

# Northern Tier National High Adventure Program Boy Scouts of America



## 2012 EXPEDITION & ROUTE PLANNING GUIDE

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Policies</b>	<b>2 &amp; 3</b>
<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense Plans</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Risk Advisory and Prevention of Problems</b>	<b>5 &amp; 6</b>
<b>Fiscal Information</b>	<b>7 - 9</b>
<b>Crew Information</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Physical Conditioning and Preparation</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Expedition Planning Information</b>	<b>12 - 15</b>
<b>Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base – Ely Minnesota</b>	<b>16 - 35</b>
Prices, Crew Size, Camping Permits, Permit Fees	16 & 17
Canadian Customs, U.S. Customs, Special Restrictions, RABC	18
General Base Information	19
How to Get to the Ely Base	20
Map to Base	21
Detailed Transportation, Off Base Accommodations and Attractions	22
Fishing	22 & 23
Routes	24
Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Routes	25 - 28
Quetico Provincial Park Routes	29 - 33
Ely to Atikokan Routes	34 & 35
<b>Donald Rogert Canoe Base – Atikokan, Ontario</b>	<b>36 - 59</b>
Prices, Crew Size, Camping Permits, Permit Fees	36 & 37
Canadian Customs, U.S. Customs, Special Restrictions	37
General Base Information	38
Shuttle Into and Out of the Wilderness	38 & 39
How to Get to the Atikokan Base	39
Map to Base	40
Ground Transportation Services, Driving Times	41
Off Base Accommodations and Attractions	42
Fishing	42
Routes, Comparison of Parks	43 – 44
Ground Shuttle Information, Float Plane Options	45
Quetico Provincial Park Routes	46 – 49
Crown Lands Routes	50 – 54
Atikokan to Ely Routes	55 & 56
Canadian Fishing Expedition	57 & 58
Canadian Kayaking Trek	59
<b>Northern Expeditions Canoe Base – Bissett, Manitoba</b>	<b>60 - 66</b>
Prices, Crew Size, Camping Permits, Permit Fees	60
Canadian Customs, U.S. Customs, Special Restrictions,	61
General Base Information	61
Float Planes	62
How to Get to the Bissett Base	62
Map to Base	63
Detailed Transportation, Off Base Accommodations and Attractions	64
Routes	65 – 66
<b>Awards &amp; Programs</b>	<b>67 - 70</b>



## **WELCOME TO THE BASES OF NORTHERN TIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE PROGRAMS!**

This year the Northern Tier National High Adventure Program celebrates 90 years of providing safe, exciting, and challenging wilderness adventures for thousands of youth and adult participants. The Northern Tier National High Adventure program begins at three different and unique bases:

### **CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA**

This is the original base and was formerly called the Region Ten Wilderness Canoe Base. Trips from here go into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in the United States, and north into the Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada. These two areas provide over three million acres of fishing, canoeing, and wilderness camping. Motorboats are allowed only on a few of the perimeter lakes in the BWCAW. The Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base is also the location for the OKPIK cold weather camping program, and is the year-round operational center for the Northern Tier High Adventure programs.

### **DON ROBERT CANOE BASE ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO, CANADA**

Located on Perch Lake west of Atikokan, this base is on the northern side of the Quetico Provincial Park. Trips from here explore the Turtle River - White Otter Lake Provincial Park and other canoeing areas to the north. Crews are also able to travel south into Quetico Provincial Park.

### **NORTHERN EXPEDITIONS CANOE BASE BISSETT, MANITOBA, CANADA**

This base is located in the small gold mining town of Bissett. Treks from here explore the bush country of Manitoba, traveling the historic Bloodvein River country in Atikaki Provincial Park. NEW FOR 2012 Crews can voyage into the Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. These trips begin and end by float plane to and from the Scout Lake canoe cache.

What the three bases have in common is ADVENTURE! Our trips offer beautiful sunsets, the wailing call of the loon, great fishing, secluded campsites, lakes of every size and shape, rivers, waterfalls and pictographs. The North Woods has abundant wildlife including eagle, deer, otter, beaver, wolf, bear and moose. We welcome you to canoe country.

### **PRONUNCIATION GUIDE**

Ely- Ee lee

Atikokan- At i coke can

Bissett- Beh set

Quetico- Kwet i ko

OKPIK- OOK pick

## POLICIES

### ADULT LEADERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- *A minimum of two registered adult leaders or one registered adult and one parent of a participating youth, one of whom must be at least 21 years of age, are required for each crew.*
- There are no gender restrictions for leadership except that a co-ed Venturing group must have both male and female leadership 21 years old or older. A co-ed crew may also be a Scout Troop with one or more female leaders.
- Adults must be classified as a “swimmer” on the swim classification sheet (printable copy on our website).

### YOUTH PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a registered Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer.
- 13 years of age by December 31st of the year they are attending.
- Be classified as a “swimmer” on the swim test classification sheet (printable copy on our website).

**These are MINIMUM requirements. The National High Adventure Department of the Boy Scouts of America recommends that neither age nor rank be the only criteria for participation on high adventure expeditions. Maturity, the ability to carry a heavy loads (85 lbs.) over steep, muddy, and rugged portages, and camping/canoeing experience should also be considered.**

### FIREARMS

No firearms are allowed on Northern Tier Treks or Northern Tier property.

### TOUR PLAN

All groups traveling to Northern Tier MUST have an approved BSA National Tour Plan. A link to this permit on our website [www.ntier.org](http://www.ntier.org). It is also available from your local Scout Service Center. The completed tour plan application must be turned in to your council no later than six weeks prior to your departure date. This is because National Tour Plans are approved at the Regional level and more time is required for the approval process.

You will be asked to show your copy of the approved National Tour Plan when you check-in at any of the Northern Tier bases. *Please note that the tour plan requires training among the adults in each group in CPR, Youth Protection, Weather Hazards, Safety Afloat, and Safe Swim Defense.*

### TRAINING

Each crew must have at least one adult currently trained in CPR, Wilderness First Aid, Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, Weather Hazards and Youth Protection. All adults need not be trained and the training may be shared among the adults. Though, all registered adults must have Youth Protection training. Please check the resources page on [www.ntier.org](http://www.ntier.org) for a to link to the On-line Learning Center to complete your Safety Afloat, Safe Swim Defense, Youth Protection Training, and Weather Hazards Training.



**POLICIES & CONTACT INFORMATION**

**MEDICAL RECORDS**

ALL participants, adult and youth, **MUST** bring a complete and current *BSA Personal Health and Medical Record Form with the Northern Tier Risk Advisory*. There is a copy of this form on our website.

- **Please Note: We require the BSA Medical Form with the Northern Tier specific Risk Advisory. You must use this form.**

Common problems:

- Each participant does not have a medical form.
- The wrong form is used or a school medical is used.
- There is no parent/guardian signature for youth 17 and under, or form is not signed by adult participant.
- Health history is not filled out.
- Examination has not been given and the form signed **WITHIN 12 MONTHS** (ideally, within 30 days) of your expedition departure date.
- Participant exceeds maximum weight limit of 295 pounds or weighs significantly less than our strongly recommended minimum weight limit of 100 pounds.
- Participant has a medical condition serious enough to make wilderness travel unsafe.

Check these medicals carefully **BEFORE** leaving home. It will save you much time and frustration upon arriving at Northern Tier.

**Any of these problems will keep an individual / group from participating - NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**PHYSICAL FITNESS**

All participants, youth and adult, must bring the completed BSA Medical Form with the Northern Tier Risk Advisory. High Adventure is a rugged outdoor experience and everyone should be fit to meet the challenge.

**SWIMMING ABILITY**

All participants, including the adults, must meet “swimmer” requirements as listed in the “Safe Swim Defense Plan.” This will be noted on the “Swim Classification Record.” This form is included at [www.ntier.org](http://www.ntier.org) and will be turned in upon arriving as part of your check in process.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Northern Tier High Adventure Program**  
E-Mail: [info@ntier.org](mailto:info@ntier.org)  
Phone - (218) 365-4811  
Fax - (218) 365-3112

**Telephone calls are restricted to extreme emergencies.** The calls (and faxes) are received at the administrative headquarters for the Northern Tier High Adventure Bases. Emergency messages must have a name and a crew number. **NO COLLECT CALLS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Northern Tier is not able to contact anyone while they are on their canoe trip. Telephones are available to the participants at or near all three bases.

## SAFETY AFLOAT AND SAFE SWIM DEFENSE PLANS

### SAFETY AFLOAT AND SAFE SWIM DEFENSE PLANS

Please read carefully the points of these plans. One of the reasons for the outstanding safety record of Northern Tier is because of the use of these aquatic safety policies. Training in these plans is required on the National Tour Plan and will be reviewed by Northern Tier when you check-in. The link to the Online Learning Center can be found on our website.

Some important additional points:

- Each crew must have at least one adult currently trained in “Safe Swim Defense” and “Safety Afloat.” This will be reviewed at check-in.
- All participants must wear Coast Guard approved life jackets at all times while on the water. At Northern Tier life jackets are required while swimming and canoeing. Violations of this policy will result in the immediate cancellation of your trip.
- Due to the nature of the Northern Tier program, life jackets **MUST BE TYPE II OR TYPE III**.
- We require appropriate footwear to be worn at all times; in canoe, camp or base, and even while swimming. This is because of the presence of sharp rocks, fish hooks, and other sharp items. Most of the injuries which cause trips to be prematurely ended involve the foot.
- We do not run whitewater - **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Most of the swift water in the canoe country of the Northern Tier programs is not suited to whitewater canoeing. Also, due to the remoteness of the area and difficulty replacing gear or evacuating people, it is not prudent to risk either in running the rapids.
- Non-swimmers and beginners cannot participate in a wilderness canoe trek. This includes adults and youth. It is the responsibility of the contingent, unit, and/or crew to make sure all participants (including adults) are swimmers as indicated in the Safe Swim Defense Plan. You must present a properly filled out “Swim Classification Record” at check-in. There is a copy of this form on our website.
- Cliff jumping is a dangerous activity. Numerous people have been killed or permanently injured while cliff jumping in canoe country. BSA policy forbids jumping into the water from any height greater than 5’ into water less than 12’ deep. Diving head first is prohibited at all times on Northern Tier trips. Violation of this policy will result in the immediate cancellation of your trip.
- There must always be at least two canoes (buddy boats) traveling together. If part of the group is fishing away from camp or on a day trip away from the rest of the group, there must be at least two boats together. The Youth Protection guidelines must also be followed so there is never a “one-on-one” situation between youth and adult.



## RISK ADVISORY and PREVENTION OF PROBLEMS

### RISK ADVISORY

Northern Tier National High Adventure Bases have an outstanding safety record. The Boy Scouts of America and Northern Tier emphasize safety through education and strict adherence to established policies and procedures. The safety of your group is dependent upon your attention to these procedures as well as being physically fit, properly equipped, and trained for the rigors of remote wilderness canoeing.

The policies and procedures of Northern Tier and the Boy Scouts of America, if followed, will minimize these risks as much as possible. Parents, leaders, and participants should be advised that despite our best attempts at risk management, it is not possible to remove ALL risk from a wilderness expedition.

Possible risks include (but are not limited to) motor vehicle accidents; severe weather conditions such as hail, lightning, heat or cold, and high winds; forest fire; medical conditions such as heart attack, appendicitis, hypothermia, severe allergies, and asthma or diabetes related conditions; insect borne diseases including West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease; accidents such as cuts, embedded fish hooks, burns, or falls; risks associated with being on large, cold lakes; and encounters with wildlife.

Medical evacuations and search and rescue services are coordinated by Northern Tier in close cooperation with local authorities.

Please carefully read the information in this expedition planning guide and share it with your crew(s), leaders, and parents. If you have any further questions about risk management contact Northern Tier by fax, e-mail, mail, or phone.

### PREVENTION OF PROBLEMS

#### KNOW FIRST AID

Make sure your crew is trained in Wilderness First Aid and carries the required first aid kit (see Page 15 for recommended first aid kit contents). **At least one advisor in each crew must have a card proving current CPR training and Wilderness First Aid.** The most commonly treated ailments are sunburns, cuts, sprains, blisters, burns, fungal infections, headaches, stomach-aches, constipation, diarrhea, and embedded fish hooks. Dehydration and hypothermia are also concerns.

#### PURIFY ALL DRINKING WATER

All water from all natural sources including springs, streams, and lakes must be purified by filtering, bringing it to a rolling boil or treating with chemical purification agents. At Northern Tier, we use the iodine-based water purification product known as Polar Pure as well as bleach (5% sodium hypochlorite) and boiling.

#### WASH HANDS, AND WASH AND RINSE DISHES THOROUGHLY

Protect the health of your crew by thoroughly washing hands with soap and water, and washing dishes in hot, soapy water. Dishes are then rinsed in water to which bleach has been added. Let dishes and utensils air dry.

#### TOBACCO

It is suggested that adult participants limit the use of tobacco on the trail. Smoking is not permitted in tents, Northern Tier buildings, BSA vehicles, or near maintenance areas. Because of fire danger in wilderness areas, smoking is allowed only at established camps near a fire grate or ring.

#### ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Possession or use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or the misuse of prescribed drugs is expressly prohibited. Groups or individuals found in violation of this National BSA policy will be sent home, as arranged with the council office or parent.

## RISK ADVISORY & PREVENTION OF PROBLEMS

### PREVENTION OF PROBLEMS....continued

#### ABUSE

Physical, sexual, or emotional abuse (including hazing) of a camper by his or her peers or by an adult leader is unacceptable anywhere. The local, county, state, or provincial authorities as well as the BSA council representatives will be contacted if abuse is suspected.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS

If an advisor or crew member is on regular medication, their physician should be consulted. It is a good idea to carry twice as much as is needed and split it between two packs.



#### BEE STINGS AND OTHER INSECT BITES

If a crew member is sensitive or allergic to bee stings, be sure the individual carries their anaphylaxis kit (bee sting kit) with them. If crew members are sensitive to other insect or spider bites, make sure to have an anti-histamine or a doctor recommended drug along. Insect repellent and proper clothing is recommended for protection against mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks. Tick checks should be conducted daily.

#### PHYSICAL PREPARATION

Preparing one's body for the rigors of wilderness travel will prevent many common injuries. See pg. 11 for specifics.

#### FOOD ALLERGIES & FOOD SUBSTITUTIONS

Northern Tier tries to accommodate food substitutions for medical reasons, religious belief, and vegetarian needs. However, if the crew or participant has very strict dietary needs, the crew/participant may need to provide their own suitable trail food.

Prior arrangement must be made by writing or email to [info@ntier.org](mailto:info@ntier.org) explaining the situation and to request a food substitution. This letter must be received a minimum of 45 days prior to your arrival. Failure to do so may cause an inability for us to meet those dietary needs. Please include the crew number and advisor's name on all correspondences.

**FISCAL INFORMATION**

**EXPEDITION BUDGET**

Plan your financial matters as soon as possible. Use the budget worksheets on our website to plan your finances. For current fees, see your specific base section or your brochure. A credit card will simplify many of your trip transactions upon arrival, especially in regards to paying the remainder of your permit fees and fishing licenses.

- **You cannot use a credit card to pay Northern Tier program fees. Only checks and money orders are accepted.**

**FEES**

The basic fee is charged for every participant including adult advisors. (See next page for what is included in the basic fee).

No fees or charges payable to Northern Tier can be accepted in Canada. **These must be paid to the Ely office prior to your attendance at Atikokan or Bissett.**

<b>FEE PAYMENT SCHEDULE</b>	
<b><u>AMOUNT DUE</u></b>	<b><u>DUE DATE</u></b>
\$300 per crew	WITHIN 3 WEEKS OF SIGN-UP (RESERVATION FORM REQUIRED WITH PAYMENT)
\$1,000 per crew	OCTOBER 1, 2011
BALANCE	June crews = March 1 July crews = April 1 August crews = May 1

**REFUND POLICY FOR CANCELLATIONS**

**All crew fee payments are non-refundable and non-transferable to the balance of the fees.** Northern Tier must commit financial resources to employ staff, purchase food and supplies and prepare for the summer operations. Therefore, participants are also expected to make a financial commitment to attend. Crews who are not current in their payments are subject to cancellation.



**CAMPERSHIPS**

Camperships are available to youth and adult members with special financial needs who are participating in the Northern Tier program. These funds will cover up to a MAXIMUM of 50% of basic trip fees, depending upon need. A copy of the campership application can be found on our website.

The completed application form(s) and other required documents must be returned to the Northern Tier office by January 31. The camperships will be reviewed in February with notification going to the crew advisor prior to the due date of the final crew payment.

## FISCAL INFORMATION

**WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE NORTHERN TIER BASIC FEE?**

Northern Tier offers **full outfitting**. The following items are included with your basic Northern Tier fees:

- **Staff Member** – Trained Northern Tier Interpreter accompanies you on your expedition.
- **Emergency Radio or Satellite Phone.**
- **Canoes** – Alumacraft and Grumman 17 foot aluminum canoes. Lightweight canoes available for an additional fee.
- **Paddles** - Carlisle paddles (one per person).
- **PFD (life vest)** - Stearns type III (one per person).
- **Tents** - (two and four person available) Eureka Timberline Outfitter or Alps Dome Style Outfitter models.
- **Personal Gear Packs** – Granite Gear or Ostrum 6,000 cu. inch model with hipbelt and heavy-duty plastic liner (one per three people).
- **Food/Equipment Packs** – Kondos Outdoors brand with hipbelt and plastic liner box.
- **Stoves** – Northern Tier uses a combination of Coleman Peak I stoves, MSR Whisperlite Stoves, and MSR Simmerlite Stoves. All Crews are issued two. Fuel is provided by Northern Tier.
- **Tarps** – Kondos rip-stop nylon 10'x12' (one per crew).
- **Cooking Gear** – Pots, trail ovens, utensil kit, cleaning supplies.
- **Ropes for Hanging Food.**
- **Food** – Lightweight, healthy, and hearty trail meals. You will receive a combination of dried ingredients and foil-packed meats (MRE's) or freeze-dried meat along with fresh food for your first day. You will also have the opportunity to prepare baked desserts.
- **Amenities at the Base** – Shower, sauna, parking, a locker for your personal gear, cabins for two nights, four meals on base.
- **Voyageur Rendezvous or Closing Activity.**
- **Special Participant Emblem.**
- **Camper's Accident Insurance** – Covers trip and travel to and from the bases. This policy is secondary to a family policy. Name and policy number of the family policy should be noted on the Health History form. A BSA Camper's Accident and Sickness Insurance pamphlet is on our website.
- **Genuine National Boy Scout High Adventure Base Program.**



## FISCAL INFORMATION

### EXPENSES NOT COVERED BY THE NORTHERN TIER BASIC FEE

(More details on amounts are included in the sections of the individual bases or by using the fee calculators on our website)

- **The permit and overnight camping fees for all participants plus the Interpreter** (currently only in the Quetico Provincial Park and the BWCAW). The BWCAW also has a Guide-Outfitter fee of 25¢ per person per day (this is listed under miscellaneous fees on the billing statement). The fees to reserve your permit are paid by Northern Tier and are listed under the miscellaneous fee section of the Northern Tier billing statement as well.
- **Float plane transportation** - Float planes are required at the Bissett base and are an option at the Atikokan and Ely bases. The crew is responsible for the Interpreter's fare.
- **Vehicle shuttle services** - In Ely, if the crew elects a different entry/exit point than Moose Lake, a shuttle fee will be charged.

Crews participating in a Grand Portage Trip will also be charged a shuttle fee for picking up the Crew and gear.

Crews going into the Quetico Provincial Park or completing an Atikokan to Ely trip will be required to check in at the Customs Station in Ely, MN. If you do not have transportation a shuttle can be arranged at the Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base for a fee.

- **Remote Area Border Crossing (Canpass)** For crews crossing into Canada from the Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base in Ely. Fees for an RABC are \$30.00 CND funds for adults and free for youth. Every adult and youth must have an RABC.

- **Fishing Licenses** - Ely crews can purchase Minnesota fishing licenses in the Ely base Trading Post or Ontario Fishing Licenses at the Prairie Portage Ranger Station. Crews traveling into Canada from Atikokan or Bissett can purchase licenses at the Atikokan Trading Post, a Ranger Station or at stores and resorts in Canada. The crew is not responsible for the fishing license for the Interpreter. See the fishing information in the individual base sections for more details.
- **Maps** - Crews are responsible for purchasing maps for their canoe trips. At all bases, map purchases can be made in the Trading Post before departure on the water. A typical route will use 3 - 6 maps at a cost of \$7.50 US dollars per map for BWCAW and Quetico Park maps and \$11.95 CND funds for the Canadian maps (prices are subject to change). Each canoe must have a set of maps.
- **Miscellaneous Cost Options** such as lightweight Kevlar canoes (see "Canoe Rental Agreement" on our website), shuttle fees, cancellations of camping permits, extra meals, etc..
- **Transportation and associated expenses from home city to chosen base camp and return.**



## CREW INFORMATION

### CREW SIZE

Refer to the section of the individual bases for crew size information as each location and park differs. In any case, crews may be smaller than 6, but must pay for 6 people. Please note that 2 deep leadership is still required.

If a Unit/Contingent/Group has several crews, the individual crews may not travel, camp, or be together at any time while on the water. **These are strictly enforced policies of the wilderness areas that the crews are entering.**



### WHAT IS MY CREW NUMBER?

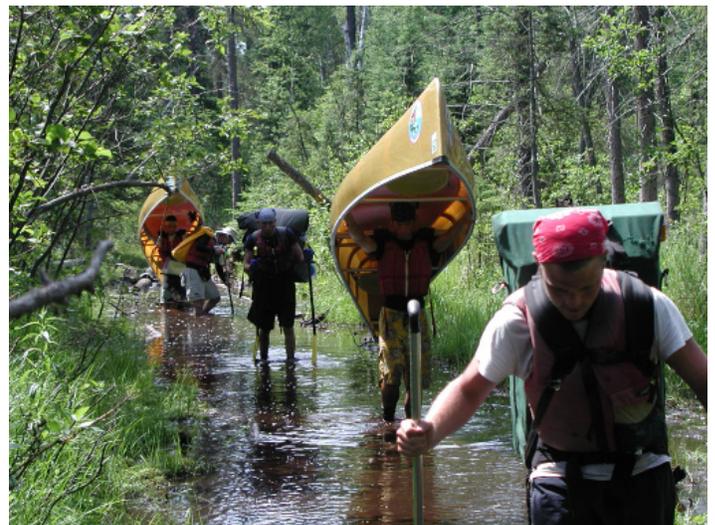
Your crew number (similar to a confirmation number) is assigned to you when you make your reservation. It refers to the Program base you are attending on your canoe trip, your arrival date, and the number of crews you have registered.

- Example: E070312A
- The prefix letter (E) is a reference to which base you are attending, (E) Ely, (B) Bissett, (A) Atikokan, (K) Kayaking, and (F) Fishing.
- The six numbers (070312) are a shortened version of the date you arrive at the base, July 3, 2012.
- The last letter(s) at the end of your crew number (A), refers to the number of crews you will be bringing. In this example, you would have one crew. (Three sister crews would have three letters at the end of the Crew Number, such as FGH.)

### HOW MANY CANOES DO WE USE?

Crews at Northern Tier generally travel 3 people per canoe. This method of travel has been used for many years and has the following benefits:

- Portages can generally be made in one trip as one person carries the canoe, one carries a food pack, and another carries the three-person gear pack. In a typical day with 2 miles of portages, portaging in one trip means you walk 2 miles. If you have to double portage you walk at least 6 miles! This takes up a lot of time you could use for fishing or enjoying camp.
- Someone who is ill or injured may ride in the middle.
- Three people can take turns paddling, giving everyone a chance to rest.
- One person can act as the navigator as the other two people paddle.
- \* If your crew would still prefer to travel two per canoe, you may rent additional canoes. Note that the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness regulations allow a maximum of 4 watercraft per crew.



**PHYSICAL CONDITIONING AND PREPARATION**

- To safely enjoy a rugged canoe trip, everyone must be physically prepared. On a canoe trip, you may be paddling 10 miles a day or more in windy conditions and may carry as much as 85 lbs. across a portage. You will be using your arms and upper body for paddling and your back and legs for portaging. It is important that everyone be in very good condition so that both youth and adults can participate in the level of adventure that they deserve.
- A regular program of physical conditioning for at least six months prior to the trip is very strongly recommended. Plan some type of aerobic exercise for 30 to 60 minutes a session three to five times a week. Jogging, running up and walking down hills or flights of stairs, and hiking with a full pack are excellent methods of physical preparation.
- How fast you can run or how far you go is not nearly so important as regular exercise. Other aerobic exercises such as swimming, bicycling, stationary cycling, and aerobic exercise classes can supplement your training. Start slowly and gradually increase the duration and intensity of your exercises.
- You should also do some upper body exercises such as pushups, weight training, pull ups, or best of all - paddling. Remember; the first step is to check with your physician before starting any physical fitness program.
- You must get a physical examination from your physician within 12 months (ideally, within 30 days) of your High Adventure expedition. Use the BSA Medical Form with the Northern Tier Risk Advisory ONLY! Do not use your school or work physical form. Complete the health history and schedule a time for the physical exam. **MAKE SURE FORMS ARE SIGNED BY A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN FOR ALL YOUTH UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE!**
- Anyone with significant hypertension (150/95 or higher) should be treated before coming to Northern Tier to reduce their blood-pressure as close as possible to normal (135/85). They should continue on blood-pressure medication while participating in the expedition. Hypertension can increase the risk of angina or stroke. While we do not operate at high altitudes like Philmont, participants will be carrying heavy loads over steep and rocky trails and will experience strenuous activity in remote areas.

HEIGHT	RECOMMENDED WEIGHT	MAXIMUM WEIGHT
5'0"	100 - 138 lbs.	166 lbs.
5'1"	101 - 143	172
5'2"	104 - 148	178
5'3"	107 - 152	183
5'4"	111 - 157	189
5'5"	114 - 162	195
5'6"	118 - 167	201
5'7"	121 - 172	207
5'8"	125 - 178	214
5'9"	129 - 185	220
5'10"	132 - 188	226
5'11"	136 - 194	233
6'0"	140 - 199	239
6'1"	144 - 205	246
6'2"	148 - 210	252
6'3"	152 - 216	260
6'4"	156 - 222	267
6'5"	160 - 228	274
6'6"	164 - 234	281
6'7" +	170 - 240	295

**It is strongly recommended that each participant on a Northern Tier expedition should not exceed the maximum weight-to-height table shown above. We also strongly recommend that no participant be less than 100 lbs. in weight. Extremely small participants will have a very difficult time carrying canoes and heavy packs.**

## EXPEDITION PLANNING INFORMATION

### WHAT IS AN INTERPRETER?

Upon arrival at a Northern Tier Base, each group will be met by an Interpreter. The Interpreter will help the crew with pre-trip planning and packing for their trip and will accompany the crew on their expedition.

Your Interpreter will be an adult male or female who has been trained as a BSA National High Adventure Base Staff member. The Interpreter provides training support and acts as a resource person to the crew leader, advisors, and crew. In the event of an emergency or any special situation involving safety, the Interpreter will act in concert with the adult leadership of the crew. The Interpreter is not a “fishing guide” but acts as a resource person for the skills pertaining to Scout camping and wilderness canoeing. They are specialists with the equipment and food carried on canoe trips. The Interpreter has had training in the history of the canoe country, Leave No Trace Wilderness Ethics, Wilderness First Aid, CPR, and the special safety practices to be observed on a wilderness canoe trip. Our Interpreters are the highest evaluated part of our program. They make the difference between just an outfitted trek and a real “program.”

### WHAT IS A PORTAGE?

A portage is the connecting trail between two bodies of water or the trail around any obstacles (rapids, beaver dams, etc.). Most portages are 1/2 mile or less. Portages on U.S. maps are traditionally measured in “rods.” A rod is 16.5 feet. There are 320 rods in a mile. On Canadian maps portages are measured in meters. Portages should not be dreaded. They offer a chance to stretch your legs and see more of the canoe county.

### HOW MANY MILES CAN WE EXPECT TO COVER IN A DAY?

There are many factors that affect this including wind, paddling skill, and number of portages. A well-paddled canoe will cruise at about 3 mph. You can usually cover a portage, single portaging, at about 1 mph.

You also need to factor in lunch breaks, fishing, sight-seeing, and wildlife viewing. Ten miles per day is a safe number to use for estimating your travel distance. This will usually get you into camp between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. With good conditions you can travel 20 miles in a day if you keep at it. Of course, on a windy day you may have to layover or may find it difficult to paddle even 5 miles. This is why we recommend a conservative estimate of 10 miles per day.

### ARRIVAL TIME

**Your crew(s) should arrive at the base no earlier than 1:00 P.M. on your designated arrival day. You will want to make sure you arrive no later than 3:00 P.M. as there is much to do in preparation for your trip.** If you think you may be later than this, please call the base to let them know and make arrangements to help you with a late check-in. Checking-in late might prolong getting out on the water the next day.

### DEPARTURE TIME

Your crew is welcome (and encouraged) to stay at the base until you have breakfast the morning following your canoe trip. This gives you time to rest, pack, enjoy the base facilities, and be refreshed for your trip home. A full breakfast is served at 8:00 A.M. (depending upon the number of crews on the base there may be two breakfast times). An early continental breakfast is available upon advance request.

### TRIP LENGTH

Trips may vary from 6 to 10 days. Longer trips are available on request. We recommend a 10-day trip, if possible, for a true wilderness experience. Please note that a scheduled 10-day trip actually covers 11 calendar days. You will spend 9 days/8 nights on the water plus an arrival day and a departure day. Use this same formula for all trip lengths. Note: There is a discounted rate per day for 9 and 10 day trips.

## EXPEDITION PLANNING INFORMATION

### TYPICAL SCHEDULE

(Please refer to page 14 for a list of all the documents required for crew check-in.)

- Day 1 arrive at the base at 1:00 p.m., meet Interpreter, check-in, begin orientation and training, receive and check equipment issue, check food issue, get settled into quarters, have dinner, plan route, visit Trading Post, personal gear and kettle pack shake-down, and sleep.
- Day 2 have breakfast, pick up fresh food, fuel, select paddles and life jackets, load canoes and begin trip by early morning.
- Off the Water arrive back at the base after 2:00 P.M., return gear, shower and sauna, dinner, visit Trading Post, attend closing Rendezvous Ceremony or activity.
- Last Calendar Day. Day 11 of a 10-day trek for example breakfast, pack, depart for journey home.

### PHYSICAL CONDITIONING & TRAINING

To ensure a successful, safe, and enjoyable trip to the Northern Tier High Adventure programs, each crew should do some canoeing and be thoroughly trained for the trip. Each crew should carry out several “shake-down” trips to prepare themselves physically and mentally. The preparation can be half of the fun! Training and conditioning trips should include flat-water paddling and portaging canoes and 85 lb. packs.

- Crews should choose a youth crew leader to be in charge of the preparation and trek.
- Be prepared to set up a crew rotation for camp tasks.

### EQUIPMENT SHAKEDOWN

Review the equipment summary on our website for gear information. Put the gear out in piles and separate out non-essential items, duplicated items, and items that can be shared. Remember, you have to carry everything you take over the portages. Especially check the size of the sleeping bags and sleeping pads. These bulky items often cause problems if they take up too much room in the personal equipment packs. Summer weight sleeping bags are sufficient for Northern Tier trips. Use of compression stuff sacks for clothing and sleeping bags is very helpful.



### PARENT'S NIGHTS

For recruitment and organizational purposes, hold one or more Parents' Nights for your group. Rallies should be scheduled for recruitment purposes in the fall and/or winter. Another Parent Night should be scheduled in the spring to share the latest information and trip plans. Check with your local BSA council to see if there is an experienced Scout or leader who has been to Northern Tier before and have them talk to the youth, leaders, and parents. Hand out a schedule and itinerary.

### ROUTE PLANNING

Please refer to the route planning section in the individual base sections. The routes mentioned are meant to give crews an idea of what adventures are available, and to help some crews pre-plan a route. However, most crews' route decisions will be made upon arrival at a Northern Tier Base.

## EXPEDITION PLANNING INFORMATION

**CHECK, DOUBLE CHECK, AND TRIPLE CHECK BEFORE LEAVING HOME**

Have these items ready to present for crew check-in upon your arrival. Please note the sample check-in agenda in the Appendix and at our website [www.ntier.org](http://www.ntier.org).

- Medicals** - youth and adults! (Check for proper parental and physician signatures and that the date of exam is within 12 months of your arrival date).
- Registration with the BSA.**
- Approved National Tour Plan.**
- Swimming Classification Record** - youth and adults!
- Customs information** if entering Canada includes Parental Release Forms and Passports or Pass Cards for both youth and adults. Remote Area Border Crossing Permits for youth and adults are also required if entering Canada from the Ely base - see individual base sections for more details.
- Required medicines** - Have two supplies of required medicines held by user and a leader in case of loss. (Example, two inhalers or two EpiPens).
- Gear and equipment** (Personal and crew).
- Required training cards** (CPR, Wilderness First Aid, Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, Youth Protection, and Weather Hazards).
- Financial needs** (including Visa, Master Card, and adequate U.S. or Canadian currency) for each crew entering the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and the Quetico Provincial Park.
- Filled out Participant Information Form (crew roster) for each crew.**
- Permit confirmation letters (BWCAW and/or Quetico).**
- Crew first aid kit.**
- Participant Policy Sheet.**
- Required documentation to re-enter USA** if traveling to Canada (Passport, Pass Card). Check our web page [www.ntier.org](http://www.ntier.org) for a link to the current regulations.

**ONLINE RESOURCES**

Please visit our website at [www.ntier.org](http://www.ntier.org) for more information about Northern Tier and the programs that we offer. On the Resources link at [www.ntier.org](http://www.ntier.org) you will find the documents required for your trip and other helpful information.

**NORTHERN TIER FIRST AID KIT**

All BSA crews traveling with a BSA National Tour Plan should carry a first aid kit. The kit can be personalized to meet the demands of the crew. The following items are recommended by the BSA National Health and Safety Committee to be used by Scouting and Venturing units doing High Adventure activities. The crew's first aid kit in a waterproof container for use en route as well as at Northern Tier should contain the following items:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adhesive bandages (assorted sizes) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ana-Kit (if needed)                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knuckle and fingertip bandages     | <input type="checkbox"/> Throat lozenges                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steri-strips                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Cold caplets                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moleskin/molefoam                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Small bar soap                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Second skin                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent (containing DEET)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gauze pads—3 by 3 inches           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen lotion (SPF 15 or above)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adhesive tape—1 inch by 5 yards    | <input type="checkbox"/> Lip balm                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1" or 2" roll of gauze             | <input type="checkbox"/> Foot powder                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Four-inch elastic bandage          | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oval eye patch                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Needle   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antibiotic ointment                | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disposable alcohol wipes           | <input type="checkbox"/> Tweezers                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Triangular bandage                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety pins                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acetaminophen                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Side cutters (for cutting fish hooks)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ibuprofen tablets                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical ice packs                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antacids                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Nitrile or Latex gloves                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antihistamine                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Barrier device for resuscitation               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steroid cream                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Protective Eye-wear (for blood or body fluids) |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Manual                               |

Share your list with your local physician and/or pharmacist for further suggestions.

Share the list with all crew members and parents prior to departure

Check all medical forms prior to departure, noting allergies or special considerations. Any person requiring prescribed medication should personally carry the medication with a back up supply in the kit controlled by the adult advisor(s).

CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA



The Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base is located on beautiful Moose Lake, one of the main entry points into canoe country. By beginning your journey here your crew has the option of going into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, in the US, or the Quetico Provincial Park, in Canada. Both are protected wilderness areas.

This historic base has been located on Moose Lake since 1942, and is the oldest high adventure base operated by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

**PRICES & CREW SIZE**

- \*6-8 day trip-\$59 per person per day
- \*9-10 day trip-\$54 per person per day
- \*Minimum of 6 people; Maximum of 8 people, plus your interpreter, makes 9 people total.
- \*Crews must travel & camp separately!! This is a strictly enforced policy of both the U.S. Forest Service and the Quetico Provincial Park. It is best to plan different routes for your crews to avoid the temptation of meeting or traveling together.

**CAMPING PERMITS**

*Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness:*

The BWCAW is located in the United States. To reserve a permit you must complete a Permit Application, which can be found in the resource link at [www.ntier.org](http://www.ntier.org). The permit fees are paid directly to the U.S. Forest Service.



**CAMPING PERMITS....continued**

*Quetico Provincial Park:*

This park is located in Canada. The Permit Application will need to be filled out in order to reserve a permit if going north into the Quetico Provincial Park.

- \*If your crew decides to purchase permits for the Quetico Provincial Park you will enter at Moose Lake, the lake the Ely base is located on, and paddle that first day to Prairie Portage Ranger Station to pick up and PAY FOR your Quetico Permits. Remember each crew will have to pay for their park permits separately at Prairie Portage.
- \*IMPORTANT: The permit must be picked up by one of the two leaders listed on the Permit Application. If this changes contact Northern Tier immediately, as this will result in a penalty charge from the Park.



Quetico

CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA

**PERMIT FEES**

*\*Boundary Waters  
Canoe Area Wilderness  
Permit Charges:*



- \*Permit Reservation (USFS Fee)  
\$12.00, non refundable per crew
- \*Deposit Fee to reserve permit  
\$32.00 for each crew which will be credited back
- \*Adult User Fee (USFS Fee)  
\$16.00 per person
- \*Youth User Fee (USFS Fee)  
\$8.00 per person
- \*Interpreter User Fee (USFS Fee)  
\$16.00 per crew
- \*Guide/Outfitter Fees (USFS Fee)  
\$0.25 person/day on the water

NOTE: Keep in mind most of these fees are NOT included on your billing statement. Permit costs can range from \$92-\$142 (per crew) IN ADDITION TO Northern Tier Fees, and are paid separately to the USFS when you arrive.

**FEE EXPLANATION:**

We will secure your permit and pay the initial permit fees and deposit (\$44.00). The 'Permit Reservation Fee', the 'Deposit Fee', and the 'Guide/Outfitter Fees' will appear on your billing statement under miscellaneous fees. The remainder of the USFS user fees will be collected by credit card when your permit is issued upon check-in. **Be prepared to pay additional fees on day of arrival.**

*\*Quetico Provincial Park:*

- \*Work Permit Fees for Interpreter  
\$30.00 U.S. per crew
- \*Permit Fee (Quetico Park Fee)  
\$12.00 CND per crew
- \*Permit Reservation Fee BWCAW (Optional Backup)  
\$12.00 US
- \*Adult Camping (Quet. Park Fee) \$21.50 CND/night
- \*Interpreter Camping (Quet. Park) \$21.50 CND/night
- \*Youth Camping (Quet.Park Fee) \$8.50 CND/night
- \*Remote Area Border Crossing \$30.00 CND/Adult
- \*These prices do not include HST.



NOTE: Keep in mind most of these fees are NOT included on your billing statement. Permit costs can range from \$350-\$975 CND (per crew) IN ADDITION TO Northern Tier Fees, and are paid separately to the Quetico Provincial Park when you arrive at Prairie Portage the first day on the water.

**FEE EXPLANATION:**

The 'Work Permit Fees for Interpreter' and the \$112 per crew to reserve your permit will appear under the miscellaneous fees on the Billing Statement. The permit fee in the Quetico Park is currently \$12.00 with a \$100 deposit (in Canadian currency). The deposit applies to camping fees upon check-in at the ranger station.

You also pay the camping fee for your Interpreter. Remember, a "10-day trip" consists of 8 nights for permit purposes. These fees are based on 2012 prices and are subject to change. These fees are paid at a Park Ranger Station upon entering Quetico Park. Payments must be made with cash, travelers check, Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Personal checks and Discover cards are not accepted.

Upon receiving your Permit Application, we will apply for a permit for your crew. You will be sent a confirmation letter or email from Quetico Provincial Park. **BE SURE TO BRING YOUR CONFIRMATION LETTER WITH YOU!**

**CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA****CANADIAN CUSTOMS**

If you will be traveling in the Quetico Provincial Park, EVERYONE will be required to have a Remote Area Border Crossing (RABC) permit (also called a “CAN-PASS”) – NO EXCEPTIONS! Since there are no customs stations left in the backcountry, the Remote Area Border Crossing Permit is required. You must apply for an RABC at least 6 weeks in advance of your trip. The cost is \$30.00 Canadian currency for each adult Remote Area Border Crossing Permit. RABC’s for youth (under 18) are issued at no cost, but an RABC application must be filled out and submitted. All people must carry the required identification items.

**U.S. CUSTOMS**

Crews and Interpreters must report to the U.S. Customs Station following their return to the United States. The station is located in the U.S. Forest Service building, across from the International Wolf Center, just east of Ely. Failure to do so could result in a \$5,000.00 fine per person! Passports or Pass Cards are required to reenter the U.S. Check our web page for a link to the current regulations.

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS**

There is a ban on cans and glass bottles for food items in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and in the Quetico Provincial Park. The only non-reusable glass or metal containers allowed are for medicines, fuel, bug repellent, personal hygiene products, etc. All food and drink items must be packaged in reusable or disposable plastic, paper, foil, or cloth containers. Northern Tier trail food meets these requirements.

***Obtaining an RABC application:***

Canada Immigration Centre  
Suite 108, 221 Archibald St. N  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
P7C 3Y3

(807) 624-2162

Download the applications at:

<http://www.cbsa.gc.ca/publications/forms-formulaires/bsf386-eng.pdf>

or use the address above to request an application and mail in a completed application.

Fees should be paid by money order payable in Canadian funds to the Receiver General for Canada or by credit card (Visa or MasterCard ONLY). Personal checks will not be accepted. Fees are \$30.00 CND per applicant and his/her spouse and dependents.

The RABC is valid for one year.

- Allow a minimum of 6 weeks for processing and return of your Remote Area Border Crossing.
- BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE, YOUTH AND ADULT, HAS THEIR RABC!

Since names and I.D.’s are required for the Remote Area Border Crossing permits, it will be impossible to make last-minute changes of crew members and leaders. Please plan ahead for this.

RABC’s are available to U.S. citizens and alien residents of the U.S. People with a criminal record or DWI may not be granted an RABC.

**CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA**

**EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION**

Emergency radios are sent with each crew traveling in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and in the Quetico Provincial Park from the Ely base. An emergency station at the base is staffed 24 hours a day during the summer season to receive emergency transmissions from crews. The base operates a motorboat and contracts with local float plane and towboat services in case an evacuation is required. While our emergency radio system is very reliable, conditions such as weather, crew location, and radio damage or malfunction may make immediate contact or evacuation impossible. Crews should be prepared to handle emergency situations until contact can be established or evacuation is possible.

**HOUSING AND FACILITIES**

You will be staying in Boy Scouts of America approved and constructed 8-person dormitory-style cabins both before and after your canoe trip. The off-the-road cabins are a fairly long walk from the parking area, so plan to be able to transport your gear when you arrive (consider it your first portage). A sauna and shower facility is available on base for your use after your trip. However, there are no laundry facilities.

**MEALS**

Meals include dinner and breakfast before and after your trip. Crews wishing to leave for home before the regular breakfast time can choose to have a continental breakfast. This must be arranged during check-in.

**TRADING POST**

The Northern Tier Trading Post has a large supply of Northern Tier collectible items for sale including patches, mugs, T-shirts, and other memorabilia. Maps, fishing licenses and tackle, traditional Voyageur style clothing and implements, paddles, camping gear, books, and outdoor clothing are also available. Footwear is especially important in the North Woods, and we recommend made "Jungle Boots". For a wide selection of souvenirs check out [www.northerntiertradingpost.org](http://www.northerntiertradingpost.org).

**STORAGE FOR GEAR AND VALUABLES**

A limited amount of locked storage space is available at the base for your gear. These lockers are 22" wide, 24" deep and 45" high. We suggest packing in duffel bags for easier fitting in the locker. If driving, we ask that you store your gear in your vehicles.

**SHUTTLES / ENTRY POINTS**

Due to restrictions on the number of permits available for each entry point, some crews (particularly during July 1st thru August 14th) may have an entry point different than the normal Moose Lake entry. If this occurs, we will work together to set up a shuttle to the entry point. In some cases, you may have to do an extra portage to get to an entry point (for example, Flash Lake for a Snowbank entry). Shuttle fees for 2010 were \$2.00/mile. These are subject to change for 2011. For the same reason, some crews may have to enter Quetico Park on a "delayed entry" basis. These crews may have both Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness permits and Quetico Provincial Park permits with a combination of fees from both.



**CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA**

**HOW TO GET TO THE ELY BASE**

Traveling to and from Northern Tier is an important part of the “High Adventure” experience. Most crews will find transportation the largest expense in the budget. Study the various modes of travel before making a final decision. Choose the one that has the greatest appeal and is affordable.

Many Northern Tier council contingents and crews have found public carriers to be the safest and most reliable forms of transportation. Consult the passenger department of any of the following carriers for scheduling information and costs. Your local travel agency can also render this service.

The Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base is 130 miles from Duluth, 270 miles from Minneapolis, 100 miles from Hibbing, and 20.2 miles northeast of Ely.

Crews using public transportation will need to arrange charter transportation to the Base. There are many charter services in Northern Minnesota to choose from. The following are some suggestions. Also, check with your local travel agent.

Delta – Duluth, Minneapolis, Hibbing  
Regular reservations – 1-(800)-221-1212  
[www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com)

Amtrak – to Minneapolis/St. Paul  
1-(800)-872-7245  
[www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com).

United - Duluth to Chicago  
Regular reservation 1-(800)-864-8331  
[www.united.com](http://www.united.com)

Then rent vehicles or charter a bus from Minneapolis to Ely. (The Ely Base is 270 miles from Minneapolis)

Private Vehicles – This method of transportation should be used only with full assurance that vehicles are safe and drivers are reliable. Make sure there is adequate insurance coverage. Adhere rigidly to the BSA Tour Plan requirements.

**GROUND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

Shubat’s Transportation  
618 West 41st Street  
Hibbing, MN 55746  
(218) 262-1042  
(218) 263-7182 FAX  
(888) 874-8228

Highway Charter  
8527 Tall Pine Road  
Britt, MN 55710  
(218) 741-2570  
(900) 622-8000

LCS Coaches  
1203 Ave. B  
Cloquet, MN 55720  
(218) 879-3391  
(218) 879-2020 FAX  
(888) 743-3527

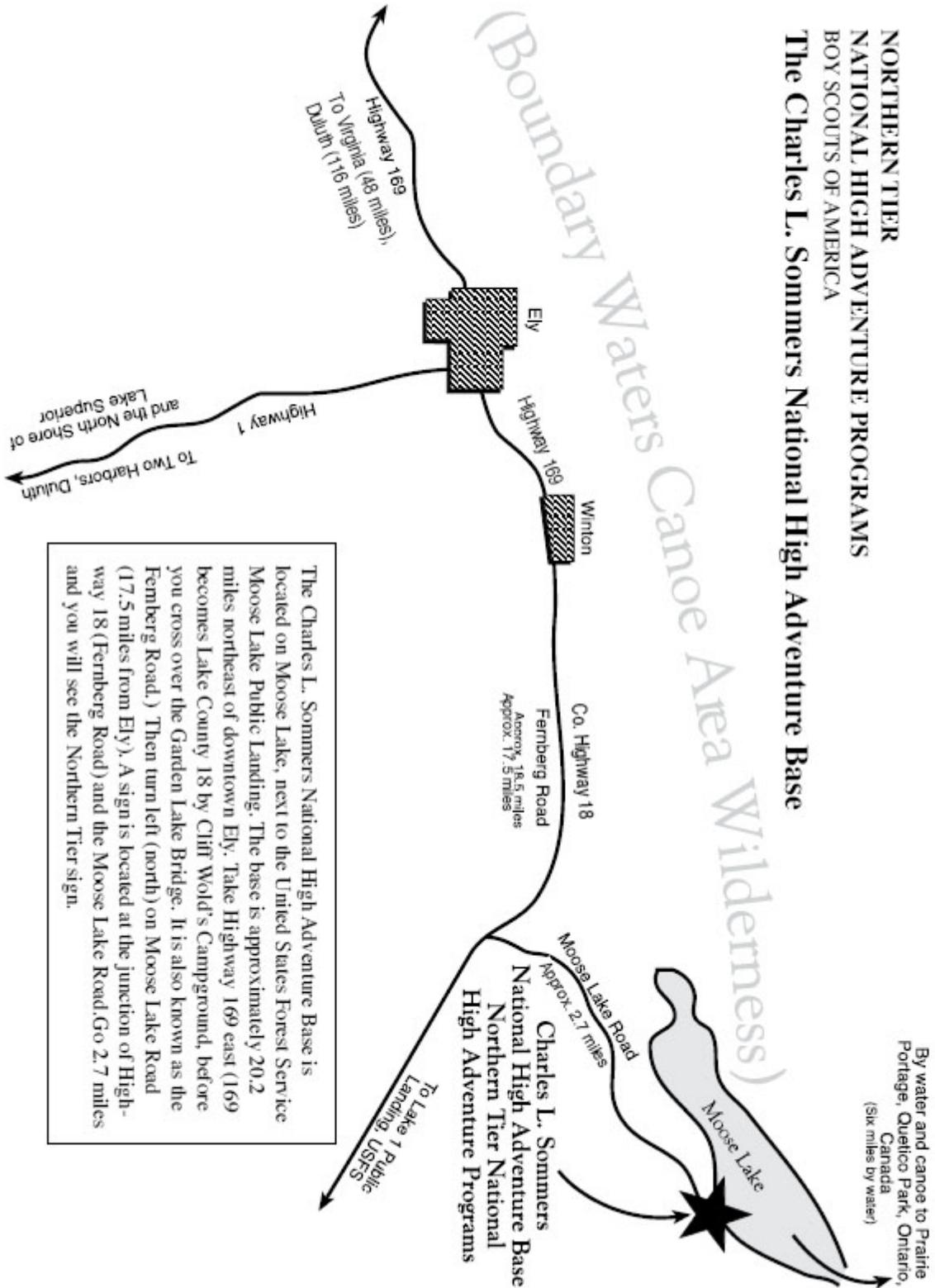
Ely Yellow Cab  
2803 Voyageur Road  
Ely, MN 55731  
(218) 365-6006

Ely Cab & Van Service  
1115 East Madison St.  
Ely, MN 55731  
(218) 349-1383  
14 passenger van

Spirit of the Wilderness  
2030 East Sheridan St.  
Ely, MN 55731  
(218) 365-3149  
(800) 950-2709

Voyageur Bus Co. &  
Minnesota Coaches Inc.  
3941 East calvery Road  
Duluth, MN 55803  
(218) 724-1717  
(218) 724-2432  
[www.voyageurbus.com](http://www.voyageurbus.com)

CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA



**CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA**

**DETAILED ELY TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS**

When you are planning flights, please consider the option of spending a night en-route. While possible to arrange an early flight to Minneapolis, you will arrive at the base after an already long day to begin 6 hours of trip preparation.

When you are arranging flights please keep in mind the standard arrival time at Northern Tier is 1:00 to 3:00 PM Central Time. The following chart has average driving times and latest departure times to meet the Northern Tier check-in schedule.

CITY	DRIVING TIME TO THE ELY BASE	IDEAL DEPARTURE TIME
Minneapolis, MN	5 hours	8:00 AM
Duluth, MN	3 hours	10:00 AM
Giants Ridge-Biwabik, MN	1 hour & 45 minutes	11:00 AM

**OFF BASE ACCOMMODATIONS AND ATTRACTIONS:**

- \*International Wolf Center-Ely, Minnesota
- \*Giants Ridge Resort-Biwabik, MN
- \*North American Bear Center-Ely, Minnesota
- \*Town of Ely, Minnesota-see below for information
- \*The North Shore-see below for information
- \*Soudan Underground Mines-Tower, MN

**LODGING OPPORTUNITY:**

Crews traveling through Minneapolis may plan to overnight at Giants Ridge Ski Resort in Biwabik, MN. Giants Ridge offers lodging, food service, and recreation for Scouting groups at very reasonable rates. Call 1-800-688-7669 for information.

[www.giantsridge.com](http://www.giantsridge.com)

For further tourist information about Minnesota:

- Minnesota Tourism  
1-(800)-657-3700.
- Ely Chamber of Commerce  
1-(800)-777-7281  
[www.ely.com](http://www.ely.com)
- Iron Trail Convention & Visitors Bureau  
1-(800)-777-8497
- U.S.F.S., Kawishiwi District  
(218)-365-7600
- Soudan Underground Mine  
(218) 753-2245

**FISHING**

Most participants do some fishing. The fishing regulations in Ontario are different than those in Minnesota. Most crews purchase licenses for just the adults. Youth may catch fish on the advisors' and/or Interpreters' limits. As an example, a crew with 2 adults who purchased Minnesota licenses could possess 12 walleye, 6 northern pike, 12 smallmouth bass and four lake trout. Six fish total is enough fish for supper for nine people.

Licenses can be purchased at the Ely Trading Post for Minnesota Licenses and at Prairie Portage for Ontario Licenses.

*Minnesota:*

(Fees shown are for the 2010 season and are subject to change)

License Type	Resident/Non	Cost
Full Season	Resident	\$18.00
Full Season	Non-Resident	\$40.50
7-Day	Non-Resident	\$29.50
3-Day	Non-Resident	\$25.00
1-Day	Non-Resident	\$9.50
Trout Stamp		\$10.00

**CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA**

NOTE: A social security number is required to obtain a Minnesota fishing license. There are three ways a youth 15 years old and younger to fish without purchasing a license:

1. Nonresident youth less than 16 years of age may fish on the license of an accompanying parent or guardian who is licensed. Any fish caught will be part of the catch and possession limit of the person holding the license.
2. Crews that have nonresident youth under 16 years of age are eligible to get a certificate allowing them to fish. This certificate is good only for Minnesota, not for Quetico Provincial Park. To get a certificate, contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources listed below. There is no charge for this certificate. You will need the names and ages of the youth under 16 years of age and the name of the leader in charge of each crew. You will also be asked the area of travel (BWCAW through Charles L.Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base on Moose Lake).
3. There is also a new nonresident youth fishing license for \$18.00 that allows youth to keep their own limit.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
1201 E. HIGHWAY 2  
GRAND RAPIDS, MN 55744

(218) 327-4424

**FOR INSTANT LICENSES:**

(saves time at base if you get these ahead of time)

Call 888-665-4236

or

[www.wildlifelicense.com](http://www.wildlifelicense.com)

*Ontario:*

**Regulations:**

- Organic bait is prohibited in the Quetico Provincial Park.
- Barbless hooks are required in the Quetico Provincial Park.
  - o Barbless hooks dramatically increase the survival rate of the fish released.
  - o Barbless hooks are also easier to remove from human tissue if accidentally imbedded. Barbs can be pinched flat with a pair of pliers.
  - o Barbless hooks do not significantly decrease your chances of landing a fish.
- Lead-free tackle is also highly recommended.

For more information on Ontario fishing regulations, check:

[www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LetsFish/index.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LetsFish/index.html)

In Ontario, there are two ways for youth less than 18 years of age to fish:

1. Nonresident youth under the age of 18 may fish without a license under the catch and possession limit of the licensed adult in charge.
2. Nonresident groups of at least 5 youth under 18 years of age may fish under a special license for members of an organized camp when accompanied by an adult with a fishing license. This costs \$4.25 CND per youth. These may be purchased at the Quetico Park Ranger station.

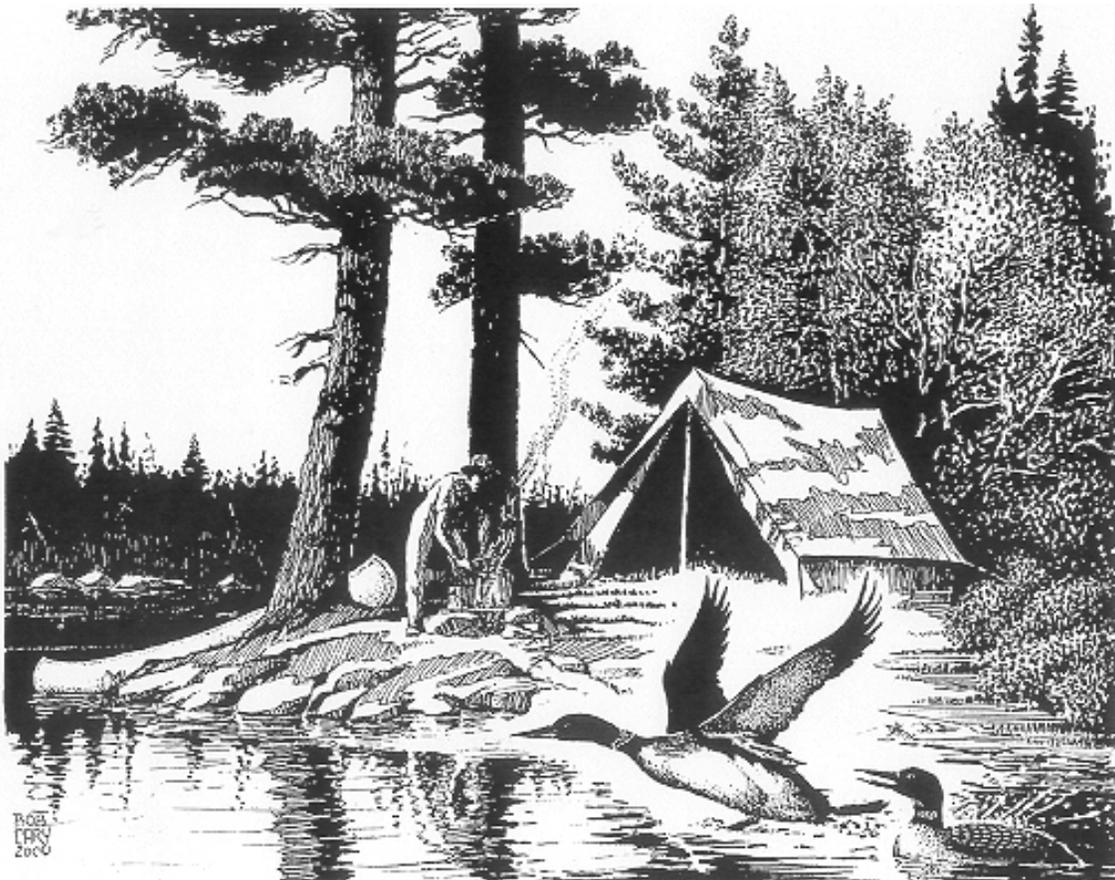
License Type	Resident/Non	Cost
Age 17 and under See "1 & 2" Above		
Full Season	Non-Resident	\$66.19 CND
Full Season Conservation	Non-Resident	\$40.71 CND
8-Day	Non-Resident	\$42.38 CND
8-Day Conservation	Non-Resident	\$24.52 CND
Conservation Licenses have a reduced catch limit. Cost does not include the 13% HST.		

**CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA**

**ROUTES**

The following are some typical canoe routes both for the Quetico Provincial Park and for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Many other routes are possible. Both areas are beautiful and similar in terrain. One of your first choices to make is to decide in which area your crew wishes to travel.

BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS	QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK
Must camp at designated campsites.	May camp anywhere.
Each site has a fire grate and latrine.	No latrines or fire grates.
“Leave No Trace” policies must be followed.	“Leave No Trace” policies must be followed.
Likely to see other wilderness users.	Fewer wilderness users, less fishing pressure.
Permits easy to obtain.	Permits may be hard to obtain during peak season.
Less cost for camping and permit fees (per trip rate).	Higher cost for camping and permit fees (per night rate).
Well maintained, well traveled portage trails.	More rugged, less traveled portage trails.
Motorboat access allowed on several border lakes (not allowed on interior lakes).	Motorboat use not allowed (except on a few First Nations lakes at far western edge of park).



CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA

BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS ROUTES  
FROM THE CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE

**Route Name:** Bear Loop

**Location:** BWCAW

**Entry Point:** Moose Lake (25)

**Shuttle:** None Required

**Distance:** 55 miles

**Longest Portage:** 105 Rods (0.3 miles)

**Number of Portages:** 27

**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F11

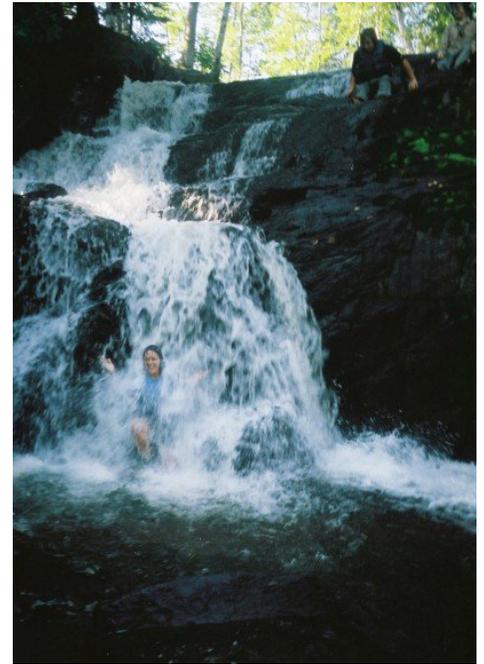
**Main Features:** Eddy Falls, Variety, July 4th Blow Down area, mostly short portages, eagle's nest on point between Newfound and Sucker Lake, Wisini Hilton campsite, pictographs on Jordan, Isle of Pines (Dorothy Molter's former homestead site).

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Splash Lake, Ensign Lake, Ashigan Lake, Gibson Lake, Cattyman Lake, Jordan Lake, Ima Lake, Hatchet Lake, Thomas Lake, Fraser Lake, Gerund Lake, Ahmakose Lake, Wisini Lake, Strup Lake, Kekekabic Lake, Pickle Lake, Spoon Lake, Bonnie Lake, Knife Lake, Carp Lake, Birch Lake, Sucker Lake, Newfound Lake, Moose Lake

**Route Description:**

This is a popular route with our crews and has many variations. It is very suitable for shorter treks. The route can be reversed, changed, extended, or shortened in many ways. You are likely to see lots of groups on this route and you should plan to get to a campsite early. It is a pretty area and well suited for short trips or crews new to canoe tripping. This loop is very representative of the BWCAW and offers a lot of variety.



**Route Name:** Bear Trap River Loop

**Location:** BWCAW

**Entry Point:** Moose Lake (25)

**Shuttle:** None Required

**Distance:** 90 Miles

**Longest Portage:** 340 Rods (1.1 miles)

**Number of Portages:** 22

**Maps Required:** Fisher F9, F10, F16, F17

**Main Features:** Pictographs, Waterfalls, Rivers

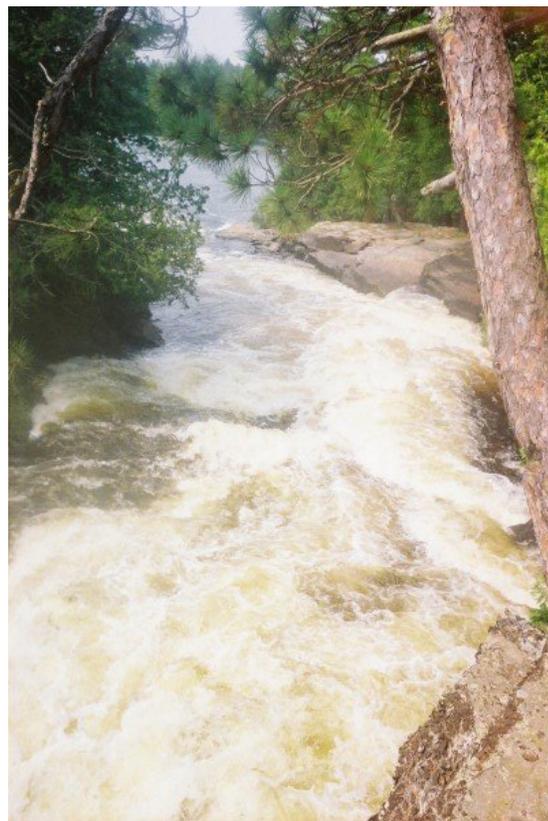
**Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous (moderate for a 10 day trek, strenuous for 8-9 day treks)

**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.



## CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA

**Route Name:** Grand Portage**Location:** BWCAW**Entry Point:** Moose Lake (25)**Shuttle:** From Grand Portage back to Sommers. Fee: \$320.00.**Camping Fees:** Required at Grand Portage Campground.**Distance:** 125 miles (9-10 days recommended for this route)**Longest Portage:** 8.5 MILES**Number of Portages:** 31**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F11, F19, F20, F12, F13, F14, E115**Main Features:** Very historic route, many scenic spots, ends at National Monument.**Difficulty:** Strenuous**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Birch Lake, Carp Lake, Melon Lake, Seed Lake, Knife Lake, Ottertrack Lake, Swamp Lake, Saganaga Lake, Granite River, Gneiss Lake, Granite Bay, Clove Lake, Pine River, Gunflint Lake, North Lake, Height of Land Portage, South Lake, Rat Lake, Rose Lake, Rove Lake, Watap Lake, Mountain Lake, Fan Lake, Vaseux Lake, Moose Lake, North Fowl Lake, South Fowl Lake, Pigeon River, Grand Portage, Lake Superior**Route Description:** This very historic route was the highway for the ‘voyageurs,’ who traveled these waters with their trade goods two centuries ago. There are numerous scenic bluffs along the route, as you cover such portages as “Monument Portage,” the “Height of Land,” and of course, the grand finale, the 8.5 mile Grand Portage. This route is strenuous, as there are several longer portages. The longest portages are at the end of the route, when the packs are lightest and the legs are strongest. The trek ends at the Grand Portage National Monument, where your crew can sign the register for crossing the portage, and then tour the monument area, which has a lot of historic information about the area. There is also a special Grand Portage Trek patch for purchase from the Trading Post.**Route Name:** Horse River Loop**Location:** BWCAW**Entry Point:** Moose Lake (25)**Shuttle:** None Required**Distance:** 55 miles**Longest Portage:** 340 rods (1.1 miles)**Number of Portages:** 17**Maps Required:** Fisher F10**Main Features:** Large lakes, 2 rivers, scenic waterfalls**Difficulty:** Easy**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Wind Lake, Basswood Lake (Wind Bay), Indiana Lake, Good Lake, Basswood Lake (Hoist Bay, Back Bay, Pipestone Bay, Jackfish Bay), Unnamed Creek, Tin Can Mike Lake, Horse Lake, Horse River, Basswood River, Basswood Lake, Wind Lake, Moose Lake**Route Description:** An easy route for shorter treks, this route has numerous large lakes and bays. Please note that many of the large bays do allow motorboat use. This scenic route, traveling down the Horse River and up the Basswood River has many excellent fishing locations along the way.

**CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA**

**Route Name:** Height of Land Route

**Location:** BWCAW and Superior National Forest

**Entry Point:** Moose Lake

**Shuttle:** None Required

**Distance:** 135 miles

**Longest Portage:** 100 Rods (0.3 miles)

**Number of Portages:** 38

**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F11, F13, F19, F20

**Main Features:** Following the traditional Fur Trade Route, crossing the Height of Land portage, Isle of Pines “Root Beer Lady” Dorothy Molter’s former homestead), eagle’s nest on point between Newfound and Sucker Lakes, Benny Ambrose homestead’s site on Ottertrack Lake.

**Difficulty:** Strenuous (because of distance)

**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Birch Lake, Knife Lake, Ottertrack Lake, Saganaga Lake, Granite River, Gneiss Lake, Cove Lake, Magnetic Lake, Gunflint Lake, North Lake, Gunflint Lake, Magnetic Lake, Cove Lake, Gneiss Lake, Granite River, Saganaga Lake, Ottertrack Lake, Knife Lake, Birch Lake, Sucker Lake, Newfound Lake, Moose Lake

**Route Description:** This long route is fairly easy as far as portaging goes. This is suited for experienced crews on 10-day trips wanting to paddle long days on big lakes and to follow the U.S. – Canadian border and the historic fur trade route to the Height of Land. Voyageurs crossing the Height of Land portage were allowed to dip their paddles in red paint and to take part in a special ceremony, signifying they were “true” Voyageurs. This route takes you through some scenic lakes both in and out of the BWCAW (expect to see a few motorboats and cabins). Although the route begins and returns the same way, it always looks different in reverse. The trip can be altered to return by several different routes which will require more portaging.

**Route Name:** Little Saganaga Loop

**Location:** BWCAW

**Entry Point:** Moose Lake

**Shuttle:** None Required

**Distance:** 80 miles

**Longest Portage:** 240 Rods (0.75 miles)

**Number of Portages:** 54

**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F11, F12

**Main Features:** Variety (Rivers, Small Lakes, Big Lakes), uncrowded, beautiful scenery

**Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous (because of number of portages)

**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound, Sucker, Splash, Ensign, Ashigan, Gibson, Cattyman, Jordan, Ima, Thomas, Cacabic, Alice, Kawishiwi River, Kivaniva, Anit, Pan, Panhandle, Makwa, Elton, Little Saganaga, Mora, Tarry, Crooked, Gillis, Fern, French, Peter, Gabimichigami, Agamok, Mueller, Ogishkemuncie, Annie, Jenny, Kekakabic Ponds, Eddy, South Arm Knife, Sema, Spoon, Dix, Skoota, Missionary, Trader, Vera, Ensign, Splash, Sucker, Newfound, Moose.

**Route Description:** This route is best for a crew on a longer trip that wants a degree of challenge in return for traveling in a beautiful and remote area of the BWCAW. There is one 240 rod portage and several 180 rod portages, but most are relatively short. As with most canoe routes, there are many ways to alter this main loop to make it shorter, lessen the number of portages, or make it even more challenging. For example, a crew could return by way of Knife Lake from the South Arm, cutting out seven portages although this would put you back on the main traffic route. Many people consider the Gabimichigami and Ogishkemuncie Lakes area to be some of the most beautiful in the BWCAW.

## CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA

**Route Name:** Scenic Lakes Loop**Location:** BWCAW**Entry Point:** Moose Lake**Shuttle:** None Required**Distance:** 70 Miles**Longest Portage:** 180 Rods (0.56 mile)**Number of Portages:** 28**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F11, F19**Main Features:** Waterfall, cliff-lined lakes, nice campsites, Isle of Pines (“Root Beer Lady” Dorothy Molter’s former homestead site), Benny Ambrose’s homestead site, osprey nest on Kekekabic Pond east of Kekekabic Lake, eagle’s nest on point between Newfound and Sucker Lakes.**Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Birch Lake, Carp Lake, Seed Lake, Knife River, Knife Lake, Ottertrack Lake, Ester Lake, Hanson Lake, Cherry Lake, Topaz Lake, Amoebur Lake, Knife Lake, South Arm Knife Lake, Eddy Lake, Kekekabic Ponds, Kekekabic Lake, Pickle Lake, Spoon Lake, Dix Lake, Skoota Lake, Missionary Lake, Trader Lake, Vera Lake, Ensign Lake, Splash Lake, Newfound Lake, Moose Lake**Route Description:** Fairly easy route, perfect for a 7 or 8 day trek. Expect to see people along this route, but solitude can be found in many locations by portaging away from the main route to camp.

CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA

QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK ROUTES  
FROM THE CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE

**Route Name:** Agnes Lake Loop

**Location:** Quetico Provincial Park

**Entry Point:** Kahshahpiwi Lake (53). If you reverse this route you can use the Agnes Lake (61) entry point.

**Shuttle:** None Required

**Distance:** 80 miles

**Longest Portage:** 212 Rods (0.66 miles)

**Number of Portages:** 24

**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F11, F18, F25,

**Main Features:** Pictographs, Louisa Falls, Agnes Lake, Kahshahpiwi Lake

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Prairie Portage, Basswood Lake (Inlet Bay, Bayley Bay), Burke Lake, Burke Creek, Basswood Lake (North Bay), Isabella Creek, Isabella Lake, Side Lake, Kahshahpiwi Lake, Keefer Lake, Stark Lake, Kahshahpiwi Creek, Cairn Lake, Kahshahpiwi Creek, Kawnipi Lake, Keewatin Lake, Agnes Lake, Meadows Lake, Sunday Lake, Basswood Lake (Sunday Bay, Bayley Bay, Inlet Bay), Prairie Portage, Sucker Lake, Newfound Lake, Moose Lake



**Route Description:** This popular 8 to 10 day route is the quintessential Quetico Route as immortalized in “The Far Northland” song of the Northern Tier (“... from Lake Agnes by Louisa to Kawnipi I will go...”). You will travel up the middle of Quetico Provincial Park and have the experience of sitting in the “bathtub” under Louisa Falls. Although there are 24 portages, only four are longer than 100 rods. Some of these are a challenge however. You will find more solitude as you travel north. Don’t miss the pictographs on Agnes Lake, and the only known petroglyphs (carvings) in the park.

**Route Name:** Argo Lake Loop

**Location:** Quetico Provincial Park

**Entry Point:** Basswood River (51). If you reverse the direction of the route you would use the Sarah Lake (52) entry point.

**Shuttle:** None Required

**Distance:** 85 miles

**Longest Portage:** 340 Rods (1.1 miles)

**Number of Portages:** 27

**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F17, F18

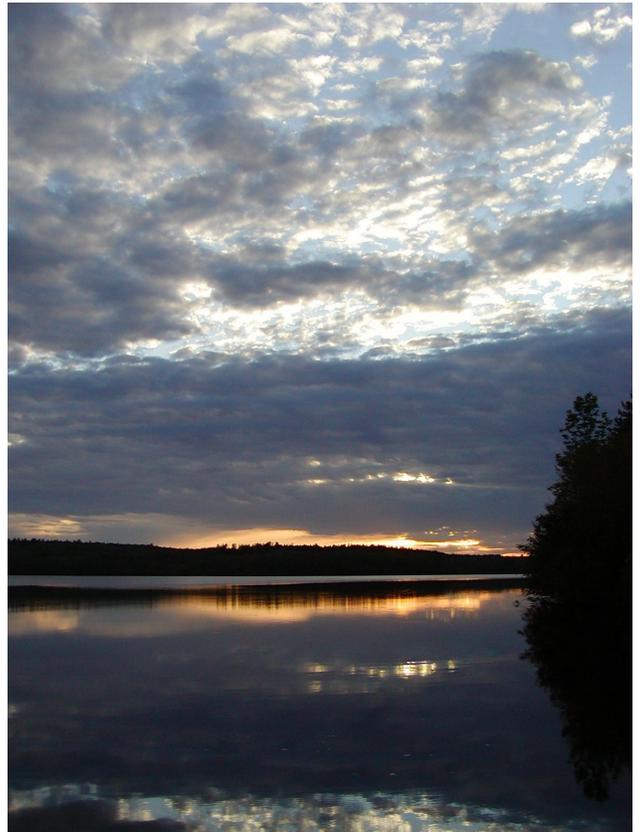
**Main Features:** Basswood Falls, Pictographs, Argo Lake

**Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous (depending on length of trip)

**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Prairie Portage, Basswood Lake (Inlet Bay, Bayley Bay), Basswood River, Crooked Lake, Argo Lake, Darky Lake, Darky River, Brent Lake, McIntyre Lake, Sarah Lake, Side Creek, Side Lake, Point Lake, Nest Lake, Basswood Lake (North Bay), Burke Creek, Burke Lake, Basswood Lake (Bailey Bay, Inlet Bay), Prairie Portage, Sucker Lake, Newfound Lake, Moose Lake.

**Route Description:** This route has a couple of longer portages, but is not difficult if you are on a 10-day trek. You will see three pictograph sites, three waterfalls, and some beautiful lakes. Unique Argo Lake is a deep blue color. The pictographs on Darky Lake and Crooked Lake are among the best in the region. You should find solitude in the secluded McIntyre Lake area.

## CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA

**Route Name:** Falls Chain**Location:** Quetico Provincial Park**Entry Point:** Agnes Lake (61). If you reverse this route, you would use the Carp Lake (62) entry point.**Shuttle:** None**Distance:** 90 miles**Longest Portage:** 193 Rods (0.6 miles)**Number of Portages:** 27**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F11, F18, F19, F25, F26**Main Features:** Falls Chain, Louisa Falls, Agnes Lake, Man Chain Lakes**Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Prairie Portage, Basswood Lake (Inlet Bay, Bayley Bay), Sunday Lake, Meadows Lake, Agnes Lake, Agnes River, Anubis Lake, McVicar Lake, Kawnipi Lake, Falls Chain, Saganagons Lake, Slate Lake, Fran Lake, Bell Lake, Bit Lake, Other Man, This Man, No Man Lake, That Man Lake, Sheridan Lake, Carp Lake, Birch Lake, Sucker Lake, Newfound Lake, Moose Lake**Route Description:** Suitable for a 10 day trek, this route takes you through a beautiful part of Quetico Provincial Park and past a number of nice waterfalls.**Route Name:** Louisa Falls Loop**Location:** Quetico Provincial Park**Entry Point:** Agnes Lake (61)**Shuttle:** None Required**Distance:** 50 miles**Longest Portage:** 212 Rods (0.66 miles)**Number of Portages:** 14**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F11, F18**Main Features:** Louisa Falls, Agnes Lake, Pictographs**Difficulty:** Easy**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Prairie Portage, Basswood Lake (Inlet Bay, Bayley Bay), Burke Lake, Burke Creek, Basswood Lake (North Bay), South Lake, West Lake, Jeff Creek, Jeff Lake, East Lake, Agnes Lake, Meadows Lake, Sunday Lake, Basswood Lake (Sunday Bay, Inlet Bay), Sucker Lake, Newfound Lake, Moose Lake**Route Description:** This route is ideal for a 7 day trek into Quetico Provincial Park. Explore the small secluded lakes and streams of the central Quetico on this route. There are lots of moose in this area of the park. Don't miss taking a dip in Louisa Falls!

CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA

**Route Name:** The Man Chain

**Location:** Quetico Provincial Park

**Entry Point:** Carp Lake (62)

**Shuttle:** None Required

**Distance:** 65 miles

**Longest Portage:** 136 Rods (0.43 miles)

**Number of Portages:** 24

**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F11, F18, F19

**Main Features:** Silver Falls, Ottertrack Lake, historic border route, Dorothy Molter's Isle of Pines site

**Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate (depending on length of trek)

**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Prairie Portage, Birch Lake, Carp Lake, Knife River, Seed Lake, Knife River, Knife Lake, Ottertrack Lake, Jasper Lake, Lilypad Lake, Silver Falls River, Saganagons Lake, Slate Lake, Fran Lake, Bell Lake, Other Man Lake, This Man Lake, No Man Lake, That Man Lake, Sheridan Lake, Carp Lake, Birch Lake, Sucker Lake, Newfound Lake, Moose Lake



**Route Description:** This is well suited for a 7 or 8 day trek. The portages are mostly short. Stop for a picnic at the Isle of Pines, and look for Benny Ambrose's old homestead on Ottertrack Lake. Knife Lake was so named because of the outcrops of obsidian-like slate that the Native Americans used to make knives.

**Route Name:** Old Pines Loop

**Location:** Quetico Provincial Park

**Entry Point:** Kahshahpiwi Lake (53)

**Shuttle:** None Required

**Distance:** 50 miles

**Longest Portage:** 182 Rods (0.57 miles)

**Number of Portages:** 23

**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F17, F18

**Main Features:** Old growth red and white pines on McNiece and Shan Walshe Lakes, pictographs on Shade Lake

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Prairie Portage, Basswood Lake (Inlet Bay, Bayley Bay), Burke Lake, Burke Creek, Basswood Lake (North Bay), South Lake, West Lake, Shade Lake, Grey Lake, Yum Yum Lake, Shan Walshe Lake, McNiece Lake, Kahshahpiwi Lake, Side Lake, Point Lake, Nest Lake, Basswood Lake (Ranger Bay, Wind Bay), Wind Lake, Moose Lake

**Route Description:** On a 7 day trek, you will cross 18 or 19 portages by your third day. These aren't too difficult, but you need to be in good shape. On a longer trek you can break these up a bit. This is a good cross-section of Quetico Provincial Park. It is also good wildlife habitat, including moose. This is one of the lesser-used entry points into this part of Quetico Provincial Park.

## CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA

**Route Name:** “S” Chain**Location:** Quetico Provincial Park**Entry Point:** Agnes Lake (61)**Shuttle:** None Required**Distance:** 55 miles**Longest Portage:** 165 Rods (0.52 miles)**Number of Portages:** 19**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F11, F18**Main Features:** Pictographs, Louisa Falls, Basswood Lake**Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate (depending on length of trek)**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Prairie Portage, Basswood Lake (Inlet Bay, Bayley Bay), Nest Lake, Point Lake, Isabella Lake, Isabella Creek, West Lake, Shade Lake, Noon Lake, Summer Lake, Sultry Lake, Silence Lake, Agnes Lake, Meadows Lake, Sunday Lake, Basswood Lake (Sunday Bay, Bayley Bay, Inlet Bay), Prairie Portage, Sucker Lake, Newfound Lake, Moose Lake**Route Description:** Named for the number of lakes beginning with the letter “s”, this is a fairly easy route (if on a 7 day or longer trek). This is a more challenging trip than the Louisa Falls Loop, which may offer more solitude. There is a lot of variety on this route, with large and small lakes, ponds, and creeks.**Route Name:** Sturgeon Loop**Location:** Quetico Park**Entry Point:** Agnes Lake (61) If you reverse this route, you would use the Basswood River (51) Entry Point.**Shuttle:** None Required**Distance:** 140 miles**Longest Portage:** 340 rods (1.1 miles)**Number of Portages:** 33**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F11, F18, F25, F24, F17**Main Features:** Variety of waterways, remote sections**Difficulty:** Strenuous**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Prairie Portage, Basswood Lake (Inlet Bay, Bayley Bay, Sunday Bay), Sunday Lake, Meadows Lake, Agnes Lake, Unnamed Lake, Keewatin Lake, Kawnipi Lake, Shelley Lake, Keats Lake, Chatterton Lake, Russell Lake, Sturgeon Lake, Maligne River, Tanner Lake, Maligne River, Minn Lake, Darcy River, Darcy Lake, Argo Lake, Crooked Lake, Basswood River, Basswood Lake, Wind Lake, Moose Lake**Route Description:** This is an excellent trek for a more experienced crew. The route isn't very difficult, but it does cover quite a few miles, mostly through very remote sections of the park. This route covers all of the types of waterways in the region (large and small lakes, ponds, creeks, and rivers). There are also numerous scenic falls along this route, such as Chatterton, Split Rock, Snake, and Louisa. You will have a chance to view pictographs and the only known petroglyphs in the park (on Agnes Lake). The longest portage of this route is Horse Portage, a mile in length. This route begins with the route of “The Far Northland”: “From Lake Agnes, by Louisa, to Kawnipi we will go...”

CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA

**Route Name:** Tuck River Loop

**Location:** Quetico Provincial Park

**Entry Point:** Sarah Lake (52). If you reverse the direction of this trip, you would use the Basswood River (51) entry point.

**Shuttle:** None Required

**Distance:** 55 miles

**Longest Portage:** 340 Rods (1.1 miles)

**Number of Portages:** 22

**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F17, F18

**Main Features:** Basswood Falls, pictographs

**Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate (depending on length of trip)

**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Prairie Portage, Basswood Lake (Inlet Bay, Bayley Bay), Burke Lake, Burke Creek, Basswood Lake (North Bay), Isabella Creek, Isabella Lake, Side Lake, Side Creek, Sarah Lake, Tuck Lake, Robinson Lake, Tuck River, Crooked Lake (Moose Bay), Basswood River, Basswood Lake, Wind Lake, Moose Lake

**Route Description:** This route is relatively easy if you are on an 8-day or longer trek, and moderate if you are on a 7-day trek. Some days will have a lot of portages and other days only a few. This short route offers amount a variety of rivers, big lakes, and small lakes and gives a good taste of Quetico Provincial Park. There are good fishing spots on the Tuck River and excellent pictographs on the U.S. side of Crooked Lake.

## CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA

ELY TO ATIKOKAN BASE TO BASE ROUTES  
FROM THE CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE

If you are interested in paddling any of the base-to-base routes, please contact us for details. These are most suitable for 10-day or longer treks, as the routes will be at least 80 miles long. Crew members who complete one of these treks will be awarded a participation emblem from the C. L. Sommers and Don Rogert bases. A special Ely-Atikokan patch can be purchased at the Trading Post. The added benefit of these exciting treks is that you will be able to experience the extreme remoteness of the interior of Quetico Park, where few other people travel. Please note that we **do not** arrange transportation for your crew. If you have at least two crews, one may start at Ely and one at Atikokan and trade vehicles. There is a \$100 equipment transportation fee for returning gear and staff to the Ely Base. Due to Homeland Security regulations, Northern Tier cannot transport personal gear across the US/Canada border. **Crews must arrange to ship their personal gear to the departure base or home.**

**Route Name:** Kahshahpiwi Lake- North**Location:** Quetico Provincial Park**Entry Point:** Kahshahpiwi Lake (53)**Distance:** 90 miles**Longest Portage:** 220 Rods (0.68 miles)**Number of Portages:** 23**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F18, F25, F29**Main Features:** Remote, Scenic, good fishing lakes**Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Prairie Portage, Basswood Lake (Inlet Bay, Bayley Bay), Burke Lake, Basswood Lake (North Bay), South Lake, West Lake, Unnamed Ponds, Shade Lake, Unnamed Lake, Grey Lake, Yum Yum Lake, Kahshahpiwi Lake, Keefer Lake, Sark Lake, Cairn Lake, Shelley Lake, Keats Lake, Chatterton Lake, Russell Lake, Sturgeon Lake, Deux Rivieres, Twin Lakes, Dore Lake, Pickerel Lake, Pickerel Narrows, Batchewaung Bay, Batchewaung Lake, Nym Lake**Route Description:** This route has a nice variety of waterways, including the long, narrow, glacially-formed lakes of the "Kahshahpiwi Creek" (Kahshahpiwi Lake, Sark Lake, and Cairn Lake), which are more common in this region. There are also numerous scenic falls along this route, such as Chatterton, Split Rock, and Snake. Other than the famed "Yum Yum Portage" of 220 rods, only the final portage is longer than 1/2 mile in length.**Route Name:** Sarah Lake- North**Location:** Quetico Provincial Park**Entry Point:** Sarah Lake (52)**Distance:** 95 miles**Longest Portage:** 288 rods (0.9 miles)**Number of Portages:** 33**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F18, F17, F24, F25, F29**Main Features:** Large variety of scenery, very remote, very few other paddlers**Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Prairie Portage, Basswood Lake (Inlet Bay, Bayley Bay), Burke Lake, Basswood Lake (North Bay), Nest Lake, Point Lake, Unnamed Ponds, Side Lake, Sarah Lake, McIntyre Lake, Brent Lake, Suzanette Lake, Conmee Lake, Unnamed Creek, Delahey Lake, Veron Lake, Unnamed Creek, Camel Lake, Nan Lake, Cutty Creek, Fred Lake, Sturgeon Lake, Deux Rivieres, Twin Lakes, Dore Lake, Pickerel Lake, Pickerel Narrows, Batchewaung Bay, Batchewaung Lake, Nym Lake**Route Description:** This route takes groups through the heart of the most remote and lightly traveled section of the park. This is partly due to the number of portages, although the longest is less than one mile in length. There are wonderful variations in scenery, with large and small lakes, ponds, creeks, and rivers. There are also many options on this route for side trips, or for extending the length of the trek.

CHARLES L. SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANOE BASE - ELY, MINNESOTA

**Route Name:** “The Far Northland” Route

**Location:** Quetico Provincial Park

**Entry Point:** Agnes Lake (61)

**Distance:** 80 miles

**Longest Portage:** 193 rods (0.6 miles)

**Number of Portages:** 16

**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F11, F18, F25, F29

**Main Features:** Large lakes, pictographs, petroglyphs, fewer portages

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Prairie Portage, Basswood Lake (Inlet Bay, Bayley Bay, Sunday Bay), Sunday Lake, Meadows Lake, Agnes Lake, Keewatin Lake, Kawnipi Lake, Montgomery Lake, Shelley Lake, Keats Lake, Chatterton Lake, Russell Lake, Sturgeon Lake, Deux Rivieres, Twin Lakes, Dore Lake, Pickerel Lake, Pickerel Narrows, Batchewaung Bay, Batchewaung Lake, Nym Lake

**Route Description:** This itinerary is considered to be the easiest Ely-to-Atikokan route, as it follows some larger bodies of water, such as Agnes and Kawnipi. Although you will need to be wary of possible progress- slowing-winds, you will likely see a number of other paddlers on this route, as it is the easiest way into the interior of the park. There are also numerous scenic falls along this route, such as Chatterton, Split Rock, Snake, and Louisa. You will have a chance to view pictographs and the only known petroglyphs in the park (on Agnes Lake). The longest portage of this route is less than 2/3 of a mile in length, and this is accomplished on the first or second day. This route follows the route of “The Far Northland:” “From Lake Agnes, by Louisa, to Kawnipi we will go...”

**Route Name:** Western Park Boundary

**Location:** Quetico Provincial Park

**Entry Point:** Basswood River (51)

**Distance:** 95 miles

**Longest Portage:** 340 rods (1.1 miles)

**Number of Portages:** 14

**Maps Required:** Fisher F10, F17, F16, F23, F28

**Main Features:** Larger lakes, flat western end of park

**Difficulty:** Easy to moderate

**Itinerary:** Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, Prairie Portage, Basswood Lake, Basswood River, Crooked Lake, Iron Lake, Lac la Croix, Namakan River, Quetico River, Beaverhouse Lake

**Route Description:** This western route follows the US-Canadian border from Prairie Portage to the Quetico River, where it turns north and follows the Quetico Park boundary to the end of the trek. With only one long portage of roughly a mile in length, this easy and scenic trek can become difficult if strong head winds pick up on the several larger lakes. The terrain is fairly flat along most of this route, as it follows natural water flow routes through the region. You will probably see a few natives in this region, as you pass the First Nation (Native Canadian) village on Lac la Croix.

**DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO**



The Donald Rogert base is located 13 miles west of Atikokan, Ontario on Perch Lake. This location allows easy shuttle access to the Quetico Provincial Park, Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park and thousands of acres of Canadian Crown Land Wilderness.

**PRICES & CREW SIZE**

- 6-8 day trips-\$59.00+\$7.67 HST (Harmonized Sales Tax) =\$66.67 U.S. per person per day
- 9-10 day trips-\$54.00+\$7.02 HST (Harmonized Sales Tax) =\$61.02 U.S. per person per day
- Going south into Quetico Provincial Park-minimum of 6; maximum of 8 people; plus, Interpreter for a total of 9 people.
- Going north into North Crown Lands, Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park-minimum of 6; maximum of 11 people; plus your interpreter for a total of 12 people.

**CAMPING PERMITS**

*Quetico Provincial Park:*

If going south from the Atikokan base, into the Quetico Provincial Park you will need to complete the Permit Application found in the Resources link at [www.ntier.org](http://www.ntier.org).

- If your crew decides to purchase permits for the Quetico Provincial Park you **WILL NEED TO PICK UP YOUR PERMITS** in Atikokan at the Quetico Park office **PRIOR** to checking in at the base.

Permit Station:  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
108 Saturn Ave  
Atikokan, Ontario  
807-597-5822

The office does not issue permits before noon, so keep this in mind while planning.

**CAMPING PERMITS....continued**

- **IMPORTANT:** The permit must be picked up by one of the two leaders listed on the Permit Application. If this changes please notify Northern Tier, as it will result in a penalty charge from the Park.

*Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park and Crown Lands:*

No camping fees or reservations are currently required for the Crown Lands or Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park. This may be subject to change in the future.

If you are going north from the Atikokan base into the Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park or the Crown Lands, please fill out and submit the Permit Application to Northern Tier.

(Refer to the route planning section for a park comparison chart.)

**DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO**

**PERMIT FEES**

*Quetico Provincial Park:*

- Permit Reservation (Quet. Park Fee)  
\$9.50 CND, 8.55 US
- Adult Camping (Quet.Park Fee)  
\$15.00 CND/night
- Interpreter Camping (Quet.Park)  
\$15.00 CND/night (paid by crew)
- Youth Camping (Quet. Park)  
\$6.50 CND/night
- Work Permit Fees for Interpreter  
\$30.00 US per crew



NOTE: There is also a Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) of 13% applied to all Canadian crews. HST is not included in the above prices (please note that HST is subject to change). Please remember these permit fees are not included in the Northern Tier fee; they are an additional cost.

*These permit fees will be paid upon arrival when you go to pick up your permits at the Ranger Station. A single crew can expect to pay between \$350 and \$975 for their Quetico camping fees.*

**FEE EXPLANATION**

The 'Work Permit Fees for Interpreter' & the \$109.50 per crew to reserve your permit will appear under the miscellaneous fees on the Billing Statement. The permit fee in the Quetico Park is currently \$9.50 with a \$100 deposit (in Canadian currency). The deposit applies to camping fees upon check-in at the permit station. You also pay the camping fee for your Interpreter. Remember, a "10-day trip" consists of 8 nights for permit purposes.

These fees are based on 2010 prices and are subject to change. These fees are paid at the permit station located in Atikokan before arriving to base. Payments must be made with cash, travelers check, Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Personal checks and Discover cards are not accepted. Upon receiving your Permit Application, we will apply for a permit for your crew. You will be sent a confirmation letter from Quetico Provincial Park. **BE SURE TO BRING YOUR CONFIRMATION LETTER WITH YOU!**

**PERMIT FEES....continued**

*Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park and Crown Lands:*

- No Camping Fees

**CANADIAN CUSTOMS**

You will be required to have the following items to enter Canada - **NO EXCEPTIONS:**

- Proof of citizenship for everyone (Passport or Passport Card) Originals only.
- Parental Release Forms for all youth 17 years old and younger. Youth traveling with one parent should have permission slip signed by both parents with contact phone # for the absent parent. (This form can be found online at [www.ntier.org](http://www.ntier.org)).
- Naturalized U.S. citizens should bring their Naturalization Certificate.
- Visitors from outside the U.S. should contact a U.S. Immigration Office and/or a Canadian Customs Office for required documents.
- A permanent non-U.S. citizen is advised to bring their Alien Registration Receipt Card.
- A person from another country must have a multiple entry Visa to return to the United States.

**U.S. CUSTOMS**

Special documentation is required to reenter the U.S.A. Currently, a Passport or Passport Card is required for reentering the U.S.A. from Canada. This requirement is still under debate, and may change. Check the link on the Northern Tier web page for current details.

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS**

Crews travelling into the Quetico Provincial Park must be aware of the can and glass bottle ban for food items in the park. The only bottles or cans allowed are for fuel, sunscreen, insect repellent, inhalers, medicine containers, etc. Our food packaging follows these park policies. Crews travelling outside the Quetico are not affected by the can and bottle ban.

## DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO

**EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION**

Atikokan crews carry satellite telephones. These are for emergency communication only.

**HOUSING AND FACILITIES**

Crews arriving at the base will spend their first and last nights in Boy Scouts of America approved 8-12-person dormitory style cabins. Sauna and shower facilities are available for your use after your trip. We do not have laundry facilities for crews. There is a laundromat in Atikokan.

**MEALS**

Meals include dinner and breakfast before and after your trip. Crews wishing to leave for home before the regular breakfast time can choose to have a continental breakfast. This must be arranged during check in.

**TRADING POST**

The Atikokan Trading Post has a large supply of Northern Tier collectible items for sale including patches, mugs, T-shirts and other memorabilia. Maps, fishing tackle and licenses, compression sacks, dry bags, camping gear and some outdoor clothing are also available.

**STORAGE FOR GEAR AND VALUABLES**

A limited amount of locked storage space is available at the base for your gear. These lockers are 22" wide, 24" deep and 45" high. If driving, we ask that you store your gear in your vehicles.

**SHUTTLE TRANSPORTATION INTO AND OUT OF THE WILDERNESS***Ground Shuttle:*

The Atikokan Base allows access to millions of acres of prime canoeing wilderness. There are only a few canoe routes leading into and out of the base. If all crews use the Eye and Seine River, the area within 20 miles of the base won't look like wilderness for long. To reduce our impact on these areas closest to the base we are advising groups to plan a shuttle into and out of the wilderness. Most crews will be shuttled both ways and will be able to reach more remote locations. There is no charge for this shuttle.

**SHUTTLE TRANSPORTATION INTO AND OUT OF THE WILDERNESS....continued***Float Plane Shuttle: (See Chart on page 45)*

Crews may choose to fly into and/or out of the wilderness. This is a more expensive option because equipment and canoes must also be flown with the crews. This increases the cost of the trip. A crew can expect to spend between \$1000.00 and \$2000.00 to fly the crew, Interpreter, and equipment one way.

*Quetico Provincial Park Fly-in Location Options*

You can fly to Beaverhouse Lake and Lac la Croix on the west and southwest side of Quetico Provincial Park. You cannot fly to interior lakes of the Quetico. If you want to fly to the park, you must apply for an entry point from Beaverhouse or Lac la Croix in your Quetico Permit Application.

*Turtle River-White Otter Provincial Park and Crown Land Fly-in Location Options*

There are several options for float plane shuttles into the Crown Land area north, east and west of the base. Some of the more common shuttle points are Doan, Sparkle, Dibble, White Otter, Agimak, Pekagoning, Gulliver and Campus lakes.

The Fly-in cost for 2012 will be \$215.00 CND per person (not including 13% HST). The crew must also pay for the Interpreter's fly-in fare. Crews planning to fly into or out of the wilderness should contact the local float plane companies to inquire about rates and availability. You will not be able to give them an exact itinerary but you can find out which drop off or pick up points fit your budget and book the planes. Your Interpreter will help you plan a trip to fit your float plane budget.

**DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO**

**SHUTTLE TRANSPORTATION INTO AND OUT OF THE WILDERNESS....continued**

There are two float plane services in the Atikokan area.

Atikokan Aero	Kashabowie Outposts
(807) 597-6086	(807) 929-2140

Both offer excellent service to our crews. Crews planning to fly should remember that Friday, Saturday and Sunday are very busy days for most float plane services. **You should book well in advance of your trip if you plan to fly on a weekend.**

**TO CONTACT THE ATIKOKAN BASE**

**From June 1 to August 20 ONLY** call (807) 597-5822 or fax (807) 597-2051. Please limit your calls to trip planning and emergency purposes only. Participants cannot be contacted while on their trek.

**HOW TO GET TO THE ATIKOKAN BASE**

Traveling to and from Northern Tier is an important part of the “High Adventure”. Most crews will find transportation the largest expense in the budget. Study the various modes of travel before making a final decision. Choose the one that has the greatest appeal and is affordable.

Many Northern Tier Council Contingents and crews have found public carriers to be the safest and most reliable forms of transportation. Consult the passenger department of any of the following carriers for scheduling information and costs. Your local travel agency can also render this service.

The Donald Rogert Base (Atikokan) is located on Perch Lake, approximately 13 miles west of the town of Atikokan, Ontario on Canadian Highway 11. The towns of International Falls, Minnesota and Fort Frances, Ontario (just across the border from International Falls) are 80 miles to the west of the base.

**HOW TO GET TO THE ATIKOKAN BASE... continued**

Thunder Bay, Ontario is 140 miles to the east. The Minneapolis/St. Paul airport is 380 miles from the Atikokan base.

Crews traveling to Atikokan may choose to fly through Minneapolis, Minnesota connecting to Duluth, MN; International Falls, MN or Thunder Bay, Ontario. Crews traveling from the eastern U.S. (primarily northeastern states) may fly through Toronto, ON to Thunder Bay, ON. Contact Air Canada, West Jet, or Delta Airlines for details, costs, and schedules.

Atikokan is serviced by public bus from Fort Frances and Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Travel options from airports include car and van rentals or bus shuttles. Single crews may find a vehicle rental is cheaper than a van shuttle. If you can arrange to coordinate with other crews traveling that day you can share the cost of a bus.

Delta – Duluth, Minneapolis, Hibbing  
Regular reservations – 1-(800)-221-1212  
www.delta.com

Amtrak – to Minneapolis/St. Paul  
1-(800)-872-7245  
www.amtrak.com.

United - Duluth to Chicago  
Regular reservation 1-(800)-864-8331  
www.united.com

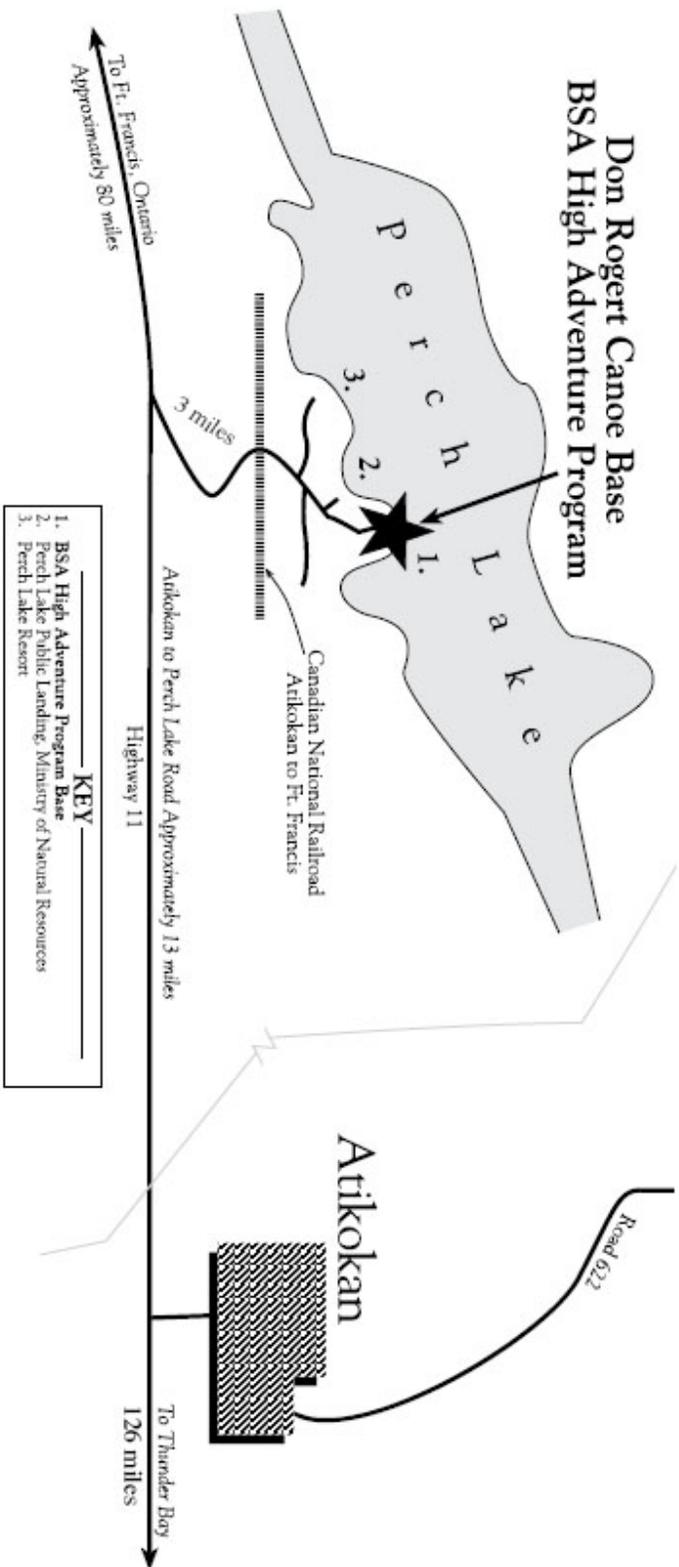
Then rent vehicles or charter a bus from Minneapolis to Ely. (The Ely Base is 270 miles from Minneapolis)

DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO

NORTHERN TIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE PROGRAMS  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Don Rogert Canoe Base  
Atikokan, Ontario, Canada

The Don Rogert Canoe Base is located on Perch Lake about 13 miles west of the town of Atikokan, Ontario on Highway #11.



**DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO**

**GROUND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

Grey Goose Bus Lines  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
(807)345-2194  
Fort Frances, Ontario,  
(807) 274-6360

Asselin Transportation  
P.O. Box 746  
Ft. Frances, Ontario  
Canada P9A 3N1  
(807) 274-6255

Iron Range Bus Lines  
1141 Golf Links Rd.  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
Canada, P7B7A3  
eric@ironrangebus.com

Happy Time Tours  
1475 Walsh St. W.  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
Canada P7E4X6  
(807) 473-5515

Prestige Wilderness  
Shuttles  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
(877) 801-5466

North Air Van Services  
600 Scott St. Ft.Francis,  
Ontario Canada  
P9A1H6  
(800) 465-7761  
(807)274-6360

**FROM DULUTH or  
MINNEAPOLIS**  
  
See C.L. Sommers sec-  
tion for contact informa-  
tion

**DETAILED ATIKOKAN TRANSPORTATION  
OPTIONS**

When you are planning flights, please consider the option of spending a night en-route. While possible to arrange an early flight to Minneapolis, you will arrive at the base after an already long day to begin 6 hours of trip preparation.

**DRIVING TIMES**

When you are arranging flights, please keep in mind the standard arrival time at Northern Tier is 1:00 to 3:00 PM Central Time. The following chart has average driving times and latest departure times to meet the Northern Tier check-in schedule.

<b>CITY</b>	<b>DRIVING TIME TO ATIKOKAN BASE</b>	<b>IDEAL DEPARTURE TIME</b>
Minneapolis, MN	7.75 hrs	6:00 AM
Duluth, MN	6 hrs	7:30 AM
International Falls, MN	1.75 hrs	11:00 AM
Biwabik, MN (Giant's Ridge)	4.5 hrs	8:00 AM
Thunder Bay, On- tario	2.5 hrs	10:00 AM
Crossing the border on weekends may take an extra hour		
Thunder Bay is in the Eastern Time Zone. Plan to lose an hour.		

## DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO

### OFF BASE ACCOMMODATIONS, ATTRACTIONS, AND LODGING OPPORTUNITY

Crews arriving in Northwestern Ontario prior to their scheduled arrival date should not plan on staying at the base. There are several good campgrounds in the Thunder Bay-Atikokan-Fort Francis areas. Groups may also choose to stay at Grey Wolf Scout Camp outside Thunder Bay. Contact the Operations Management at Central Scouts Canada administration office in Winnipeg (204) 786-6661 to arrange a campsite or a cabin.

If traveling through Thunder Bay, you may wish to overnight at famous Old Fort William. Old Fort William is a historical re-creation of an early 1800's fur trade fort. The Fort offers an overnight living history program with accommodations and meals for youth groups. For more information call (807) 473-2344 or find their web site at [www.fwbp.ca/index.php](http://www.fwbp.ca/index.php).

Crews traveling through Minneapolis may plan to overnight at Giants Ridge Ski Resort in Biwabik, MN. Giants Ridge offers lodging, food service, and recreation for Scouting groups at very reasonable rates. Call 1-800-688-7669 for information. [www.giantsridge.com](http://www.giantsridge.com)

There are a number of interesting sites and activities in Northwestern Ontario. For more information, contact North of Superior Tourism in Thunder Bay at (800) 365-3951 or Sunset Country Tourism at (800) 665-7567 or [info@ontariosunsetcountry.ca](mailto:info@ontariosunsetcountry.ca).

For materials and information about Ontario call:

- Ontario Tourism  
(800) 668-2746
- North of Superior Tourism  
(800) 265-3951
- Ontario Sunset Travel Association  
(800) 665-7567
- Quetico Provincial Park  
(888) 668-7275

### FISHING

*Ontario:*

#### Regulations

- Organic bait is prohibited in the Quetico Provincial Park.
- Barbless hooks are required in the Quetico Provincial Park. Barbs can be pinched flat with a pair of pliers.
  - o Barbless hooks dramatically increase the survival rate of the fish released.
  - o Barbless hooks are also easier to remove from human tissue if accidentally imbedded.
  - o Barbless hooks do not significantly decrease your chances of landing a fish.
- Lead-free tackle is also highly recommended.

For more information on Ontario fishing regulations, check:

[www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LetsFish/index.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LetsFish/index.html)

In Ontario, there are two ways for youth less than 18 years of age to fish:

1. Nonresident youth under the age of 18 may fish without a license under the catch and possession limit of the licensed adult in charge.
2. Nonresident groups of at least 5 youth under 18 years of age may fish under a special license for members of an organized camp when accompanied by an adult with a fishing license. This costs \$4.25 Canadian per youth. These may be purchased at the Quetico Park Ranger station.

License Type	Resident/Non	Cost
Age 17 and under See "1 & 2" Above		
Full Season	Non-Resident	\$66.19 CND
Full Season Conservation	Non-Resident	\$40.71 CND
8-Day	Non-Resident	\$42.38 CND
8-Day Conservation	Non-Resident	\$24.52 CND
Conservation Licenses have a reduced catch limit		

\* HST (13%) is not included in the above prices

**DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO**

**ROUTES**

Northern Tier's Atikokan base offers wilderness adventures over a large portion of Northwestern Ontario. Routes traverse a one hundred-mile by two hundred-mile region, where contiguous lakes, rivers, streams, and portages offer some of the best canoeing and fishing country to be found in the world.

This route guide offers helpful advice as you plan your trip. We have included the most famous and most commonly paddled routes of the Atikokan region. However, remember that these routes are only guidelines—they are just a small fraction of the paddleable waters that surround our base. The waterways of the Crown Lands and Quetico Provincial Park are so intricate and complex as to offer a virtually infinite selection of trips to the adventurous canoeist. We offer these routes to highlight the many prominent features of our wilderness area. Once you arrive on base, we urge you to customize each of these routes, in conjunction with your interpreter, in order to create the best possible trip for your crew.

Many people who arrive at the Atikokan base have never been on a wilderness canoe trip before. The two most common route planning questions that new canoeists have are: how far will I be able to paddle in a day? And how hard are the portages (portages are the trails between two lakes that crews must traverse as they complete their route)? A good rule of thumb for distance is that the average crew can cover around ten miles in a day. Some crews will want to paddle more and some will want to paddle less; oftentimes favorable weather can make twenty-mile days possible and other times bad wind or storms make paddling impossible. Crews should adjust the ten-mile a day estimate to suit their desires, tastes, and ability level.

Portages are an inevitable, and often extremely satisfying, part of the Northern Tier experience. Some areas of the Crown Land and Quetico have very easy portage trails; other parts have extremely difficult portage trails. As you plan your route, remember that portages discourage traffic. For those intrepid enough to huff and heave over the harder trails, there awaits better fishing, greater isolation, and purer wilderness. A difficult portage trail is always a fulfilling adventure—and it almost always takes you somewhere interesting.

Every wilderness outfitter has its own way of handling logistics. Here are a few notes about the way the Atikokan base runs to give you a better idea of what route options you have:

- Every trip out of Atikokan begins with a shuttle to a drop-off point at a wilderness lake. These lakes are located anywhere from a fifteen minute to a ninety minute drive away from base. Ground shuttles are included in your fees.
- Beginning a trip with a float plane drop-off is an excellent way of accessing remote wilderness from the very start of your trip. The float plan trip itself is an incredible and utterly unique experience. If you are interested in taking a float plane, the Atikokan base can help you contact a local float plane operator.
- Most trips end at a pick-up point where a second shuttle will bring a crew back to base. However, several of the routes included in this guide have the option of paddling back into base—a neat route that includes several walkable rapids as well as a stunning waterfall.

### DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO

- Lakes vary greatly in traffic and usage—as you move further away from your drop-off point, you will see less people and encounter more rugged trails.
- Routes must have some inherent flexibility—changing weather conditions and changing crew desires may cause a crew to either lengthen or shorten a trip while on water.
- While it is always good to plan in advance, your interpreter can offer expert (and current) route advice when you arrive on base.
- Finally, this route guide describes the state of trails and routes at the time it was written. As the Quetico and the Crown Lands are changing wilderness areas, conditions may be different by the time you arrive for your trip.

Overall, it is hard to go wrong with the route you choose. The entire area is wild and remote, good fishing and good berry-picking abound, and every trip offers both fulfilling challenges and breathtaking beauty. We are excited to have you visit our Atikokan base and we are eager to aid your exploration of this beautiful wilderness area.

The routes listed in this section are divided into three sections: Quetico routes, Crown Land Routes, and Atikokan to Ely routes.

One of your first choices is to decide in which area your crew wishes to paddle.

#### COMPARISON OF PARKS SERVED BY THE DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE

<b>Crown Lands</b>	<b>Quetico Provincial Park</b>
Cans and bottles are allowed.	Cans and bottles not allowed.
Maximum crew size of 11, plus Interpreter (12 total).	Maximum crew size of 8, plus Interpreter (9 total).
“Leave no Trace” policies must be followed.	“Leave no Trace” policies must be followed.
Motorboats allowed (uncommon, but you will see and hear a few).	Motorboat use not allowed (except on a few First Nations lakes at far western edge of park).
Occasional wilderness cabins.	No man-made structures in park.
Entry/exit points may be further from base.	Entry/exit points fairly close to base.
No permit or camping fees currently required.	Park permit and per-night camping fees apply. You must pick up your permit prior to arriving at base. These fees not included in your Northern Tier Fees.

**DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO**

Atikokan canoe trips usually start and end with a shuttle by van or float plane. Van or float plane shuttles from the Atikokan base allow access to over 16 entry points into millions of acres of wilderness areas. There are only a few routes leaving or returning to the base. The Eye and Seine Rivers have limited carrying capacity. They also require at least 5 days be spent on the same section of river traveling to and from the base. Lakes and rivers close to the base are accessible by power boat and may have cottages on them. Crews wishing to get into the wilderness and avoid these areas should shuttle both into and out of the woods. Ground shuttles are included in your fees.

Included in the Crown Lands and Quetico Park route planning sections is more information on the available shuttling points to each respective park. A Canadian canoe routes map will be sent to you showing most of the van shuttle drop-off and pick-up points.

**FLOAT PLANE OPTIONS**

Flying the crew and equipment will cost \$215.00 CND per person (not including 13% HST) with Atikokan Aero. Crews may choose to fly their gear and canoes to a number of lakes north of Atikokan or to Lac la Croix, Beaverhouse or Mack Lake on the edge of the Quetico.

Some of the common floatplane starting or ending lakes north of Atikokan are Campus, Doan, Sparkle, White Otter, Dibble, Agimak, Gulliver, and Bending.

Float planes offer your crew a unique once in a lifetime opportunity to see the lakes region from above as well as transport your crew to more remote areas.



## DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO

**QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK ROUTES  
FROM THE DON ROBERT CANOE BASE**

The Quetico Provincial Park is the finest and most famous canoe area in the world. It is a two million acre protected wilderness with minimal human impact and traffic. Paddlers travel from all over North America (and beyond) to paddle its calm waters and to enjoy the isolation it offers.

In contrast to the southern section of the Quetico which is filled with small lakes and frequent portages, the northern Quetico features very long lakes with (slightly) fewer portages in between. The northern Quetico also tends to be more isolated as the majority of visitors coming into the park arrive from the South. Because of the size and orientation of the lakes, Quetico routes are easy to combine and adapt. Some interpreters argue that there is really just one major northern Quetico loop—albeit a loop that has a few dozen significant variations on it. Consequently, it is very easy to find a route that specifically meets the desires and strengths of each crew.

Like the Crown Lands, crews are dropped off and picked up by shuttles from the Atikokan base. The route you pick will depend on the entry point you are able to reserve.

The entry points are:

- **Baptism Creek (#11)** accessed from the Dawson Trail Ranger Station on French Lake.
- **Pickrel Lake (#12)** accessed from the Dawson Trail Ranger Station on French Lake.
- **Batchewaung Lake (#21)** accessed from Nym Lake off Highway 11 east of Atikokan.
- **Sue Falls (#22)** accessed from Lerome Lake on Highway 11.
- **Cirrus Lake (#31)** and **Quetico Lakes (#32)** accessed from Beaverhouse Lake. A float plane shuttle is necessary to enter at Beaverhouse Lake to these entry points.
- **Mack Lake (#23)** on the east side of the Quetico. This entry is accessible by float plane only, landing on Clay Lake. Water levels in late July and August may be too low to paddle from Clay Lake to Mack Lake.
- **Three Mile Lake (#41)**, **Maligne River (#42)**, **McAree Lake (#43)**, and **Bottle River (#44)** accessed through Lac La Croix. Crews choosing one of these four entries have to fly their crew, interpreter, equipment and canoes to Lac La Croix.

DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO

**Route Name:** Poet Falls

**Entry Point:** Batchewaung Lake (21) permit required

**Pick-Up Point:** French Lake

**Distance:** 90 miles

**Longest Portage:** 0.5 miles

**Number of Portages:** 26

**Trip Difficulty:** Difficult

**Recommended Trip Length:** 7-9 days

**Itinerary:** Nym, Batchewaung, Pickerel Narrows, Maria, Jesse, Elizabeth, Walter, Sturgeon, Heron, Fred, Nan, Camel, Cutty Creek, Eag, Cub, Baird, Metacryst, Heronshaw, Kashahpiwi Creek, Shelley, Keats, Chatterton, Russell, Sturgeon, Twin Lakes, Dore, Pine Portage Bay, Pickerel, French.



**Description:** Follow the spirits of the famed poets Russell, Shelley, and Keats, and see if the Quetico can inspire such poetry in you! This route starts at Nym Lake and takes a straight shot south to the middle of the Quetico Park, arguably the most picturesque canoe country south of the Atikokan base. On your return to base you will follow the traditional Voyageur trading route back from the far North and West of Canada, before portaging around a series of waterfalls on the way back to French Lake. This trip is ideal for crews looking for a wide variety of paddling conditions, semi-strenuous portaging, and an almost unlimited quantity of side-trips.

**Route Name:** Paddling Loop

**Entry Point:** Pickerel Lake (12) permit required

**Pick-Up Point:** French Lake

**Distance:** 85 miles

**Longest Portage:** 0.4 miles

**Number of Portages:** 10

**Recommended Trip Length:** 7-9 days

**Trip Difficulty:** Moderate

**Itinerary:** French, Pickerel, Batchewaung, McAlpine, Kasokokwog, Quetico, Beaverhouse, Quetico Oriana, Jesse, Maria, Pickerel, French

**Description:** The paddling loop covers almost all of the Big Lakes of the Quetico, meaning that crews will get to spend more time in the canoe and less time on the portage trail. Make sure to see the famed Ojibwe pictographs on Quetico Lake as well as the sunken barge in Pickerel narrows. The length of this trip makes it a good challenge for an adventurous crew as well as ensuring that the crew will see a majority of the Northern Quetico's most famous sites.



## DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO

**Route Name:** The Walleye Wander**Entry Point:** Batchewaung Lake (21) permit required**Pick-Up Point:** French Lake**Distance:** 50 miles**Longest Portage:** 0.5 miles**Number of Portages:** 11**Trip Difficulty:** Easy**Recommended Trip Length:** 6 days**Itinerary:** Nym, Batchewaung, Batchewaung Bay, Pickerel Narrow, Maria, Jesse, Elizabeth, Walter, Lonely, Sturgeon, Twin, Dore, Pine Portage Bay, Pickerel, French**Description:** Fish for the tasty denizens of the Northwoods waterways: the fierce Northern Pike, the bountiful Smallmouth Bass, the enormous Lake Trout, and, of course, the delicious Walleye. This trip is on the shorter side—but less time paddling means more time to explore, fish, or just simply relax. There are plenty of beautiful campsites to choose from and, lest the trip seem too peaceful, enough portages to give your crew a good challenge.**Route Name:** I Dream of Jean**Entry Point:** Sue Falls (22) permit required**Pick-Up Point:** French Lake**Distance:** 85 miles**Longest Portage:** 0.5 miles**Number of Portages:** 13**Recommended Trip Length:** 7-9 days**Trip Difficulty:** Moderate-Difficult**Itinerary:** Lerome, Bewag, Narrow, Cole, Cirrus, Kaskokwog, McAlpine, Quetico, Jean, Burntside, Rouge, Jean Creek, Sturgeon, Russell, Sturgeon Narrows, Twin Lakes, Dore, Pine, Pickerel, French**Description:** This route offers all the amenities of the Canadian canoe country: beautiful lakes to paddle, portages you can tell stories about when you return home, wild scenery to spark the imagination, and, as always, great fishing. This route takes crews through much of the Northern Quetico—passing by Ojibwe pictographs, waterfalls, pristine wilderness lakes, and intimate trickling streams along the way. Russell is renowned as one of the most beautiful and remote lakes in the Quetico. From the south end of this route, crews can take day trips to the famed “Falls Chain,” usually accessible only from the South.

DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO

**Route Name:** Buckshot Loop

**Entry Point:** Batchewaung Lake (21) permit required

**Pick-Up Point:** Nym Lake

**Distance:** 75 miles

**Longest Portage:** 0.4 miles

**Number of Portages:** 19

**Trip Difficulty:** Moderate

**Recommended Trip Length:** 6-9 days

**Itinerary:** Nym, Batchewaung, Pickerel Narrows, Pine Portage, Dore, Twin Lakes, Olifaunt, Sturgeon, Russell, Sturgeon, Jean Creek, Rouge, Burntside, Jean, Quetico, Kasokokwog, McApline, Batchewaung Bay, Nym

**Route Description:** A stunningly beautiful route across the northern Quetico, filled with waterfalls, Indian pictographs, small creeks that trickle through reedy lowlands and big lakes that flow through craggy highlands.



**DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO****CROWN LANDS ROUTES  
FROM THE DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE**

The Crown Land is the name given to Canadian public land (it used to be called “The Queen’s Land” because it was, literally, land that belonged to the Queen of England). As the Crown Land encompasses the majority of Canada, it is a truly massive wilderness, stretching for thousands of miles to the west, east, and north of Atikokan.

Northern Tier paddles just a small portion of this wilderness land: our crews generally paddle in the region one hundred miles to the north and one hundred miles to the west of the town of Atikokan. This region is remarkable for both its isolation and natural beauty as well as the subtle remains of its fascinating human history. Hundred-year old gold mines can be found abandoned in the wilderness, old logging sluices still stand near rushing waterfalls and ageless trapper’s cabins slowly decay next to pristine, pine-sheltered lakes.

There are numerous drop-off points for Crown Lands trips. Each drop-off point takes you to a slightly different region and environment of the Crown Lands and influences the type of trip you can take. Shuttle length, in driving time, is marked in parentheses:

- Icy Lake (25 minutes)
- Marmion Lake (30 minutes)
- Finlayson Lake (35 minutes)
- Dashwa Lake (45 minutes)
- Turtle Lake (55 minutes)
- Clearwater Lake (60 minutes)
- Grey Trout Lake (70 minutes)
- Secret Lake (80 minutes)
- Turtle River Bridge (90 minutes)
- Crews wishing to paddle the Turtle River will be picked up at Camp Mine Centre (40 minutes)

Between these various drop-off point, crews can plan a variety of wilderness adventures. We invite you to explore the many lakes and rivers of the Far Northland: we expect you will be pleased with the beauty and solitude our slice of wilderness has to offer.

DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO

**Route Name:** Big Water Loop

**Drop-Off:** Clearwater West

**Pick-Up Point:** Turtle Lake, Dashwa Lake, Base

**Trip Length:** 75 miles (95 if paddling to base)

**Longest Portage:** 0.6 miles

**Number of Portages:** 12-16

**Recommended Trip Length:** 7 days

**Difficulty:** Moderate (Difficult in bad weather conditions)

**Itinerary:** Clearwater West, White Otter, Nora, Halfmoon, Elsie, Mabel, Sandford, Irene, Little Gull, Gamble River, Wasp Lake, Crowrock, Turtle Lake

**Route Description:** This route exposes crews to the pristine, expansive waters of the Northern Crown Land. The unique human history offered by White Otter Castle and the World War II Prisoner of War camps is juxtaposed against the natural beauty of Nora, Elsie, and Sandford Lakes. The enormous lakes on these routes are renowned for their clarity and beauty, garnering this region the nickname “the Caribbean of the North.”



Paddling back into the Atikokan base on Perch Lake can also expand this trip. This optional segment adds a small-water adventure with several waterfalls and walkable rapids to the route, a fun contrast to the Big Waters of the North Crown Lands.

**Route Name:** The Crown Lands Sampler

**Drop-Off:** Secret Lake

**Pick-Up Point:** Dashwa Lake

**Trip Length:** 85 miles

**Longest Portage:** 0.9 miles

**Number of Portages:** 15

**Recommended Trip Length:** 7-8 days

**Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous

**Itinerary:** Secret, Pekagoning, Turtle River, Smirch, Dibble, White Otter, Nora, Halfmoon, Elsie, Mable, Sandford, Irene Bay, Irene, Little Gull, Gamble River, Wasp, Gamble, Crowrock, Volcano Bay, Dashwa.

**Route Description:** This loop covers the full spectrum of biological environments found in the Canadian Shield. From the winding Turtle River to the sandy beaches of White Otter Lake, from the close confines of the bubbling Gamble River to the Caribbean-clear water of Sandford Lake—this trip sees it all. Along the way, you can view Ojibwe pictographs (cliff paintings), see White Otter Castle, visit World War II Prisoner of War camps, and pass by numerous waterfalls.

To extend this trip further, you can paddle back to base (adds another twenty miles), an enjoyable river route that crosses one large waterfall and seven walkable rapids.

## DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO

**Route Name:** Bass Loop**Drop-Off:** Icy**Pick-Up Point:** Marmion**Trip Length:** 45 Miles**Longest Portage:** 0.8 miles**Number of Portages:** 5**Recommended Trip Length:** 6 days**Difficulty:** Easy**Itinerary:** Icy, Abie, Marmion, Lower Seine Bay, Husband Lake, Letain, Bradshaw, Bradshaw Bay, Upper Seine River, Hawk Bay, Broken Head Bay, Lynxhead Narrows, Lynxhead Bay, Marmion.**Route Description:** This route travels through some of the best smallmouth bass fishing lakes in the world. Though the portages are few, this trip still explores many of the remote fishing holes that only the locals know. Much of the trip revolves around Marmion Lake, where the annual Atikokan Bass Classic fishing tournament is held. In addition to excellent fishing, Marmion has many interesting sites to visit—including a one-hundred-year old abandoned gold mine and many old trappers' cabins.

Minimal (and generally easy) portages allow for crews to focus on fishing. This trip can be extended by paddling into base through the Finlayson flowage and the Seine River (adds 16 more miles).

**Route Name:** Turtle River Loop**Drop-Off:** Turtle River Bridge**Pick-Up-Point:** Mine Centre**Trip Length:** 55 miles**Longest Portage:** 0.25 miles**Number of Portages:** 12**Recommended Trip Length:** 6-7 days**Difficulty:** Moderate**Itinerary:** Turtle River, Jones Lake, Turtle River, Eltrut, Turtle River, Robinson, Turtle River, Little Turtle Lake, Mine Centre**Route Description:** This trip follows the scenic Turtle River as it flows southeast to meet the Seine River. It begins in Turtle River Provincial Park, a protected wilderness area, before continuing into a very remote portion of the Crown Lands. This is a very rugged region—though portages are short, they are often challenging—but the work is worthwhile, for this is an area full of solitude and beauty, the type of place that can only be reached by canoe. There are several waterfalls and churning whitewater rapids (to look at, not to run) along the way, and Scouts can look forward to great campsites, fishing, and blueberry picking. The entire route is with the current of the Turtle River, and there are a couple exciting swift water patches that crews can safely run. This trip can be extended by starting at Secret or Grey Trout, an appropriate route for an 8-10 day trip.

DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO

**Route Name:** Bow-Tie (Wasp Lake) Loop

**Drop-Off:** Turtle Lake

**Pick-Up Point:** Dashwa Lake

**Trip Length:** 50 miles

**Longest Portage:** 0.25 miles

**Number of Portages:** 6

**Recommended Trip Length:** 6 days

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Itinerary:** Turtle Lake, Crowrock, Below Bow, Bow Lake, Gamble, Doan, Irene, Little Gull, Gamble, Wasp, Gamble River, Crowrock, Volcano Bay, Dashwa.

**Route Description:** The Bow Tie Loop takes crews from the big lakes of Turtle and Dashwa to small and intimate Wasp Lake. The Gamble River is one of the most scenic sections of the Crown Lands, and its grassy banks offer ample opportunities to view some of the more exciting wildlife in the area: moose, bear, wolf, and lynx. Many of the lakes on this route are smaller, which makes paddling in bad weather far easier. Interpreters rave about the multitude of beautiful and scenic campsites that can be found along the way.

**Route Name:** Red Paint Death March

**Drop-Off:** Turtle Lake

**Pick-Up Point:** Marmion

**Trip Length:** 60 miles

**Longest Portage:** 1.3 miles

**Number of Portages:** 9

**Recommended Trip Length:** 7-8 days

**Difficulty:** Strenuous

**Itinerary:** Turtle, Crowrock, Camp Mine Narrows, Below Bow, Lower Bow, Upper Bow, Knute, Red Paint, Beancan Bay, Sawbill Creek, Sawbill Bay, Marmion

**Route Description:** The Red Paint route is terrific for experienced crews looking for a challenge. This route traverses several difficult portages, a few of which require a bit of bushwhacking as well as the infamous "Red Paint Portage," a 2 kilometer slog through moose muck and overgrown brush which will try even the hardest crew's strength, endurance, and teamwork ability. Because of the difficulty of this route, crews will visit some of the region's most remote and isolated areas: a reward every bit worth the sweaty brow and the blistered feet.



## DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO

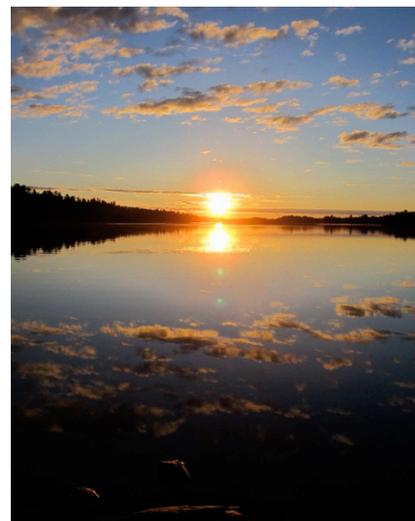
**Route Name:** White Otter Castle Loop**Drop-Off:** Clearwater West**Pick-Up Point:** Secret Lake**Trip Length:** 80 miles**Longest Portage:** 0.6 miles**Number of Portages:** 9**Recommended Trip Length:** 7 days**Difficulty:** Moderate**Itinerary:** Clearwater, Camp Bay, Hawknest, White Otter, Turtle River, Dibble Lake, Turtle River, Smirch Lake, Turtle River, Pekagoning Unnamed, Secret.**Route Description:** In 1914, Jimmy McQuat (mc-KEW-wat) arrived on the shores of White Otter Lake with the ambition to build himself a home. After four years of work, the result was an isolated wilderness mansion that still stands today. White Otter Castle, as it has come to be known, is one of the most famous landmarks of the area, and a lasting testament to one man's struggle to tame a rugged wilderness.

In addition to this famous site, one can still find the remains of several World War II Prisoner of War camps on White Otter Lake. There are also some prime fishing spots for Lake Trout—enormous, but difficult, fish to catch! The trip ends with a paddle down the scenic Turtle River, an exciting splash that passes by several waterfalls and rapids.

**Common Route Segments of the Crown Lands**

Because Crown Lands routes are often extended, shortened, and combined, we have included a list of commonly paddled route segments to help you come up with your own individually-tailored route. A combination of the segments listed below can give any trip a wonderful variety of environments to paddle through and landmarks to visit:

Dashwa Pick-Up to Base.....	25 miles
Finlayson to Base (via Seine River Diversion).....	16 miles
Turtle River Bridge to Dibble Falls.....	15 miles
Grey Trout Lake to Secret Lake.....	7 miles
Secret Lake to Turtle River Bridge.....	11 miles
Turtle River Bridge to Camp Mine Centre.....	50 miles
Dibble Falls to White Otter Castle.....	12 miles
White Otter Castle to Clearwater (via Hawknest)....	19 miles
White Otter Castle to Graveyard Island.....	10 miles
Turtle Lake to Lower Bow Lake.....	15 miles
Below Bow—Gamble River—Wasp Lake.....	20 miles
Below Bow to Dashwa Pickup.....	15 miles



DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO

**ATIKOKAN TO ELY BASE TO BASE ROUTES  
FROM THE DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE**

If you are interested in paddling any of the base-to-base routes, please contact us for details. These are most suitable for 10-day treks, as the routes will be at least 80 miles long. Crew members who complete one of these treks will be awarded a participation emblem from C.L. Sommers and Don Rogert Canoe Bases. A special patch for Atikokan -Ely treks can be purchased at the Trading Post. The added benefit of these exciting treks is that you will be able to experience the extreme remoteness of the interior of Quetico Park, where few other people tend to travel. Please note that we **do not** arrange transportation for your crew. If you have at least two crews, one may start at Ely and one at Atikokan and trade vehicles. There is a \$100 equipment transportation fee to return gear and staff to the Atikokan Base. Due to Homeland Security regulations, Northern Tier is not responsible for personal gear being transported across the border. **Crews must arrange to ship their personal gear to the departure base or home.**

**Route Name:** Pictograph Route

**Location:** Quetico Provincial Park

**Entry Point:** Sue Falls (22)

**Distance:** 125 miles

**Longest Portage:** 340 rods (1.1 miles)

**Number of Portages:** 35

**Maps Required:** Fisher F29, F28, F23, F24, F17, F10

**Main Features:** Lightly used entry point, MANY pictographs along route

**Difficulty:** Strenuous

**Itinerary:** Lerome Lake, Jackfish Creek, Bewag Lake, Lark Lake, Cole Lake, Cirrus Creek, Sue Lake, Sue Falls, Cirrus Lake, Kasakokwog 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, Darcy River, Darcy Lake, Argo Lake, Crooked Lake, Basswood River, Basswood Lake, Wind Lake, Moose Lake

**Route Description:** This route starts off nicely, as the entry point is not often used. This means that your group will immediately be in a remote part of the region, and most likely spend days at a time without seeing other groups. The pictographs along this route, especially on Quetico Lake and Darcy Lake are some of the best in the region.



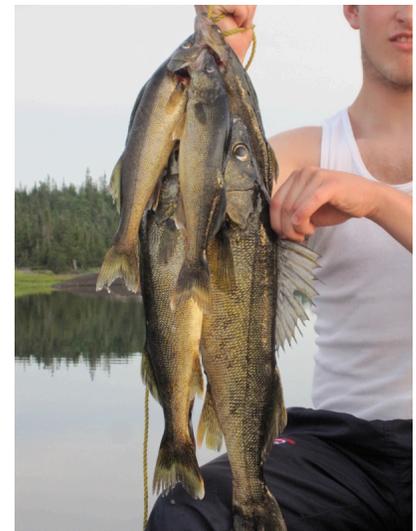
## DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO

**Route Name:** Kahshahpiwi Lake- South**Location:** Quetico Provincial Park**Entry Point:** Batchewaung Lake (21)**Distance:** 80 miles**Longest Portage:** 220 rods (0.7 miles)**Number of Portages:** 23**Maps Required:** Fisher F29, F25, F18, F10**Main Features:** Remote, Scenic, good fishing lakes**Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous**Itinerary:** Nym Lake, Batchewaung Lake, Batchewaung Bay, Pickerel Narrows, Pickerel Lake, Dore Lake, Twin Lakes, Deux Rivieres, Sturgeon Lake, Russell Lake, Chatterton Lake, Keats Lake, Shelley Lake, Cairn Lake, Sark Lake, Keefer Lake, Kahshahpiwi Lake, Yum Yum Lake, Grey Lake, Unnamed Lake, Shade Lake, Unnamed Ponds, West Lake, South Lake, Basswood Lake (North Bay), Burke Lake, Basswood Lake (Inlet Bay, Bayley Bay), Prairie Portage, Sucker Lake, Newfound Lake, Moose Lake**Route Description:** This route has a nice variety of waterways, including the long, narrow, glacially-formed lakes of the “Kahshahpiwi Creek” (Kahshahpiwi Lake, Sark Lake, and Cairn Lake), which are more common in this region. There are also numerous scenic falls along this route, such as Chatterton, Split Rock, and Snake.**Route Name:** “The Far Northland”- Southbound**Location:** Quetico Provincial Park**Entry Point:** Batchewaung Lake (21)**Distance:** 80 miles**Longest Portage:** 193 rods (0.6 miles)**Number of Portages:** 16**Maps Required:** Fisher F29, F25, F18, F11, F10**Main Features:** Large lakes, pictographs, petroglyphs, fewer portages**Difficulty:** Easy**Itinerary:** Nym Lake, Batchewaung Lake, Batchewaung Bay, Pickerel Narrows, Pickerel Lake, Dore Lake, Twin Lakes, Deux Rivieres, Sturgeon Lake, Russell Lake, Chatterton Lake, Keats Lake, Shelley Lake, Montgomery Lake, Kawnipi Lake, Keewatin Lake, Agnes Lake, Meadows Lake, Sunday Lake, Basswood Lake (Inlet Bay, Bayley Bay, Sunday Bay), Prairie Portage, Sucker Lake, Newfound Lake, Moose Lake**Route Description:** This itinerary is considered to be the easiest Ely-to-Atikokan route, as it follows some larger bodies of water, such as Agnes and Kawnipi. Although you will need to be wary of possible progress-slowng-winds, you will likely see a number of other paddlers on this route, as it is the easiest way into the interior of the park. There are also numerous scenic falls along this route, such as Chatterton, Split Rock, Snake, and Louisa. You will have a chance to view pictographs and the only known petroglyphs in the park (on Agnes Lake). The longest portage of this route is less than 2/3 of a mile in length, and this is accomplished on the last or second to last day. This route follows the reverse route of “The Far Northland:” “From Lake Agnes, by Louisa, to Kawnipi we will go...”

**DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO  
CANADIAN FISHING EXPEDITION**

While our crews have really enjoyed the Northern Tier canoe treks, we have had several requests for trips that place more emphasis on fishing, and that is exactly what the focus of this program is. Each trip will begin with an introduction to fishing in the great Canadian waters of Ontario along with a Master Angler Course, in which the participants will learn and demonstrate the basics of fishing and how to fish by canoe.

A variety of trip options will allow your crew to experience many different adventures during their Northern Tier trek. The Fishing Expedition is also designed to involve fewer miles and portaging than our traditional treks, which allows for more time to fish. The waters of northwestern Ontario offer great fishing for Walleye, Small-mouth Bass, Yellow Perch, and Northern Pike. Included in the Fishing Expedition package, Northern Tier will supply all the fishing gear that you will need for your trip. Each participant will have the option to check out both a fly fishing rod and a spin cast rod and the appropriate tackle and bait for each. A Fishing Interpreter will accompany you on your trip and be a resource to the crew for advice and tips on fishing and paddling in the canoe country of Ontario.



**DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO**  
**CANADIAN FISHING EXPEDITION**

OPTION 1* (Will stay in a Cabin, not Fish Camp†)	OPTION 2* (Will stay in a Cabin, not Fish Camp†)	OPTION 3 (Will stay in a Cabin, not Fish Camp†)
Day 2: Breakfast in Dining Hall Master Angler Training Turtle Lake Drop off to paddle back to Base (30 mi; 5 portages)	Day 2: Breakfast in Dining Hall Master Angler Training Icy Lake Drop off to paddle Bass Loop	Day 2: Breakfast in Dining Hall Master Angler Training Fly-in to Little Gull Lake to paddle back to Base (35 mi; 11 portages) or fly-out back to Base
Day 3, 4, 5: Canoe and Fish	Day 3, 4, 5: Canoe and Fish	Day 3, 4, 5: Canoe and Fish
Day 6: Paddle back to Base Return gear, shower, and move into cabin  Dinner in Dining Hall  Rendezvous	Day 6: Pick-up at Marmion Lake Return gear, shower, and move into cabin  Dinner in Dining Hall  Rendezvous	Day 6: Return to Base Return gear, shower, and move into cabin  Dinner in Dining Hall  Rendezvous
Day 7: Depart for home after breakfast	Day 7: Depart for home after breakfast	Day 7: Depart for home after breakfast

\*With option 1 and 2, you can choose to only stay out for three nights in the woods and then spend the other day canoe fishing on the Perch Lake chain. Therefore, on day 2 you would do Master Angler Training and a ½ day of fishing on the Perch Lake Chain and on day 3 either fly-in to lake of choice or be shuttled to Turtle Lake. If you choose this modification to option 1 or 2, you will stay at Fish Camp†.

† Fish Camp is a designated camping area located at the Atikokan Base, on a private peninsula on the south shore of Perch Lake in which the Fishing Expedition Crews will stay while they are on Base. While at Fish Camp, you will have easy access to bathroom facilities.

**DONALD ROBERT CANOE BASE - ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO  
CANADIAN KAYAK TRIP**

Northern Tier invites you to travel the paths of the Voyageurs and experience the waters of Canoe Country by modern day Kayaks!

Centered at the Donald Rogert Canoe Base in Atikokan, Ontario, the Kayak Trek is a 6-day trek (5 days/4 nights on the water) in which you will be travelling through the Crown Lands and Turtle River-White Otter Provincial Park where fish and wildlife are abundant. Each Kayak Trek will begin with instruction on the basics of kayaking. Your crew will learn paddling and rescue techniques, how to pack a kayak, and then be given time to practice and perfect their skills before heading out on their trip. Each crew will have a combination of tandem and single person kayaks so that each participant has a chance to experience paddling both types of boats. The Northern Tier outfitting department will be able to supply you with your kayaking gear and the food you will take on trail. An experienced staff member will accompany your crew on the trek to instruct you on proper kayaking techniques and Canadian wilderness camping.

Consideration in route planning is essential for the kayak trip. Minimizing portaging while giving both large and small water experience is key to a successful trek. Several routes have been planned to accomplish this and they include parts of the Big Water Loop as well as the White Otter Castle Loop. Other possible routes are available and your Kayak Interpreter will be able to help you tailor the trip to your crew and your crews ability.



## NORTHERN EXPEDITIONS CANOE BASE - BISSETT, MANITOBA



The Northern Expeditions base is located in the small town of Bissett. All trips begin and end with a 20-minute float plane ride to and from our wilderness canoe cache located in the heart of the 1.5 million acre Atikaki Provincial Park. Crews can also paddle into Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.

**PRICES & CREW SIZE**

- 7-8 day trips-\$59.00+\$2.95 GST (Goods and Service Tax) =\$61.95 U.S. per person per day
- 9-10 day trips-\$54.00+\$2.70 GST (Goods and Service Tax) =\$56.70 U.S. per person per day
- Work Permit Fees for Interpreter \$30.00 US per crew
- Minimum of 6 people, maximum of 11 people; plus your Interpreter makes a total of 12 people per crew.
- Please be aware that a larger crew may greatly increase time to fly in (and out) as the planes only hold a certain number of people. Inquire with your float plane provider for details.

**CAMPING PERMITS**

There are no camping permits or additional camping fees required for the Atikaki Provincial Park.



**NORTHERN EXPEDITIONS CANOE BASE - BISSETT, MANITOBA**

**CANADIAN CUSTOMS**

You will be required to have the following items to enter Canada - NO EXCEPTIONS:

- Proof of citizenship for everyone (Passport or Passport Card) Originals.
- Parental Release Forms for all youth 17 years old and younger. Youth traveling with one parent should have permission slip signed by both parents with contact phone # for the absent parent. (This form can be found online at our website).
- Naturalized U.S. citizens should bring their Naturalization Certificate.
- Visitors from outside the U.S. should contact a U.S. Immigration Office and/or a Canadian Customs Office for required documents.
- A permanent non-U.S. citizen is advised to bring their Alien Registration Receipt Card.
- A person from another country must have a multiple entry visa to return to the United States.

**U.S. CUSTOMS**

Special documentation is required to reenter the U.S.A. Currently, a Passport or Passport Card is required for reentering the U.S.A. from Canada. Check the link on the Northern Tier web page for current details.

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS**

There is a FIRE BAN on open campfires in the Atikaki Wilderness. Stoves and fuel will be provided for your group at no charge.

**EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION**

Bissett crews carry satellite telephones. These are for emergency communication only.

**HOUSING AND FACILITIES**

Crews arriving at the base will spend their first and last nights in 8-12 person dormitory style cabins.

Sauna and shower facilities are available for your use. We do not have laundry facilities for crews.

**MEALS**

Meals include dinner and breakfast before and after your trip. Crews wishing to leave for home before the regular breakfast time can choose to have a continental breakfast. This must be arranged during check-in.

**TRADING POST**

The Bissett Trading Post has a large supply of Northern Tier collectible items for sale including patches, mugs, T-shirts and other memorabilia. Maps, fishing tackle and licenses, compression sacks, dry bags, camping gear and some outdoor clothing are also available. Bissett is a very small town and supplies are limited. You should plan to pick up major items, fishing tackle, and other items in Winnipeg or on your way to the base.

**STORAGE FOR GEAR AND VALUABLES**

A limited amount of locked storage space is available at the base for your gear. These lockers are 22” wide, 24” deep and 45” high. If driving, we ask that you store your gear and valuables in your vehicles.



**NORTHERN EXPEDITIONS CANOE BASE - BISSETT, MANITOBA**

**FLOAT PLANES**

Northern Tier expeditions from Bissett require a float plane shuttle to and from the canoe cache. The cost and the scheduling of the float plane(s) is the responsibility of your crew(s). You must also cover the cost of the flight for your Interpreter. The round-trip cost in 2010 was approximately \$200.00 in U.S. currency. In previous years, Blue Water Aviation has offered a discount to crews paying in full by March 1.

Please note that Northern Tier does not control the scheduling or promptness of your flights. Weather and other safety concerns may require the float plane schedule to change causing your fly-in or fly-out to be delayed. This does not happen often, but it is a possibility that you should be aware of.

Crews should contact Blue Water Aviation directly to arrange flights at:

Blue Water Aviation  
General Delivery  
1 Read Ave,  
Bissett, Manitoba  
Canada R0E 0J0,  
(204) 367-2762. - Year-round phone number

**HOW TO GET TO THE BISSETT BASE**

Traveling to and from Northern Tier is an important part of the "High Adventure." Most crews will find transportation the largest expense in the budget. Study the various modes of travel before making a final decision. Choose the one that has the greatest appeal and is affordable.

Many Northern Tier council contingents and crews have found public carriers to be the safest and most reliable forms of transportation. Consult the passenger department of any of the following carriers for scheduling information and costs. Your local travel agency can also render this service.

**HOW TO GET TO THE BISSETT BASE....continued**

The Bissett Base is located in the town of Bissett, Manitoba 150 miles (3.5 hrs driving time) northeast of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Winnipeg is served by commercial air, rail, and bus. Delta Airlines has regular service to Winnipeg. U.S. Immigration and Homeland Security are requiring passports to reenter the U.S. from Canada.

Crews arriving by public transportation will need to arrange charter transportation to the Bissett base. Note: Grey Goose Bus Lines and Greyhound Bus Lines no longer offer charter bus service in Manitoba.

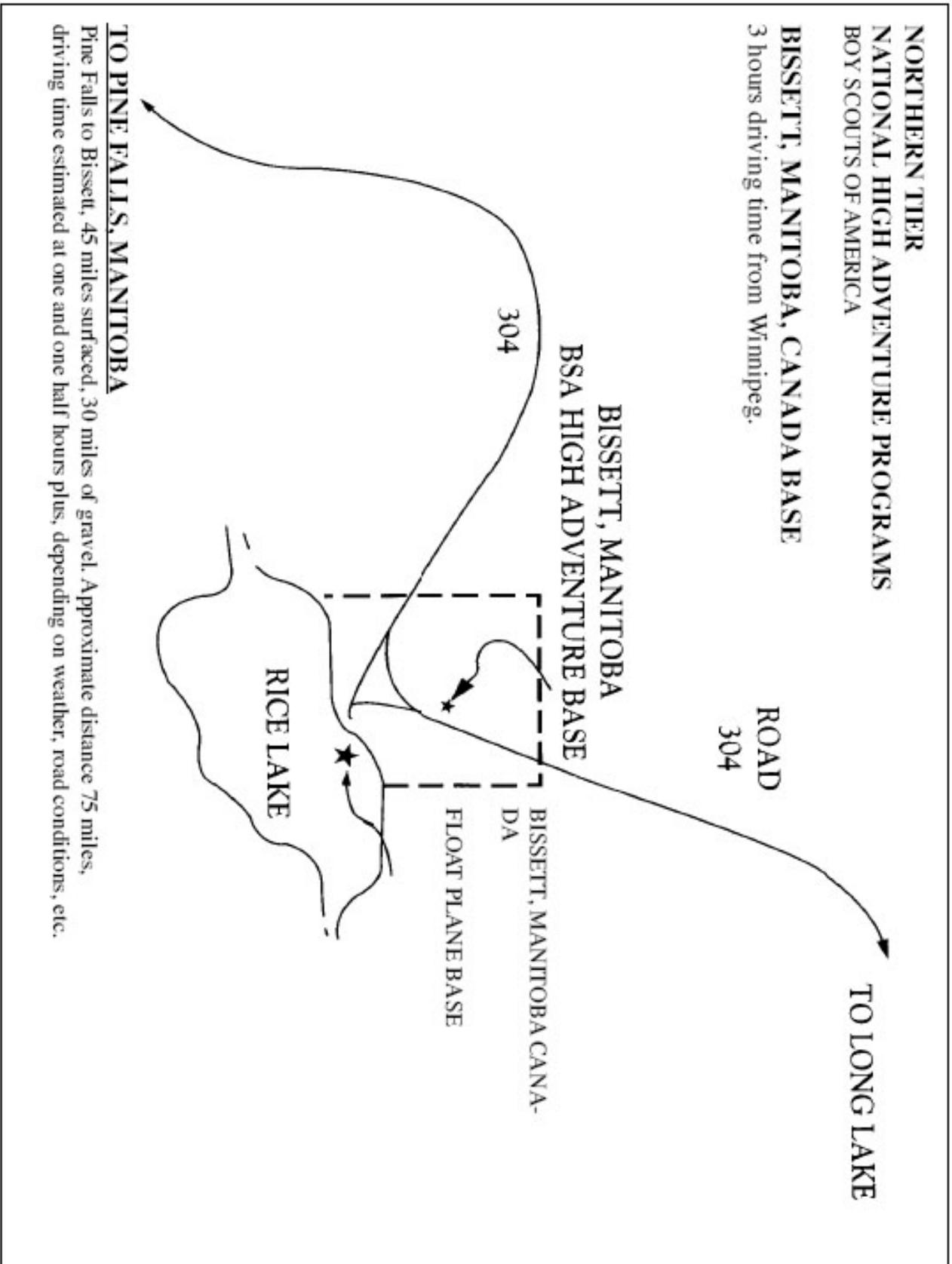
Most crews traveling to Bissett fly to Winnipeg, Manitoba. Delta Airlines has connections to Minneapolis, Chicago, and Denver. Other airlines may connect with Air Canada or West Jet in Toronto, Ontario.

Vital Transit  
1850 Selkirk Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB  
R2R ON6  
(204) 633-2022  
k.williams@vitaltransitservice.com

Northern Soul Wilderness Adventures  
Winnipeg, MB  
(204) 471-7685  
adventure@northernsoul.ca

Budget Rent A Car  
Winnipeg, International Airport  
1350 King Edwards Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0R5  
(204) 989-8535

NORTHERN EXPEDITIONS CANOE BASE - BISSETT, MANITOBA



## NORTHERN EXPEDITIONS CANOE BASE - BISSETT, MANITOBA

**DETAILED BISSETT TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS**

When you are planning flights, please consider the option of spending a night en-route. Keep in mind, while possible to arrange an early flight to Winnipeg, you will arrive at the base after an already long day to begin 6 hours of trip preparation.

**DRIVING TIMES**

When you are arranging flights, please keep in mind the standard arrival time at Northern Tier is 1:00 to 3:00 PM Central Time. The following chart has average driving times and latest departure times to meet the Northern Tier check-in schedule.

CITY	DRIVING TIME TO BISSETT BASE	IDEAL DEPARTURE TIME
Minneapolis, MN	12.5 hrs	9:00 AM the day before
Duluth, MN	12.5 hrs	9:00 AM the day before
Winnipeg, MB	3 hrs	10:00 AM
Fargo, ND	8.75 hrs	6:00 AM
Crossing the border on weekends may take an extra hour		

**OFF BASE ACCOMMODATIONS, ATTRACTIONS, AND LODGING OPPORTUNITY**

Crews arriving in Winnipeg, Manitoba prior to their scheduled arrival date should not plan on staying at the base. Winnipeg has many hotels and motels to select from. In Bissett, there is the Hotel San Antonio. Tel: 204-277-5250 Fax: 204-277-5550

There are a number of interesting sites and activities in Winnipeg and the surrounding areas such as the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature and the area known as The Forks. Just north of Winnipeg in Selkirk, Manitoba is Lower Fort Gary National Historic Park which depicts the history of the 19th century fur trade era.

For materials and information about Manitoba call:  
Manitoba Tourism – (800) 665-0040

**FISHING**

*Manitoba:*

**Regulations**

- Barbless hooks are required in Manitoba. Barbs can be pinched flat with a pair of pliers.
  - o Barbless hooks dramatically increase the survival rate of the fish released.
  - o Barbless hooks are also easier to remove from human tissue if accidentally imbedded.
  - o Barbless hooks do not significantly decrease your chances of landing a fish.
- Lead-free tackle is also highly required.

In Manitoba, Non-resident youth under the age of 16 may fish without a license under the catch and possession limit of the licensed adult in charge.

License Type	Resident/Non	Cost
Age 15 and under See Above		
Full Season	Non-Resident	\$57.00 CND
Full Season Conservation	Non-Resident	\$33.00 CND
Conservation Licenses have a reduced catch limit		



NORTHERN EXPEDITIONS CANOE BASE - BISSETT, MANITOBA

**Route Name:** Black Lake Loop

**Location:** Bissett Base

**Entry Point:** Scout Lake

**Shuttle:** Fly-In and Out of Scout Lake

**Distance:** 67 miles

**Longest Portage:** Approximately 340 Rods (1.06 miles)

**Number of Portages:** 28 (depends on number of beaver dams)

**Main Features:** Pictographs, Excellent Fishing

**Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous

**Itinerary:** Scout Lake East, Noname Lake, Kawaseecheeswonk Lake, Atik Bay, Black Lake, South to Noname Lake, Scout Lake

**Maps Required:** Artery Lake (52M6), Dogskin Lake (52M11), Sasaginnigak Lake (52M12)

**Route Description:** Pictographs near Sasaginnigak Lake on Atik Bay on what is called the East River. This trip can be done in either direction. This route can be lengthened by taking a more northerly route through Hot Dog Lake and/or Rundle Lake then down the Manitoba border to Hobbs Lake and back to Noname Lake and Scout Lake (approximately 65 miles).

**Route Name:** Gammon and Bloodvein River Loop

**Location:** Bissett Base

**Entry Point:** Scout Lake

**Shuttle:** Fly-In and Out of Scout Lake

**Distance:** 75 Miles

**Longest Portage:** Approximately 340 Rods (1.06 mile)

**Number of Portages:** 30 (depends on number of beaver dams)

**Main Features:** Asineewakkayhigun Falls, Fishing, Rivers

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Itinerary:** Scout Lake, Bloodvein River, Stonehouse Lake, Gammon River Downstream, Bloodvein River Upstream, Scout Lake West

**Maps Required:** Artery Lake (52M6), North Eagle Lake (52M5)

**Route Description:** Almost all of this route is on rivers. The Bloodvein and Gammon Rivers have several beautiful rapids and waterfalls. The Asineewakkayhigun Falls are especially nice where the Bloodvein River leaves Stonehouse Lake. This trip can be done in either direction. One of the most difficult portages is going west out of Scout Lake to the Bloodvein River.



**Route Name:** Sasaginnigak Lake Loop

**Location:** Bissett Base

**Entry Point:** Scout Lake

**Shuttle:** Fly-In and Out of Scout Lake

**Distance:** 100 Miles

**Longest Portage:** Approximately 340 Rods (1.06 mile)

**Number of Portages:** 35 (depends on number of beaver dams)

**Main Features:** Fishing, pictographs, Sasaginnigak Lake

**Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous. This route may be impassible in low water years.

**Itinerary:** Scout Lake, Bloodvein River, Sasaginnigak River, Sasaginnigak Lake, Atik Bay, Kawaseecheeswonk Lake, Noname

**Maps Required:** Artery Lake (52M6), North Eagle Lake (52M5), Sasaginnigak Lake (52M12), Dogskin Lake (52M11)

**Route Description:** This route is a combination of river and lake travel. Sasaginnigak Lake (Lake of Many Islands) is beautiful and has many campsites. Pictographs can be found on Atik Bay on what is called the East River. The route can be done in either direction. The most difficult portage is going from the Bloodvein River to Scout Lake.

## NORTHERN EXPEDITIONS CANOE BASE - BISSETT, MANITOBA

**Route Name:** Woodland Caribou Loop**Location:** Bissett Base**Entry Point:** Scout Lake**Shuttle:** Fly-In and Out of Scout Lake**Distance:** 75 miles**Longest Portage:** Approximately 340 Rods (1.06 mile) Number of Portages: 21 (depends on number of beaver dams) Main Features: Falls and Pictographs on the Bloodvein River**Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous.**Itinerary:** Scout Lake East, Noname Lake, East to Woodland Caribou Park, South to Artery Lake, West down the Bloodvein River then north back into Scout Lake Maps Required: Artery Lake (52M6) Route Description: This route is a combination of river and lake travel. The route can be done in either direction. The most difficult portage is called The Hike located in Woodland Caribou Park. (note – permit for Woodland Caribou Park Required.)**Route Name:** Thunder Lake Loop**Location:** Bissett Base**Entry Point:** Scout Lake**Shuttle:** Fly-In and Out of Scout Lake**Distance:** 45 miles**Longest Portage:** Approximately 340 Rods (1.06 mile) Number of Portages: 8 (depends on number of beaver dams) Main Features: Infamous Heartbreak Portage**Difficulty:** Moderate.**Itinerary:** Scout Lake East, Noname Lake, west to Sawdon Lake to Thunder Lake to Taskapakawee to Par Lake and back into Scout Lake.**Maps Required:** Artery Lake (52M6)**Route Description:** This route is primarily a lake trip. The route can be done in either direction. The most difficult portage is called Heartbreak.

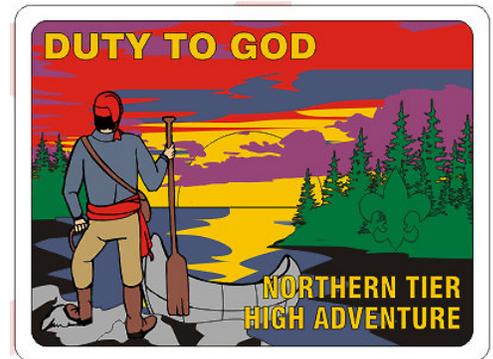
AWARDS & PROGRAMS

**DUTY TO GOD**

While at the Northern Tier, you will encounter God’s handiwork on many occasions. The Duty to God program will help you reflect on these special moments. Upon completion of the following items, you will earn the opportunity to purchase the optional “Duty to God” patch.

Eligibility: Youth and Adult crew members are eligible to participate in the program.

1. Participants must complete the following items:
  - a. Attend a religious service or event while at Northern Tier.
  - b. Participate in at least three daily devotionals while on your trek.
  - c. Lead grace before a meal
2. Chaplain’s Aide and Crew Advisor promise to obtain and review the Duty to God Religious Emblem brochure (# 5-879) and make a presentation about the religious emblem program to a Cub Scout pack, Troop, Venturing Crew, Roundtable, Church Group, etc. (More info available at [www.praypub.org](http://www.praypub.org))



**GEOCACHER**

GPS units have become a critical piece of backcountry equipment. Northern Tier has acknowledged this by creating the GEOCACHER Award.

Upon completion of the following items, you will earn the opportunity to purchase the optional “Geocacher Award” patch.

1. Locate 10 geocaches from a list of over 60  
OR
2. Complete the GPS option that will teach your crew how to use a GPS receiver.



## AWARDS & PROGRAMS

### **S.C.E.N.E.**

The S.C.E.N.E. program is authorized under the auspices of the World Scouting Organization. This program provides experiences for Scouts/Venturers which emphasize education through nature and environment, learning about nature and environment, and action for nature and environment. It offers opportunities for Scouts/Venturers to be in nature and to feel close to a particular feature of nature (such as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness). S.C.E.N.E. also encourages Scouts/Venturers to have interesting and useful experiences in the environment through activities and projects at a National High Adventure facility as well as projects of service to their local community. An important aspect of the program is to provide practical opportunities for Scouts/Venturers to “leave the world a little better than they found it.”

In completing both types of conservation projects, at High adventure and at home, Scouts/Venturers and leaders are eligible for a S.C.E.N.E. emblem. Requirements are:

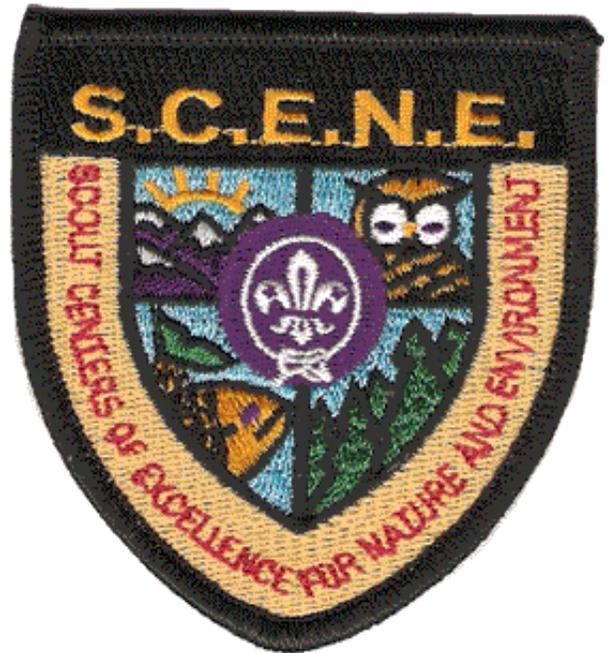
1. Campsite cleanup.
2. Firegrate / Fire Ring cleanup
3. Portage Trails cleanup
4. And complete a Conservation project to work on at home:
  - A. Conservation projects in city, state, county, and national parks, forests, or recreation areas.
  - B. Conservation projects at your local Scout Camp. Adopt-A-Highway programs.
  - C. Clean up of waterfront, river banks, beaches, etc.
  - D. Other projects that are conservation related.

Upon completion of the items above, you will earn the opportunity to purchase the optional “S.C.E.N.E” patch.

### **NORTHERN TIER GRAND PORTAGE TREK**

This emblem is available for purchase by Northern Tier crews who paddle and portage from the Ely base to Lake Superior and finish the trip by portaging the 8.5 mile Grand Portage. See a description of the trek on page 26.

Upon completion, you will earn the opportunity to purchase the optional “Grand Portage Trek” patch.



## AWARDS & PROGRAMS

### LAKE MONITORING

The purpose of the Lake Monitoring Program is to provide Minnesota and Ontario with water transparency data for selected lakes that Northern Tier crews visit. This provides an assessment of the amount of suspended material in the water (which is often algae). Long term monitoring provides scientists with valuable data to detect trends in water quality.

A white disk (Secchi Disk) and a calibrated line are lowered into the lake and the depth at which it is barely visible is noted. The lake name, location on the lake, and depth at which the disk can be seen is recorded on a card and is sent in to the MPCA. The cards from at least 5 locations are then turned into the Bay Post.

Upon completion of the above items, you will earn the opportunity to purchase the optional “Lake Monitoring Award” patch.



### NORTH WEST VOYAGEURS BRIGADE HISTORIC TRAILS AWARD

Travel by canoe along the route used from 1731-1821 by the brigades of “Voyageurs” to transport furs and trade goods from Lake Superior to the North American interior for the North West Company, the X Y Company, and the American Fur Company. This Boy Scouts of America Historic Trails Award is administered by the Voyageurs Area Council under the Historic Trails Program of the BSA. To earn this award you must plan and participate in a unit historic activity. A unit historic activity requires unit members to:

1. Locate a historic trail or site and study information relating to it.
2. Hike, canoe or camp 2 days and 1 night along or in the vicinity of the site.
3. The preferred activity is to cooperate with an adult group (park service, historical society, reenactment organizers) to plan and stage an historic pageant, ceremony, or other public event related to this trail or site - or cooperate with an adult group such as an historic society to restore and mark all or part of this trail or site. Be sure to check with the park, wilderness area or state DNR before doing any projects large enough to merit coverage by the local press. Your unit leader must then file the attached Historic Trails Application with the Voyageurs Area Council, 3877 Stebner Road, Hermantown, Minnesota 55811 (Telephone (218)729-5811, E-Mail address: [sberg@vac-bsa.org](mailto:sberg@vac-bsa.org))

### 50 MILER AWARD

The 50-Miler Award is presented to each qualifying individual for satisfactory participation in an approved trip. In order to qualify for the award the group of which the individual is a member must fulfill all of the following requirements.

1. Make complete and satisfactory plans for the trip, including the possibilities of advancement.
2. Cover the trail or canoe or boat route of not less than 50 consecutive miles; take a minimum of 5 consecutive days to complete the trip without the aid of motors. (In some areas pack animals may be used).
3. During the time on the trail or waterway, complete a minimum of 10 hours each of group work on projects to improve the trail, springs, campsite, portage or area.
4. If, after checking with recognized authorities, it is not possible to complete 10 hours each of group work on the trail, a similar project may be done in the unit’s home area.

Upon completion of the above items, you will earn the opportunity to purchase the optional “50 Miler Award” patch.

## AWARDS &amp; PROGRAMS

**NORTHERN TIER****75, 100, 125, 150 MILER AWARDS**

To earn this award a Northern Tier participant must travel at least the number of miles indicated on the award.

**NORTHERN TIER CROSS QUETICO TREK**

This emblem is available for purchase by Northern Tier crews who paddle across the Quetico Provincial Park from Atikokan to Ely or from Ely to Atikokan. See a description of the trek options on pages 34 and 35.

**TRIPLE CROWN AWARD**

Presented by the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc. The Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc. (a Minnesota 501(c)3 organization) in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of America have authorized the issuance of a special certificate and patch to honor those who have participated in at least one high adventure program at **each** of the three high adventure bases operated by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. These bases are Philmont Scout Ranch (including the Double H Ranch), Northern Tier High Adventure Bases (Ely, Atikokan, and Bissett), and Florida National High Adventure Sea Base.