

Boy Scout Troop 61 **River Canoe Trip** May 17-18, 2008

The Wisconsin River south of Arena, WI is dotted with small islands and sandbars, making it perfect for an overnight canoe trip. We would like to encourage all scouts and dads to attend this mini high adventure trip.

This is a great opportunity to experience wilderness camping, high adventure, spectacular scenery, and nature at its finest. Fathers, as always, are welcome and encouraged to attend. Pictures from our 2006 trip can be viewed at:

picasaweb.google.com/troop61bsa/WisconsinRiverCanoeTrip

Trip Plan: We will enter the Wisconsin River near Arena, WI and paddle about 10 miles downriver to Tower Hill State Park near Spring Green, WI. Along the way the scouts will select an island or sandbar for our overnight camp. Scouts will setup tents, secure the canoes, unpack food and gear, and cook dinner. Later that evening we will gather firewood and have a campfire by the river's edge. Sunday morning we will cook breakfast and then reload and paddle to our take-out near Tower Hill State Park. If time allows we will hike a bluff trail at Tower Hill before heading home.

Unfortunately, there will not be time for Mass on Sunday.

Packing of Equipment: We will pack the trailer with equipment on Friday evening, May 16. Please come and help.

Departure: We will meet at the Scout House at 7:00am on Saturday, May 17, and depart when final packing is done and rides are assigned. Bring a big bag lunch, snack & drink for travel. No other food. Wear your Class B uniform (your brown camp t-shirt) for traveling.

Spending Money: Five Dollars is adequate spending money. We will only be stopping at gas stations.

Equipment: Bring personal items on the checklist to the Scout House on Friday, May 9. Mark all clothes and equipment with full name. NO radios, IPODS, electronic games, axes, or sheath knives are allowed. See complete checklist on next page. This gear will be packed into plastic, then into water tight Duluth packs, and left at the scout house all week.

Tents: The troop is fully equipped with 2-man through 7-man lightweight nylon tents. Scouts will be assigned to tents by buddy or patrol. Adults can share a troop tent with other adults or sleep alone in a two man troop nylon tent. Let us know your preference. (Some adults prefer to sleep under the stars if the weather is clear. Let us know and we'll pack extra tarps.) Adults, if you really, really want to use your own tent, please let us know. The troop is not responsible if it is damaged during the trip.

Air Mattress or Pad: A small self inflating air mattress is highly recommended. The troop has a few you can borrow if you do not own one. Regular air mattresses should be no more than 36" wide. Full size and Queen size air mattresses do not fit in our tents. Scouts and adults must have a pad or air mattress. A sleeping bag alone is not adequate.

Emergencies: The troop may be contacted in an emergency via Patrick Bieser's cell phone at 414-915-6423. Cellular service on the river is spotty. If no answer leave a message for Boy Scout Troop 61 and we'll call back.

No Fishing Gear: There will be very few opportunities for fishing. Sorry, no gear allowed this trip.

Food: Meals and snacks will be provided by the Troop. Other than bag lunch, no other food should be brought.

Swimming: The river water will be cold, but if the sun, weather and wind are just right, secluded sandbar eddies can often be pleasantly warm. Bring a swim suit and towel if you feel brave.

Return: We should arrive back at the Scout House between 3:00pm and 4:00pm on Sunday, May 18. After arrival, all equipment must be put away. No one leaves until trailer is unpacked and gear put away. Please help out and be patient. Check lost and found. Call 414-915-6423 after 1:00pm on Sunday for a more exact arrival time.

Questions: Please contact an adult leader at the Scout House on Monday or Friday evenings. Or call Patrick Bieser at 915-6423.

River Canoe Trip 2008 Checklist and Permission Slip

Permission slip (below) due May 9 with \$10 fee.

Label items with your name

CLOTHING and BEDDING

- class B uniform (t-shirt)
- 1 ea socks, underwear, shirt, long pants, shorts, hooded sweatshirt, knit hat
- pack clothes in large zip lock bags
- warm pajamas
- rain gear / poncho
- compact sleeping bag
- cover for sleeping bag
- small pillow (optional)
- air mattress or thick foam pad
- baseball hat for paddling

FOOTWEAR

- one pair regular shoes for camp
- water shoes, sandals with straps, or old tennis shoes. Will get wet.

TROOP WILL PROVIDE

- ✓ life jackets (PFDs)
- ✓ snacks and food
- ✓ knife, fork, spoon
- ✓ tents
- ✓ cooking gear
- ✓ everything else

DO NOT BRING

- ✓ **No** IPODs, radios, e-games, etc.
- ✓ **No** fishing gear

EQUIPMENT

- insect repellent
- sun screen
- flashlight
- toothbrush, paste
- canteen or water bottle

OPTIONAL

- swim suit
- beach towel
- pocket knife < 2" blade
- camera (might get wet)
- first aid kit (personal)
- compass, survival kit

1. If you do not own all of the above items, contact the Scoutmaster. The troop has extra equipment for Scouts to use. Lack of equipment should not keep a Scout from camping.
2. Electronics are not allowed.
3. Mark and Tag all clothing and equipment.
4. Travel in class B scout uniform (camp t-shirt)

----- cut here and return to Scout house -----

Permission is hereby granted to Scout(s) _____ to attend Troop 61's River Canoe Trip on May 17-18, 2008 with the Scouts and Scouters of Troop 61, Mother of Good Counsel church, Milwaukee, WI, under the leadership of the Troop Committee. In consideration of their engaging in this activity, I agree to save harmless the Troop Committee and their associates, the Troop sponsoring institution, the Mother of Good Counsel Congregation, and the Boy Scouts of America, because of any claims arising on behalf of my said son from possible injury or illness while engaged in this activity. I authorize emergency medical care for my son.

Fee: \$10

Check # _____ Cash: _____ -or- Use Can Credit: _____

Signed _____

Father will come: _____ Dad drive: _____ Number of passengers: _____ Need DNR Sticker: _____

Vehicle can tow trailer / boat: _____ Size hitch: 1-7/8, 2, 2+