



**Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 428, Ely, Minnesota 55731-0428

Dear Alumni and Friends:

I am inviting your participation in the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association's annual giving program "**Crossing Portages.**" The program enables us to provide continuing support for the Northern Tier National High Adventure program.

Our organization continues to spread the spirit of "The Far Northland" throughout scouting. The generosity of friends like you allows us to enhance the operations and programs of Northern Tier.

In 2023, Northern Tier's wilderness programs will celebrate 100 years of delivering wilderness canoeing adventures to generations of youth. Reaching this landmark has only been possible thanks to the many generous contributions of individuals like you.

Some of our programs made possible by our supporters include:

- **Seasonal Staff Scholarship Program:** We support staff in continuing their academic studies. This year more than 30 seasonal staff received \$1,000 academic scholarships. The program has provided nearly 300 academic scholarships since its founding in 1998. We were the *first* national high adventure alumni association to offer this resource.
- **Seasonal Staff Support Program:** We provide gifts to each staff member to support them in their role. For example, first-year staff members receive a credit at the trading post to assist in purchasing any necessities. In 2020 we plan to increase this credit for the first time since the program's founding to \$40 per new staff member.
- **Charlie's Guide Staff Resource Book:** This book passes along knowledge to staff members. On the water, it is not possible to confer about fun places to explore, great campsites, or difficult portages. This resource supports staff in delivering a consistent and quality program. It's time to print an updated edition of this book.
- **Work Week:** We offer a volunteer service week to Northern Tier each year (it's actually for two weeks). The work involves a variety of projects intended to enhance the Northern Tier programs and facilities. In 2018 we built a new deck for the crew "Welcome Cabin." Besides it being built by the association, it's now where crew photos are taken that are given to participants.
- **Seminar Day:** We organize a seminar day during staff training that provides extra education for trail staff in outdoor and guiding skills.

To join us in supporting these programs, please visit [CrossingPortages.holrv.org](https://crossingportages.holrv.org) or return the below form. Thank you for your support!

Eric Peterson, Vice President

P.S. I am grateful for the skills I learned and friendships formed when I was a Scout and Charlie Guide. I hope you'll join me in helping others have the Northern Tier experience!



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## 2019 Crossing Portages Gift

Count on my support for the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc. and its efforts to support the Northern Tier National High Adventure program.

Include this form in the enclosed return envelope, or contribute online at [CrossingPortages.holrv.org](http://CrossingPortages.holrv.org). Checks should be written to "Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc."

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singing Brook Portage (\$50) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yum-Yum Portages (\$1,000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Portages (\$100)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Portage (\$1,500)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meadows Portages (\$200)     | <input type="checkbox"/> "Double Packing" (\$2,000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horse Portage (\$500)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____             |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_