact dates depending on participants' schedules and in any case we cannot fix exact dates until we have secured the necessary Forest Service permits in January. If you would like to go but have schedule constraints, please see Chas or Dan.

Where: The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in the Superior National Forest in northeastern Minnesota. This area consists of thousands of lakes spread out over about a million acres in which the only legal means of transportation is canoeing or walking—motorized vehicles are forbidden.

What: In rented 15 passenger vans we will start out early on Day 1. We will get as far as Rice Lake, Wisconsin, where we will spend the night in a hotel. On day two we will complete the drive to Ely, Minnesota, about 950 miles from Cincinnati. After checking in with the outfitter, Canadian Waters, we'll have a free afternoon in Ely and spend the night in a local hotel. Early morning on Day 3 we will hit the trail—the outfitter will drop us off with our canoes at one of the entry points to the BWCAW. From there we will proceed by canoe along a route of about 40 miles over the course of the next five days, including one or two “layover” days for fishing and relaxation in the wilderness. At a prearranged time on the afternoon of Day 8 we will rendezvous with the outfitter who will bring us back to Ely. Then we'll check into the Grand Ely Motel, clean up, have a traditional steak dinner at the Ely Steakhouse, and turn in early. We'll get up very early on Day 9 and drive straight through to Cincinnati, getting home sometime between 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM.

Eligibility: To be eligible for this trip (as for all high adventure trips), a Scout:

- must in the Scoutmaster's judgment have actively participated in the Troop's program throughout the preceding year, at all times demonstrating Scout spirit
- must achieve the rank of at least First Class by May 31, 2021
- must earn Swimming Merit Badge and certain of the requirements for Canoeing Merit Badge (righting and re-entering a swamped canoe) by May 31, 2021 (opportunities to do so will be made available)
- per BSA rules, must be either (A) age 14 as of June 18, 2021 or (B) at least 13 years of age by June 18, 2021 and have graduated 8th grade, **and** must have the necessary physical stamina for the trip (in the trip leaders' judgment—see BSA Northern Tier medical form for specifics)

Preparation: Like all true wilderness experiences, proper preparation is essential. We will have several **mandatory** meetings to cover the basics (dates to be announced once we know who is going), and there will be a **mandatory** shakedown weekend (tentatively, May 20-22). Among other things, we'll cover emergency procedures for righting and re-entering a swamped canoe (see above), portaging procedures, proper paddling techniques and other essentials.

Cost: At this time we are estimating a total cost of approximately \$850 per person, but this amount is subject to numerous variables such as the cost of gas and van rental. Because it is necessary to apply for a Forest Service Permit in late January, and the permits are issued on a first come, first serve basis, we need to have a **nonrefundable** \$100 deposit not later than January 12, 2021 to reserve a spot on the crew.