

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



Congratulations to T-255: we are going on fantastic canoe trips through a land of lakes wilderness, paddling from one country into another. We will see and experience the wonders nature, including a land of endless lakes, forests, animals, fish and insects. It was also one of the continent's premier fur trapping area that initially drew Europeans deep into the interior of North America, and we will cross old Indian trading routes and see pictographs. And we are going to do it with BSA's experienced Northern Tier High Adventure program.

Tentative Total Trip Dates (Northern Tier Reservations are confirmed). Mark your calendars:

Ely, MN to Atikokan, CND: August 7 through August 21, 2006

Atikokan, CND to Ely, MN: August 9 through August 23, 2006

Possible side trips including visiting Hibbing, MN, location of several open-pit iron mines, and touring Soudan Underground State Park, MN, location of an underground iron ore mine.

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.

How long will the trek be?

10 day trips require 13 to 14 days total time – Northern Tier counts the “days” as days on the water, not from registration to check-out. One day travel before check-in and one date travel after check-out will be required.

If there is sufficient interest, additional crews can be formed within the above dates for 8 and 9 day Ely-to-Ely loop trips.

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.

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		
		6	7	8
Days				
	8	\$775.57	\$762.34	\$752.43
	9	\$817.82	\$804.59	\$794.68
	10	\$860.07	\$846.84	\$836.93

CND ↔ Ely Route: Scout

		Crew Size		
		6	7	8
Days	10	\$922.55	\$907.84	\$896.81

US Route: Adult

		Crew Size		
		6	7	8
Days				
	8	\$825.57	\$812.34	\$802.43
	9	\$867.82	\$854.59	\$844.68
	10	\$910.07	\$896.84	\$886.93

CND ↔ Ely Route: Adult

		Crew Size		
		6	7	8
Days	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 has reserved 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 15, 2005	\$250.00	\$250.00
April 18, 2006	\$350.00	\$500.00
May 16, 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 an interest in going?

13 Scouts and 7 adults: total 20. Based on this response, T-255 reserved two crews for 12 Scouts, 4 adults: total 16.

What now?

On September 15, 2005, the first non-refundable payment is due. At that time, the numbers of Scouts and Adults should start to firm up. Depending on how rapidly Northern Tier loop trips fill up, the decision on the third crew may not have to be made until April 2006.

After the September 15, 2005, first payment date, a T-255 meeting of Northern Tier High Adventure crew members and interested Scouts and parents will be called to assign responsibilities, agree on how to manage a wait list or third crew, discuss finances and identify required documentation.

This paper has a lot of information. The links provided below provide more information.

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/>



Any further questions, please call or email Keith Pierce at 301-951-5290 at home or hkp255@piercehome.us.