

It's The Far Northland



THE WORLD'S ONLY EXCLUSIVE
CANOE COUNTRY

The Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base

1951

Region Ten

Boy Scouts of America

THE CHARLES L. SOMMERS CANOE BASE

OWNED AND OPERATED by Region Ten, Boy Scouts of America

LOCATED at the end of the Fernberg Road, 22 miles northeast of Ely, Minnesota, in the Superior National Forest, on the edge of a roadless wilderness. Two hours' paddle to the north lie the border lakes and the vast wilderness of the Canadian Quetico Provincial Park.

DESIGNED to be a part of YOUR Council Camping Program, an extended facility for HIGH ADVENTURE CAMPING for your Explorers. This is one of YOUR camps. We advise you to use it and to promote it as a part of YOUR program.

In accordance with this policy, we accept reservations only from Local Councils, through the Scout Executive. We do not accept individual applications. Interested individuals should consult their Scout Executive.

SERVING YOUR ENTIRE PROGRAM

A strong Explorer Program strengthens a Council in both directions. It builds the group of young men who participate directly. But it also provides warm overtones of glamour and appeal to the heart of every Cub and Scout as he looks forward to the high adventure in store for him. The Council with the good Explorer Program has not only more Explorers, but more Cubs and more Scouts. Not only better membership, but better tenure.



What is the secret of a strong Explorer program? It is High Adventure! And we mean HIGH! Scouting has always been OUTING — and these young men demand an outdoor program that is new different and thrilling.

HERE IS THE KEY TO ADVENTURE

Where to find such a program? This bulletin gives you the details of an Explorer project which could well be promoted as the climax of a graduated series of camping experiences in your Council Program.

TRIPS FOR 1951

7 DAY TRIP - \$20.00

Five full days on the trails, plus two days and nights at the Base. (One day to get outfitted for the trail, and one day after the trip to clean up, etc.)

Trips begin July 8th, July 10th.

The Base provides guide service, canoes, tents, packs, trail equipment, food, meals at the Base. You bring sleeping gear, mess-kit, and personal gear.

All other costs - - meals enroute, transportation, fishing licenses, customs fees, etc., - are paid by the participant.

10 DAY TRIP - \$27.50

Eight full days and nights on the trails, plus two days and nights at the Base.

Trips begin July 12th, 15th, 18th, 22nd, 25th, and 29th, and on August 1st, 5th, 8th, 12th, 15th and 19th.

LEADERS' FEES -- No fee will be charged the adult leader who comes with a full crew of ten Explorers. This arrangement can be honored only if:

- (a) The leader is 21 years of age, or older.
- (b) He is in charge of a full crew of ten Explorers.

All other leaders will be expected to pay the regular fee.

SCHEDULE OF TRIPS - 1951

Trip No.	Arrive 2-4 pm	On Trail by 3 pm	Return after lunch on:	To Home by 10 am	Length of Trip
1	July 8	July 9	July 14	July 15	7 da.
2	July 10	July 11	July 16	July 17	7 da.
3	July 12	July 13	July 21	July 22	10 da.
4	July 15	July 16	July 24	July 25	10 da.
5	July 18	July 19	July 27	July 28	10 da.
6	July 22	July 23	July 31	Aug. 1	10 da.
7	July 25	July 26	Aug. 3	Aug. 4	10 da.
8	July 29	July 30	Aug. 7	Aug. 8	10 da.
9	Aug. 1	Aug. 2	Aug. 10	Aug. 11	10 da.
10	Aug. 5	Aug. 6	Aug. 14	Aug. 15	10 da.
11	Aug. 8	Aug. 9	Aug. 17	Aug. 18	10 da.
12	Aug. 12	Aug. 13	Aug. 21	Aug. 22	10 da.
13	Aug. 15	Aug. 16	Aug. 24	Aug. 25	10 da.
14	Aug. 19	Aug. 20	Aug. 28	Aug. 29	10 da.

MINIMUM COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS

1. QUALIFIED LEADERSHIP:

There must be one leader for each crew of ten or less Explorers. He must be an adult, 21 years of age, or older. This is of major importance, for this man can make, or break the enjoyment of all.

He must be an experienced camper, with some knowledge of woods-manship, and canoeing. He should have exceptional leadership ability, and be able to carry on in the wilderness if and when the going gets tough, i.e., rain, portages, mosquitoes, etc. No picnic camper will do! Make these your standards of selection.

Note that a leader pays no fee if his crew contains a full ten Explorers. If it falls below that number, he pays the regular fee.

2. EXPLORERS:

No Scout under Explorer age (14 years) is permitted in the crews outfitting at the Base. Only Explorers can make a Canoe Trip.

Ten Explorers, and a leader is the standard crew for the trails. Plan your Council crews in multiples of ten. Recruit two or three alternates for each crew. Then, if you have a couple of cancellations, you can still send a full crew. We will accept as many as twelve in a crew.

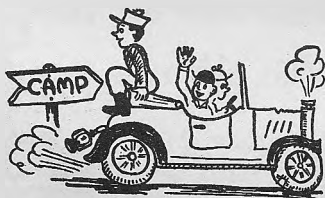
3. PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS for all Explorers and leaders is required, plus a recheck within 24 hours of departure for the Base. No exception can be made. Persons arriving at the Base without a Physical Examination form, filled out by their home doctor, will be required to pay for a 44 mile trip to the Doctor, plus his examination charge.

Portaging and paddling can be exceedingly hard work, and only those in good health should attempt it.

4. PARTICIPATION IN A TRAINING PROGRAM at the Base, prior to departure on the trails. Canoeing, axemanship, etc., are included.

5. RECONDITIONING OF EQUIPMENT upon return to Base with payment for damage beyond normal usage.

6. TRANSPORTATION to and from the Base in a vehicle meeting the safety and insurance requirements of the Boy Scouts of America. This includes the securing and use of tour permit from the National Council where necessary.



Persons arriving in Ely by train, or bus will be furnished transportation to the Base and return for \$1.00 per person if the Base is notified well in advance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. ADDRESS:

Address all business relative to the 1951 Season at the Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base to:

Region Ten
Boy Scouts of America
238 Minnesota Building
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

The Base address is:

Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base
Ely, Minnesota

In communicating with the Base during the summer season, please bear in mind that we have no telephone, that we are an hour's drive from the nearest town, and that mail is picked up only when the truck has business in Ely, which itself has limited train and mail service. Even a telegram may not reach us for two or three days.

2. GUIDE SERVICE:

The Base furnishes to each crew using the Base, a qualified and competent guide. These men are adults, usually college students, and often Veterans. All have a background of Scouting, Scout Camping, and the Canoe Country.

The Guide does not take over the leadership of the crew. That is the job of your leader who comes from home with them. He is not the cook, navigator, or professional packer. Working with, and through your leader, he helps the crew to have a swell trip. He knows the country, and its history, camping, and canoeing, and much worthwhile woodcraft.

3. FISHING LICENSES:

Minnesota requires a non-resident license for non-residents who would fish. Ely is the last chance to buy these. A non-resident fishing license costs \$4.00.

Canadian licenses are now \$2.00 per Explorer (under 21 years of age) when ten or more are purchased. For adults, or for Explorers in crews of less than ten, it is \$5.95 per person.

4. PHYSICAL FACILITIES:

A log lodge with a modern kitchen and dining room.

An outfitting post where you leave your city clothes and draw your equipment.

A Sauna (Finnish Bath) with complete toilet and washing facilities.

A tent camp, with insect-proof tents and cots for your overnight stay.



5. EQUIPMENT:

The equipment provided for the trails is the best that can be had for the purpose. It is the result of years of experiment by thousands of woods travellers. Canoes, Duluth packs, kettle kits, tents and hundreds of smaller items.



6. CUSTOMS:

All crews crossing into Canadian waters are required by law to clear both Canadian and American customs. We will probably again have a Canadian Customs Officer residing at the Base, through whom Canadian trips can clear. Each Explorer, who crosses into Canada, pays a 50¢ fee for this service.

Before leaving for home, all such trips must visit the American Customs Office in Winton, five miles east of Ely. This office does not open until 10:00 a.m. We suggest that crews desiring to get an early start home, plan to visit Winton the preceding afternoon.

HOW TO MAKE RESERVATIONS

1. Make a tentative reservation now, requesting space in multiples of ten, plus a leader, in the trips desired. Use attached form. Please state first, second, and third choice.
2. No reservation fees will be required until May 1st - except in case some other Council wants the space you have reserved, and are willing to pay the non-refundable reservation fees.

In that case, you will be given the opportunity to pay a \$10.00 non-refundable reservation fee, per person, or to release the space tentatively reserved.

In no case will a Council be asked to release space prior to April first.

3. On May 1st (or before, as mentioned above) you will pay the \$10.00 non-refundable reservation fee for each person, or release the space to others. By this date each Council should know how many will participate, and this number can be revised upward or downward.
4. The balance of the fee is payable upon arrival at the Base.
5. If you haven't enough Explorers, or a leader, to make your own trip we suggest you join with another Council by making arrangements with a neighboring Scout Executive. The Region Ten Office will, upon request, advise you which Councils have reservations.

SOMMERS' WILDERNESS CANOE BASE

LOCAL COUNCIL APPLICATION

REGION TEN,
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
238 MINNESOTA BUILDING
SAINT PAUL I, MINNESOTA

_____ COUNCIL

_____ ADDRESS

_____ CITY and STATE

_____ EXECUTIVE

Please reserve places for _____ Explorers and _____ Leaders on:

TRIP NO:

STARTING DATE:

NO. DAYS:

First Choice:

Second Choice:

Third Choice:

Reservation Fee of \$10.00 for each Explorer is payable in accordance with the conditions as outlined in the 1951 Canoe Base announcement.

If accepted by you, we understand that this guarantees the above number of places for our Council, and that we need not submit individual names until our group arrives at the Canoe Base. We understand that no Reservation Fee will be refunded. This Reservation Fee will apply on the total fee, the balance of which we will pay upon arrival at the Canoe Base.

It is agreed that the adult leader of each of these crews will be accepted without a Fee at the Base if his crew contains at lease ten Explorers, in addition to himself.

Recognizing that the Base has a very crowded program we agree to arrive between two and four P.M. on the proper day, and to follow the schedule as outlined.

HEALTH EXAMINATION

Realizing the importance of good health and physical condition on these Canoe Trips, we will be responsible for a thorough Physical Examination according to our National Standards, with a recheck within 24 hours prior to departure from home. Our qualified Adult Leader will bring these reports with him. We understand that no person will be permitted to make a trip without a physical examination showing him to be in good physical condition.

The Local Council will assume the expense of securing medical examinations for all persons reporting without them.

LEADERSHIP

We guarantee that our Adult Leaders will be well qualified to lead each Crew of Explorers.

DATE RECEIVED IN
REGION TEN OFFICE:

SIGNED: _____ SCOUT EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN,
CAMPING COMMITTEE

mdt - 10/31/50

SUGGESTIONS FOR PROMOTION

- 1 - Make your reservation early. Many will be turned away this year.
- 2 - Select a live-wire volunteer as your Canoe Trails Chairman. Make him responsible for your promotion.
- 3 - Select your crew leaders right away. Get your dates into their schedules. Sell them on the idea of a free trip if they arrive with a full crew. Let them help with your recruiting.
- 4 - Recruit two or three extras as alternates in each crew. Then if you have a couple of cancellations, you can still arrive with a full crew. We can always take care of a couple of extras.
- 5 - The ideal crew is an Explorer Post with its own leader. Recruit natural Units if you can.
- 6 - Get crews organized early and get them together for several sessions of planning and training. Will not only help them prepare for the trip, but will generate high enthusiasm and cut down on cancellations.
- 7 - Make use of Scouts and Leaders, who have been on the Trails, for talks and demonstrations. They will be your best salesmen.
- 8 - Make full use of promotional material.
 - (a) "A Canoe Expedition" - a 16mm movie, color and sound, produced by the Visual Education Service of the Boy Scouts of America. Available through them, or the Region Ten Office. Picture was made at the Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base.
 - (b) Canoe Trails Movie - 16mm, color, silent. Tells the story of the Regional Canoe Trails. Available through the Region Ten Office.
 - (c) Color Slides - 2x2 inches. Available through the Region Ten Office.
 - (d) Maps of the Canoe Country - Write the Region Ten Office.
 - (e) Guide Books - Upon receipt of your registration, we will send you a supply of Canoe Trails Guide Books. These are to be given only to Explorers who have already registered and paid their \$10.00 deposit. These Guide Books will help crews to make adequate preparation for the trip, and will stimulate interest.

PLEASE! Films and slides are in heavy demand. Please give us as much advance notice as possible, and indicate first, second, and third choice of dates.