



# Wilderness Canoe Base

# Open Canoe Trip Information Packet

## Welcome!

We are thrilled that you will be joining us in our 'Open Canoe Trip' experience this summer. We know that these trips will be a great opportunity for adventure, exploration, and fun!

Below is a whole lot of information about a whole lot of different things. You'll find information about how to pay, our need for your registration and health forms to be completed, information about what to pack and safety tips, and there is a worksheet that we'd like you to fill out so that we can better prepare for you and your trip.

Our staff are eager to welcome you to our site. If you have questions or need additional materials or information related to your trip, don't hesitate to reach out at [wcboffice@campwapo.org](mailto:wcboffice@campwapo.org). We look forward to seeing you soon!

## Payments

Payments can be made online through your online registration portal, by calling one of our camp registrars at (715) 268 - 8434, or checks can be mailed to:

Wilderness Canoe Base  
c/o Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp  
1204 74th Ave.  
Amery, WI 54001

## Deposits

Your non-refundable, non-transferable \$100 deposit will secure your spot on the trip. If you have not submitted your deposit already, please do so at your earliest convenience.

**Final Payments are due two weeks prior to your arrival.**

## Online Registration & Health Forms

- Please complete all parts of the online registration process no later than two weeks prior to the start of your trip.
- If health forms must be modified within the two week period prior to your trip start date, please call camp to alert us of the changes.

## Travel & Arrival/Departure

### Arrival Details:

- **Arrival time is between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.** It is important to adhere to this timeframe to allow enough time for pre-trip preparations.
- Traffic on Highway 61 can be heavy during the summer, especially with construction; plan your travel accordingly. Arriving after 2:30 p.m. will significantly impact the beginning of your trip.

### Travel Details:

- Wilderness Canoe Base is approximately 6 ½ hours from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. Most groups will travel to Duluth, then follow Highway 61 along Lake Superior to Grand Marais, MN.
- If you are running behind schedule, please **notify WCB as soon as possible.**

### Important Grand Marais To-Do's:

- Stop to fill up your vehicles with gas.
- Purchase fishing licenses for all individuals aged 16 and older if needed. An adult with a fishing license is required for individuals aged 15 and younger to fish.
- **Call Wilderness Canoe Base at (218) 388-2241 to inform us of your arrival time.**

### Directions to Wilderness:

- Take the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12) north for 54 miles to the Wilderness Canoe Base driveway. Driving the Gunflint Trail takes about an hour and fifteen minutes. *Please drive safely. (watch for moose!)*

### Arrival at Wilderness:

- Drive through the parking lot to unload your vehicle(s) at the dock. WCB staff will direct you through unloading gear, boat transportation to the island and parking instructions.

### Departure from Wilderness:

- Groups paddle back to camp on the final morning, clean up, share reflections, and eat lunch at Wilderness Canoe Base.
- You can expect to **depart between 1:30-2:00pm.**
  - If alternate arrangements are necessary to accommodate an earlier departure, please be in contact with [wcboffice@campwapo.org](mailto:wcboffice@campwapo.org)
- Prior to departure, please ensure you have all camper items and medications.

# WHAT TO PACK FOR A CANOE TRIP

## Packing List:

- 1 pair "dry" shoes (tennis shoes or hiking boots)
- 1 pair "wet" shoes (tennis shoes or hiking boots)
  - no "aqua socks"

All shoes MUST have closed-toe AND closed-heel. Keen style shoes are acceptable only if they have a covered heel and not just a strap.

- 1 – 2 pair wool socks (or if you only have cotton socks, bring a few extra pairs)
- 2 – 4 pair socks, underwear, and other underclothes
- 1 – 2 pair long pants made of nylon, wool or other synthetic fibers. Cotton (including denim) is not recommended
- 1 t-shirt
- 1 light/breathable long-sleeved shirt
- 1 warm (fleece or wool) top layer shirt
- Rain jacket. Rain pants are recommended
- Swimsuit & small or quick dry towel
- Wide-brimmed hat or other sun protection
- Sleeping bag – the **smaller** it packs, the better!
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Toiletries (avoid scented products and pack only the essentials), Lip balm
- Sunscreen (SPF 30+)
- Water bottle
- Clean outfit for the ride home
  
- Prescription medications in **original packaging**. Bring **only as much as needed** for time at camp

Wilderness Canoe Base is not liable for any lost or stolen items brought to camp.

## Optional:

- Small bag, dry bag or stuff sack for holding items together in Duluth Packs
- Bug repellent (no more than 30% deet)
- Sunglasses
- Camera (in plastic bag for water protection)
- Fishing license and gear
- Carabiner/clasp (to carry water bottle with)
- Compact sleeping pad
- Hammock
- Money for camp store (small bills appreciated)

## Things to leave at home

Electronic devices including cell phones, clothing/jewelry/watches that you would be sad to damage or lose, food, sandals, shampoo/soap (biodegradable or otherwise), scented toiletry items, pets, knives, firearms or weapons of any sort, fireworks, alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs, personal sports equipment.

## Transporting Gear

When you arrive at camp, you will carry your luggage to your cabin and then re-pack in Duluth Packs to take on trail. Pack in bags that are easy to carry such as a backpack or duffel bag. Rolling suitcases are difficult to maneuver on rocky trails.

# TIPS FOR PACKING

## Layering Clothing

Temperatures at camp can range from 40°F to 90°F. Follow the packing list and layer clothing for variable weather. Choose warm, non-bulky items, favoring nylon and wool over cotton. These materials retain heat and dry faster if wet. If you only have cotton, bring extra options in case it gets wet. You don't need to buy new gear; these are just recommendations.

## Wet and Dry Clothes

### Wet clothes

Wet clothes are worn during the day while paddling and portaging. Avoid cotton; pack synthetic fibers like nylon, fleece, polyester, or wool. Bring 1-2 sets of wet clothes, including wool or synthetic socks, wet shoes (old sneakers work great!), and rain gear. Rain pants are strongly recommended for warmth and dryness.

### Dry clothes

Dry clothes are worn at the campsite. Long sleeves and long pants are recommended for warmth and mosquito protection. Pack 1-2 sets of dry clothes, favoring wool and synthetic materials. The dry set of clothing also includes a pair of dry shoes and socks.

## Layers

Layers of clothing allow your body to remain at a comfortable temperature throughout the day

- Inner layer = pulls moisture away from body
- Middle layer = warmth
- Outer layer = protection from elements (mostly wind and water)

## Wet Foot Policy

For safety, Wilderness Canoe Base has a "Wet Foot Policy". No open-toe or open-heel shoes are allowed at any time while at Wilderness or during a trip.

Recommended footwear includes old tennis shoes or hiking boots. When in the water, all campers must wear shoes, so two pairs of shoes are required – one to stay dry, and one to get wet. During a trip, wet shoes will be worn during the day, and dry shoes will be worn at the campsite in the evenings.

Extra wet shoes are available in different sizes at Wilderness Canoe Base.

# Open Canoe Trip Planning Worksheet

Return this worksheet to WCB two weeks prior to your trip

**Forms should be submitted via email to:** [wcboffice@campwapo.org](mailto:wcboffice@campwapo.org),  
**or mailed to:**

Wilderness Canoe Base  
12477 Gunflint Trail  
Grand Marais, MN 55604

**Camper Name, Age & Gender:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dates of Trip:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please list dietary concerns and details about those concerns and details about those concerns (vegetarian, vegan, food allergies, gluten intolerance, etc. Please be specific):

Other major medical or behavioral concerns?

Share a little bit about yourself:

Camper goals and objectives for this trip:

Parent/Guardian objectives for this trip:

Any additional information we should know?