

T-255's 2006 High Adventure BSA's Northern Tier, Ely, MN and Atikokan, ON, Canada

Please respond by Monday, July 11, 2005 to keith.pierce@ferc.gov



What is Northern Tier High Adventure Camp?

Northern Tier is one of BSA's premier High Adventure camps, along with Philmont and Sea Base. The focus is long-distance canoeing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in the United States and Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada.

What length trips can be performed?

Trips 6 to 10 days can be performed. Because of the high cost of transportation, T-255 will consider trips no shorter than 8 days. The recommended trip is 10 days, crossing the US-Canadian border. **10 day trips will require 13 to 14 days total time – Northern Tier counts the “days” as days on the water, not from registration to check-out.**

What are the trips like?

All trips have guides provided by BSA for the whole trip. Regulations limit crews to a maximum of 4 canoes. So BSA loads up to 3 persons per canoe to maximize payload and give an opportunity for rotation resting. All crew camping gear and food are supplied. Scouts are largely responsible for individual gear.

An example Atikokan to Ely trip is:

Route Name: Pictograph Route- Option 2

Location: Quetico Provincial Park

Entry Point: Quetico Lake (32)

Shuttle: From Atikokan Base to Beaverhouse Lake. Fee: \$15 U.S. per person

Distance: 105 miles

Longest Portage: 340 rods (1.1 miles)

Number of Portages: 29

Maps Required: Fisher F28, F23, F24, F17, F10

Main Features: Many pictographs along route

Difficulty: Strenuous

Itinerary: Beaverhouse Lake, Quetico Lake, Badwater Lake, Fair Lake, Your Lake, Snow Lake, Little Pine Lake, Trail Creek, Trail Lake, March Lake, Bentpine Creek, Sturgeon Lake, Maligne River, Tanner Lake, Maligne River, Minn Lake, Darky River, Darky Lake, Argo Lake, Crooked Lake, Basswood River, Basswood Lake, Wind Lake, Moose Lake

Route Description: After a shuttle over an old logging road, your group will start further along an established canoe route. This will allow your group to travel a bit slower and make more side trips, if you

choose. The pictographs along this route, especially on Quetico Lake and Darky Lake are some of the best in the region.



An example of a loop within US route is:

Route Name: Bear Trap River Loop

Location: BWCAW

Entry Point: Moose Lake

Shuttle: None Required

Distance: 90 Miles

Longest Portage: 340 Rods (1.1 mile)

Number of Portages: 22

Maps Required: Fisher F9, F10, F16, F17

Main Features: Pictographs, Waterfalls, and Rivers

Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous (moderate for a 10 day trek, strenuous for 8-9 day treks)

Itinerary: Moose Lake, Wind Lake, Basswood Lake (Wind Bay, Hoist Bay, Back Bay, Pipestone Bay, Jackfish Bay), Sandpit Lake, Mudro Lake, Fourtown Lake, Boot Lake, Fairy Lake, Gun Lake, Gull Lake, Thunder Lake, Beartrap Lake, Beartrap River, Sunday Lake, Beartrap River, Iron Lake, Crooked Lake, Basswood River, Basswood Lake (Merriam Bay, Bailey Bay, Inlet Bay), Sucker Lake, Newfound Lake, Moose Lake

Route Description: This popular 9 to 10 day trek returns along the U.S. Canadian border and takes your crew past famous Curtain Falls, Basswood Falls and Wheelbarrow Falls, as well as seeing a large portion of the immense Basswood Lake. There are many ways to vary the route, especially in the Beartrap River section. Most of the portages are quite short, except the long but relatively easy 340 Rod portage around Basswood Falls. Plan to get your campsite early, as you will most likely see other people along this route.

When can we go?

Dates are available from August 1 through August 14. But some dates are limited, and further restrictions because of transportation, shuttle and personal constraints may further limit available dates.

Who can go?

Aged 13 by the date of the trip, First Class or above, capable of handling loads up to 85 pounds; handle wet, mud, mosquitoes. This is a strenuous and isolated High Adventure. The T-255 Committee most likely will impose additional requirements, such as proven camping ability, ability to work with others, and Scout spirit. The Committee and adult leaders will have final say, and removal from the participants list **may result in the forfeiture of individual Scout and/or adult deposit money**. Once in the wilderness area, there is no pulling out except for extreme emergencies. Crews are limited to a maximum of 8, minimum of 6. A BSA guide is part of every crew for the whole trip. A minimum of 2 adults per crew is required, maximum of 50% adults.

What is the trip going to cost?

Approximately \$900 per Scout and \$1,050 per Adult, including Northern Tier fees, air and ground transportation, lodging and certain crew related miscellaneous expenses. These estimates do not include food to and from Northern Tier base, and other personal gear and expenses.

Northern Tier costs vary considerably because of a range of factors, including daily fees, flat per person fees, flat crew fees, age differentials, route differences, and the Canadian/US Dollar exchange rate. As a result, the estimates given above and the tables below are exactly that: **estimates.**

Estimate of Northern Tier Fees, w transportation/ lodging/misc.				
US Route: Scout				
Crew Size>				
Days		6	7	8
	8	\$775.57	\$762.34	\$752.43
	9	\$817.82	\$804.59	\$794.68
	10	\$860.07	\$846.84	\$836.93
CND Route: Scout				
Crew Size>				
Days		6	7	8
	8	\$830.63	\$815.92	\$804.89
	9	\$876.59	\$861.88	\$850.85
	10	\$922.55	\$907.84	\$896.81
US Route: Adult				
Crew Size>				
Days		6	7	8
	8	\$825.57	\$812.34	\$802.43
	9	\$867.82	\$854.59	\$844.68
	10	\$910.07	\$896.84	\$886.93
CND Route: Adult				
Crew Size>				
Days		6	7	8
	8	\$951.03	\$936.32	\$925.29
	9	\$1,000.39	\$985.68	\$974.65
	10	\$1,049.75	\$1,035.04	\$1,024.01

In order to keep within these estimates, I made the following assumptions to reduce costs:

- 1) 2 crews to share fixed costs. The crews' start and return dates will be staggered by at least 1 day.

- 2) The Canadian trip assumes counter-direction crews. If that cannot be agreed to, the Canadian option by one crew increases in cost by approximately \$50 per person.
- 3) Flight into and out of Minneapolis/St. Paul. Duluth is closer, but more expensive to get to and reduces ground mileage by only 400 miles total.
- 4) 4 Scouts per room, 2 adults per room
- 5) A minimum of 2 Adult days are necessary to shuttle the van. That means a Crew #2 Adult must depart Washington, DC with Crew #1, and a Crew #1 Adult needs to wait for Crew #2 to come off the water.
- 6) The Piercemobile is the cheapest ground transportation alternative.

How are payments to be made?

T-255 must reserve crews at the cost of \$300 per crew – **non-refundable**. Northern Tier then expects an additional \$1000 per crew on October 1, 2005. Final Northern Tier payments are due May 1, 2006. **All payments made to Northern Tier are non-refundable and non-transferable. There is no negotiation on this item.**

The T-255 payment schedule would be as follows:

	Scouts	Adults
September 1, 2005	\$250.00	\$250.00
April 15, 2006	\$350.00	\$500.00
May 15, 2006	\$300.00	\$300.00
Total Payments	\$900.00	\$1,050.00

In addition, after the trip in September 2006, there may be a required reconciliation payment due to unexpected expenses, changes in fees and fares [think airfares], and exchange rate differences. Different rates are applicable to Scouts and Adults, different trips, and different individual requirements. Therefore, as was the case with the Grand Canyon trip, Northern Tier fees and air fare costs will be maintained and reconciled on an individual basis.

How many T-255 members have expressed a vague interest in going?

13 Scouts and 7 adults. I expect to hear positive from at least 2 more Scouts and 1 more adult. This equals 3 crews.

As in previous years, I do not expect everyone who expressed a vague interest to decide to go. But, it appears that **there is sufficient interest to justify reserving 2 crews.**

What now?

This paper has a lot of information. The links provided below provide more information. The sooner reservations for Northern Tier can be made, the better choices we will have. Please get back to me **by Monday, July 11, 2005**, with the following information:

Name of Scout/Adult going.

Route preference:

- 1) If US<>CND, minimum time is 10 days. Choosing this option commits participants to paying additional fees if the other crew chooses a US route.
- 2) If US route, indicate preference for 8, 9 or 10 days. Majority rules.
- 3) A written statement (e-mail is fine) that the adult understands that all fees paid Northern Tier are non-refundable and non-transferable, and that the first payment of \$250 is due and will be paid T-255 by September 15, 2005.

Where can I find additional information?

<http://www.ntier.org/index.html>

<http://www.rook.org/earl/bwca/>

<http://www.bwca.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.home>

http://www.geocities.com/northerntierbsa/nt_crewleaderresp.html

http://www.troop764.org/NorthTier/nt_equipment.html

<http://www.troop764.org/NorthTier/>

