

VOYAGEUR

READY FOR A CHALLENGE?

Background

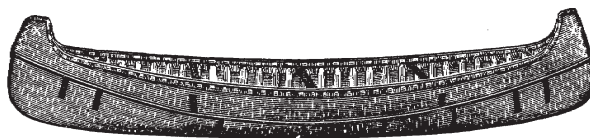
For nearly a hundred years, the French fur trade was dominated by two groups of men: the Coureurs de bois or “wood-runners” and the Voyageurs or “travelers.” While the Coureurs de bois were men who learned Indian ways and trails to assist with their fur trade, the Voyageurs were experts in knowledge of waterways, shooting the rapids, and portaging heavy loads. The Voyageur, who was slurred as a “pork eater” by the Coureur de bois, was a vital part of the highly profitable fur trade of the New World. Living on salt pork and dried peas, the Voyageur could paddle all day, carry double portage, and sing a rollicking French song all the while.

Program Goals

1. To provide a challenging high adventure opportunity for those Scouts who are 13 by January 1st of the year attending camp.
2. Demonstrate a marked improvement in canoeing abilities.
3. Gain an appreciation of nature’s most powerful force—water.
4. Learn and practice the principles of Leave No Trace camping.
5. Discover what life must have been like for the 18th Century Voyageurs.
6. Have a blast!

I Prepare for Your Trek

1. Hone your canoeing skills.
2. Knowing how to pack for a trip is truly the mark of an experienced camper. Begin gathering your gear at least one week prior to your trek and consider having a “shakedown” with a knowledgeable person from your troop, crew, or post. The attached list details our recommendations for personal and crew gear for the trek. As you pack, your goal should be to bring the minimum amount of equipment necessary to be safe and comfortable regardless of weather or unexpected swims. Remember that you will have to portage your gear at several places! We will provide the following:
 - **Canoeing Gear**—canoe, life vests, paddles, and helmets
 - **Safety Equipment**—first aid kit, z-drag kit, throw bags
 - **Cooking Gear**—food, polar pure, water dromedary, cooking pots, backpacking stoves
 - **Trowel and Toilet Paper**

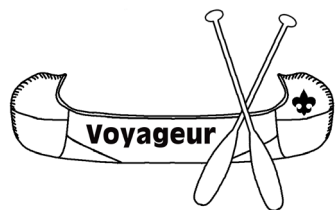


Remember to Bring

- Voyageur Waiver Form
- National BSA Medical Form
- Tour Permit (out of council only)
- Proof of Troop Insurance
- Rafting Permission Form

2 Registration - Voyageur

Voyageur Trek participants should arrive at Camp Powhatan between 1:00 and 2:30 p.m. to allow ample time to complete medical recheck, the swim check, and the canoe test before dinner. Plan on backpacking your gear into the camp. Vehicles should be parked in the Hunter’s Parking Lot for “dead” storage for the week. Crews will spend all nights (Sunday through Friday) under their trail shelters.



VOYAGEUR

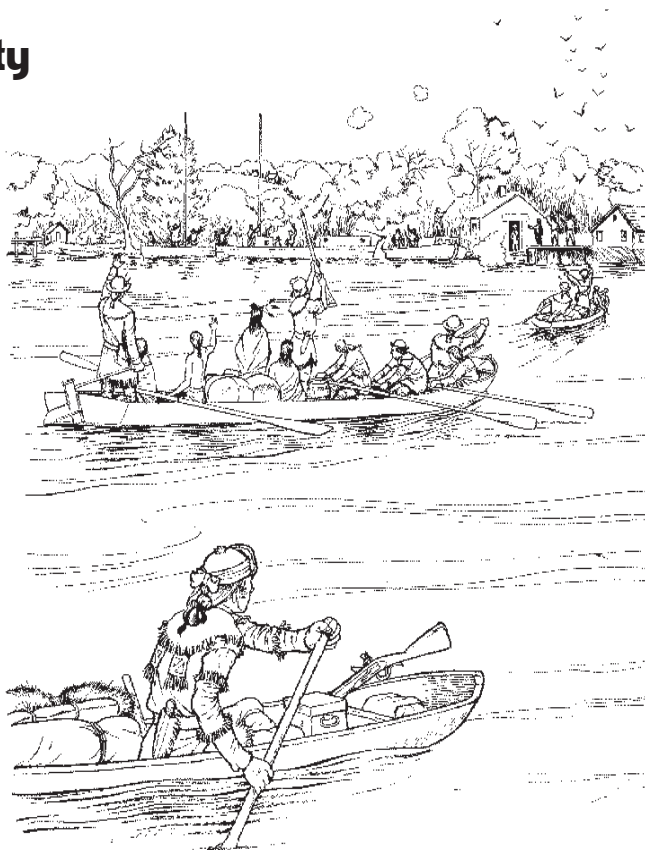
LIFE ON THE RIVER

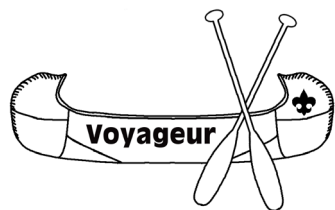
3 Tentative Schedule

- Sunday** After registering with the Camp Director, proceed to medical check and then swim checks with your gear. At 4 p.m. be at the Camp Gazebo to meet your staff (if you are travelling from another camp, please make sure you will arrive at Powhatan on time). Here, you will meet with one of the Voyageur staff who will guide you through the rest of your day. Plan on setting up your tent for the night and wearing your Class A uniform to dinner. After a shakedown, there will be an opportunity to return excess gear to your vehicle. The night will conclude with a campfire in Hemlock Grove.
- Mon-Thurs** Your group will spend Monday through Thursday canoeing the New River. Participants will find these days both challenging and rewarding. After a quick trip down the river on Thursday, your group will be transported to West Virginia where you will spend the night. Bring a little spending money as the group will stop somewhere along the interstate.
- Friday** After rafting the New River Gorge, the group will return to Camp Powhatan with plenty of time to clean up and get ready for dinner and the closing campfire.

4 Advancement and Opportunity

1. Participants will complete requirements for the canoeing and White Water Merit Badges as they learn to read the river, shoot the rapids, and calmly handle any emergencies the river might present. Please let staff know if you wish to earn the merit badge.
2. In keeping with the Voyageur theme, participants will have the opportunity to make a period appropriate leather project satisfying many of the requirements for the Leatherworking Merit Badge.
3. During the trek, there will be ample time for Scouts and Scouters to cast their lines and angle for one of the many species of fish that abound in the New River. Please bring a Virginia Fishing Permit if you are over age 16.
4. Depending on group interest and availability of service projects, there will be an opportunity to earn the 50 Miler Award during the trek.





VOYAGEUR

VOYAGEUR EQUIPMENT LIST

Storage

- (1) Small, inexpensive **waterproof** dry bag
Bags made of thick plastic or nylon with roll down clip closures are advised to carry lunch and some gear on river
- (1) Backpack to store gear and support vehicle

Clothing

- (1) Pair of Swimming Trunks
- (1) Pair of Dry Shorts (no jeans)
- (2) T-shirts (for wear around camp, can be cotton)
- (1) Wicking Shirt to be worn on river (poly pro, etc)
- (1) Fleece or wool Vest or Jacket
- (1) Rain Jacket and Rain Pants
No ponchos allowed!
- (3) Pairs of Socks (wool or wicking synthetic)
- (3) Pairs of Underwear
- (1) Wide brimmed Hat
- (1) Pair of sturdy river shoes (due to sharp rocks, we recommend closed toe shoes, not sandals or flip flops)
- (1) Pair of Shoes to wear around camp

Daytime temperatures range from 70–95°

Evening temperatures are 35–65°

Eating Utensils

- (1) Plastic Bowl
- (1) Plastic Cup
- (1) Spoon
- (2) Water Bottles
at least 32 oz. each

Optional Gear

- Fishing Equipment—A **small** pocket-sized tackle box is more than adequate.
- Fishing License (for those 16 and older). We can purchase five day passes on Monday morning. Prices range from \$7 to \$17 depending on residency and type of license.
- Knee Pads
- Pair of Gloves for paddling
- Small Binoculars
- Personal First Aid Kit

Personal Items

- (1) Bandanna
- (1) Small Towel no longer than 2' x 4'
- (1) Pocketknife
- (1) Lip Balm
- (1) Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- (1) Pair of Sunglasses – These are very important, consider bringing two cheap pairs.
- (1) Waterproof Watch
- (1) Whistle
- (1) Sleeping Bag—bags should be compact and rated for around +30 degrees. Pack the bag and extra clothing in a compression bag. Place all this in a heavy weight plastic bag.
- (1) Sleeping Pad—closed cell or waterproof
- (1) Ziploc Bags and ditty bags for gear
- (1) Small Flashlight or handlamp
- (2) Carabiners to clip water bottles in canoe

Sharable “Crew” Items

Consider bringing only one of each per group.

- (1) Insect Repellent
- (1) Bottle of Sunscreen (SPF 50 or higher)
- (1) Baby Powder
- (1) Backpacking Tent
- (1) Box of Waterproof Matches
- (1) Deck of Cards or small Game
- (1) Camera—the waterproof, disposable type is recommended
- (1) Pack of Wet Wipes
- (1) Trowel (for cat holes)

For more information on the Voyageurs read:
The Voyageur's Highway by Grace Lee Nute
The Voyageur by Grace Lee Nute

READ CAREFULLY

RELEASE, ASSUMPTION OF RISK and INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that, directly or indirectly, I have requested that I or the minor identified below be allowed to participate in certain activities and allowed to utilize certain services provided by **Extreme Expeditions of West Virginia, Inc.; Rivers; Appalachian Wildwaters; USA Raft; and/or River Expeditions, Inc.**, all of which, along with any commonly owned, related, parent or subsidiary corporations and entities, including providers of food, beer, or other products, their owners, officers, directors, agents, and employees, whether or not separately identified herein, and/or any successor and/or assignee, are hereafter collectively referred to as "Outfitter."

I acknowledge that Outfitter may have also been requested to arrange for me or the minor identified below to participate in activities or utilize services provided by other persons, businesses, or entities and acknowledge that Outfitter has made no representation whatsoever as to the safety or quality of those activities or services but has only made arrangements for my or the minor's participation in those activities or use of those services as an accommodation to me at my request.

I understand and accept that I am about to engage in activities that pose substantial risks of physical injury and/or death, disease or illness and/or damage to or loss of personal property, as the result of exposure; the hazards of travel over and through rough terrain and on public or private roads; the hazards of traveling on turbulent, fast, and cold whitewater rivers and streams; jumping, diving, or being thrown into the water; risks inherent in attempting to navigate whitewater rivers such as striking rocks and other obstructions, rafts and boats being flipped by standing waves or turbulent waters; risks arising from the improper or incorrect use of paddles, oars and other boating equipment; and other unnamed but foreseeable risks related to whitewater activities; the risks of injuries by insects, animals or reptiles; the risks that injuries may occur in remote areas without adequate medical facilities; the risks of travel by air, train, automobile, truck, bus, horse, bicycle, ATV, and/or other conveyance while traveling to or from any activity site or participating in any activity; the risks and dangers from the use of the campground or other facilities; the risk of negligence, gross negligence, and/or bad judgment on the part of the Outfitter, other providers and/or other participants; and the risks arising from defects in equipment or products. I understand that I am subject to even greater risk on and about the Gauley River because of higher water flow, steeper gradient (greater drop per mile), inaccessible locations, and the difficult and dangerous surrounding terrain. I also understand and accept the greater risk in Wildside and/or Extreme Wildside rafting activities because of the smaller rafts used and the more hazardous whitewater conditions encountered. I represent that I am in good physical condition and health and am able to safely participate in the requested activities.

In consideration of and as part payment for my right or that of the minor identified below to participate in such activities and utilize such services, I PERSONALLY do hereby, to the greatest extent permitted by law, ASSUME all of the reasonably related and foreseeable risks, whether or not specifically identified herein, of all the activities and services in which I participate or which I use; RELEASE the Outfitter from any and all liability, including but not limited to liability arising from negligence, gross negligence and/or willful and wanton conduct; and, will INDEMNIFY and hold the Outfitter harmless from any and all liability, claims, and demands of every kind and nature whatsoever which I or the minor identified below may ever have arising, directly or indirectly, from participation in any and all such activities or using such services, including Outfitter's defense costs and expenses and/or the cost of any medical or other expenses incurred for my or such minor's benefit.

I consent to the use by the Outfitter of photographs and video recordings made of me or the minor identified below while participating in such activities or using such services without further compensation and agree that all such materials including negatives, are the sole property of the Outfitter.

I agree that the exclusive venue of any suit or claim against the Outfitter for any reason whatsoever shall be the Magistrate or Circuit Courts of Fayette County, West Virginia; consent to the jurisdiction of such Courts as to any action against me to enforce this Agreement; agree that this Agreement is to be enforced in accordance with the law of the State of West Virginia; and agree that if any part of this Agreement is found to be invalid that all other portions shall be fully enforceable.

No representations contrary to the above have been made to me or, if made, such representations are not relied upon by me in any way; have not affected in any way my decision to participate or allow the minor identified below to participate in any activity or utilize any service; and have not affected in any way my intention to release, assume risk or indemnify the Outfitter as stated above.

Adult Signature X _____ Date _____

FOR PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE AGE OF 18

I, the minor whose name appears below, have read or had my parent or legal guardian read this Agreement on both sides of this document and agree to all of the terms and conditions:

Minor's Signature X _____ Date of Birth _____

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN PERMISSION FOR MINOR TO PARTICIPATE:

Having legal authority to do so, I give the above minor permission to participate in the activities offered by or arranged through the Outfitter, give the Outfitter permission to provide medical treatment or authorize such treatment in case of emergency or accident; and, will indemnify and hold harmless the Outfitter as stated in this document for any legal claims made by or on behalf of the said minor.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature X _____ Date _____

(Relationship to Minor) _____

SEE THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS DOCUMENT

READ CAREFULLY

THE WEST VIRGINIA WHITEWATER RESPONSIBILITY ACT DUTIES OF A PARTICIPANT (West Virginia Code 20-3B-5)

- (a) Participants have a duty to act as would a reasonably prudent person when engaging in recreational activities offered by commercial whitewater outfitters and commercial whitewater guides in this state.
- (b) No participant may:
- (1) Board upon or embark upon any commercial whitewater expedition when intoxicated or under the influence of nonintoxicating beer, intoxicating beverages or controlled substances; or
 - (2) Fail to advise the trip leader or the trip guide of any known health problems or medical disability and any prescribed medication that may be used in the treatment of such health problems during the course of the commercial whitewater expedition; or
 - (3) Engage in harmful conduct or willfully or negligently engage in any type of conduct which contributes to or causes injury to any person or property; or
 - (4) Perform any act which interferes with the safe running and operation of the expedition, including failure to follow the instructions of the trip leader or trip guide in regard to the safety measures and conduct requested of the participants; or
 - (5) Fail to inform or notify the trip guide or trip leader of any incident or accident involving personal injury or illness experienced during the course of any commercial whitewater expedition. If such injury or illness occurs, the participant shall leave personal identification, including name and address, with the commercial whitewater outfitter's agent or employee.

Initials

Person's Name Your Reservation is Under

Trip Date / /

Number of People in Your Group

New

1-Day

Upper

Weekday

Gauley

2-Day

Lower

Weekend

Cheat

3-Day

Whole

Other

Other

Other

Date of Birth

/ /

Last Name

First Name

Present Address

City State

Zip -

Is this your first rafting trip?: Yes No

Home Phone - -

Have you rafted before?: Yes No

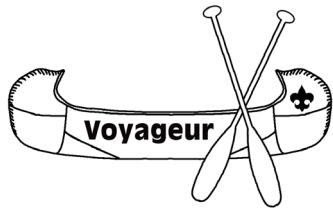
Work Phone - -

If yes, with which company

Has your address changed?: Yes No

e-mail Address

By providing your email address, you hereby authorize the Outfitter to contact you via this medium.



VOYAGEUR

SHIRT FORM



Return form & payment to:

Due April 1st

Shirley Neiderhiser, Camp Registrar
Blue Ridge Mountains Council, BSA
P.O. Box 7606, Roanoke, VA 24019

Those interested may purchase a shirt like those worn by the voyageurs. Though these shirts are not required, they do offer excellent sun protection. Please place your order as soon as possible as the shirts are handmade and require time to assemble.

Scout or Scouter's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State & Zip: _____

Email: _____

Troop Number: # _____ Name of Your BSA Council: _____

Date you will be participating in the Voyageur Trek: _____

Shirt Size (circle one): L XL XXL Scout's Weight: _____ Height: _____

SHIRTS ARE \$25

Payment Enclosed:

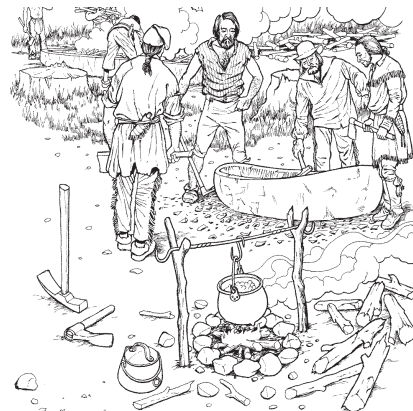
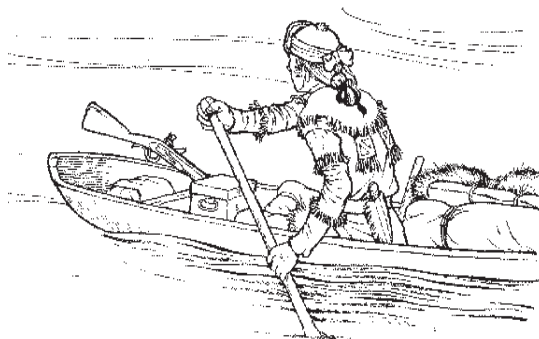
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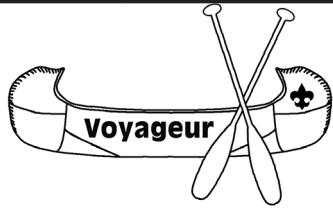
Check: Check #: _____

Credit Card: MasterCard VISA

Card Number: _____

Name on Card: _____ Expiration Date: _____





VOYAGEUR

CAMP ROSTER

Unit Number: _____ **Week Attending:** _____

	Name of Scout/Adult	Date of Birth	Address	Phone
1				
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