

Additional Information for the May 2008 *Leader Magazine*

Canoe Adventure Trip Planning

by Chris Blanchette and David Gilbert

Keeping Parents in the Loop

We kept parents informed as to our progress with regular information bulletins throughout the year. Before we left, each parent was supplied with a detailed Trip Plan which included:

- departure date
- entry and exit points in the park
- return date
- travel directions so they could arrange to drive their youth to and from the camp
- park confirmation number for the trip
- contact information, which included the park numbers, closest hospital, Coast Guard, OPP and cell phone numbers for the phones the leaders would be carrying.
- general route planning arrangements (e.g. how many km to be travelled each day, campsite numbers and names of lakes we would be camping on, and daily route to reach the campsites)
- canoe partner assignments.

Equipment List for the 60th LaSalle Scout Troop

Here is a list of the equipment we used for our four day, three night canoe trip:

- 8 Eureka Tents (four 3-man, four 4-man tents) approx. 11 lbs per tent which was divided up between the Scouts. Each patrol of 3 – 4 youth carried 1/3 of the tent, (e.g. one Scout carried the fly, another carried the tent and the third carried the poles and pegs.)
- 3 lightweight MSR Dragonfly Multi-Fuel stoves
- 4 MSR fuel bottles
- 3 MSR Mini-Works Ceramic Water Filters
- 2 115 litre dry packs for food and cooking equipment
- Each Scout/leader had their own 70 litre dry pack
- 8 Canoes rented from Scouts Canada with Canoe Trailer (cost effective because Scouts Canada price was \$5/day compared to \$40/day from Park) ***
- Bug Nets.... (we bought each Scout a bug net from the dollar store. What an asset, because we were in high season for blackflies!)

*** Renting the canoes from the park (\$1,280.00) would have been much easier and convenient as we wouldn't have had to haul them the 340+ miles by trailer. But, by renting them from Scouts Canada, even after including the gas expense of hauling them, (\$160.00 canoe rental + \$40.00 Trailer Rental and \$350.00 gas = \$550.00-\$600.00), we saved about \$600.00 for the troop.

Canoe Equipment List

[This equipment list was sent home with the youth.]

The gear is listed in categories of **Required, Recommended, and Nice to Have.**

Each Scout is only allowed to bring one backpack. Everything must fit into this pack. You may also bring a waist pack for carrying a camera, wallet or small necessities, but you should seal the items in ziplock bags.

Note: In addition to the required gear listed, each Scout will be carrying one third of a tent in their backpack. Backpacks should have a volume of at least **70 Litres** in order to accommodate this equipment. Backpacks must be designed to be carried on the back over rocky hiking trails. If you already own or can borrow a backpack of this volume, you will need a heavy duty garbage bag to put inside it to be sealed with ties before putting equipment into the canoes. I have also listed an option to buy a 70 litre, canoe rated, dry pack for those who are interested.

Troop Supplied

- Canoes
- Paddles
- Whistles
- 800mL Lexan water bottles
- Water purification equipment
- Stoves
- Fuel
- Matches
- Bailers
- Ropes
- Dry packs to carry food and gear
- Tents
- Tarps
- Food
- Cooking supplies
- First Aid kit
- Route maps
- Compass
- Wood cutting saw.

Required:

This list includes clothes to wear on the drive up and the first day of paddling. Clothes should be in self sealing bags and separated by day (like winter camps).

Lifejacket (PFD) with your name written on it.

Packed at the top of your backpack for easy access.

- Hat to protect from the sun
- Sunscreen to protect from the sun
- Bug spray with Deet (Bright clothes also helps)
- Raincoat with hood. (We may have to paddle in the rain.)
- One half roll of toilet paper in self sealing bag.
- Fork, knife, spoon wrapped in a washcloth and put in a self sealing baggie so it does not puncture the seal of the backpack
- Plate, bowl
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, comb
- Unscented soap
- Flashlight or headlamp.

Packed at the bottom of your backpack

- One pair of thermal long underwear and undershirt (Must not be cotton)
- Four pairs of pants (Preferably not cotton)
- Three long sleeve shirts (Preferably not cotton)
- One short sleeve shirt
- One bathing suit that can be used as a pair of shorts
- One SMALL bath towel
- Four pair of underwear
- Five pair of socks (Preferably not cotton)
- One fleece sweater
- One fall coat
- Sleeping bag (Must be able to roll up tightly)
- Hiking boots, rubber boots, or shoes that are water resistant a couple of inches up the sides
- Sandals.

Recommended:

- Pocket knife
- Thin gloves.

Nice to Have:

- **Thin** ground mat (Must be able to pack in your backpack with the additional tent gear you will be carrying)
- **Small** cup (We will drink mostly from our water bottles)
- Pack pillow (Small pack pillow or blow up pillow) (Do not bring regular bed pillows)
- **Very Small** collapsible camp chair
- Compass.

NOTE: ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD IS ALLOWED IN BACKPACKS.

LaSalle 60th Scouts Massasauga Park Canoe Trip

The following is the detailed canoe route we took in Massasauga Park. We found this route to be just the right length and challenge for a first time canoe trip.

Canoe Route: May 18 to 21

Day 1: Approximately 9 kms.

- Access Point (Three Legged Lake)
- **Three Legged Lake** (West)
- Portage, 370 metres
- **Spider Lake** (North)
- (Scout sites 9 and 15 for return)
- **Spider Lake** (Southwest)
- (CAMP) Sites 19, 20, 21

Day 2: Approximately 9 kms.

- **Spider Lake** (South)
- **Spider Lake** (West)
- **Spider Lake** (South)
- Portage, 90 metres
- **NoName Lake** (East)
- Portage, 165 metres
- **Clear Lake** (South)
- (CAMP) Sites 30, 31, 34

Day 3: Approximately 12 - 15 kms.

- **Clear Lake** (Northwest)
- Portage, 240 metres
- **Clear Bay** (West)
- **Three Finger Bay** (West)
- Portage, 235 metres
- **Goose Neck Bay** (Northeast)
- **Spider Bay** (Northeast)
- Portage, 100 metres
- **Spider Lake** (East)
- (CAMP) Sites 19, 20, 21

Alternate Day 3: Approximately 9 kms.

- **Clear Lake** (East)
- Portage, 645 metres
- **Spider Lake** (Northwest)
- **Spider Lake** (East and West)
- (CAMP) Sites 19, 20, 21

Day 4: Approximately 6 to 9 kms.

- **Spider Lake** (Northeast)
- **Spider Lake** (South)
- Portage, 370 metres
- **Three Legged Lake** (East)
- **Exit - Access Point Three Legged Lake**

Two Troop Activities

Trail Mix Preparation

On the last meeting before the trip, we had the troop mix up their own trailmix. We purchased a wide variety of goodies, such as shreddies, M&M, raisins, dried cranberries, sunflower seeds, peanuts, pretzel sticks, mixed nuts, etc. and brought them into the meeting. Each Scout was given three heavy duty Ziploc™ baggies to prepare their trailmix in. Upon completing it, they wrote their name on the baggies and turned them in. By doing it this way, the youth created a trailmix that they would enjoy eating.

Food Bag Hanging Activity

Bring three sets of ropes to the meeting and a full drypack. Each Scout has to throw the rope over the soccer post, hoist up the drypack and tie it off. This gave the youth a chance to practice their rope throwing skills before needing to do it while at camp. Sometimes, finding the right tree and getting the rope over the proper branch, can be one of the most challenging parts of the trip!

Conclusion

Those of us involved in this adventure had as much fun as the youth. We were a mixed bag of Scouters, but all of us have two things in common, a love for Scouting and the outdoors.

- Chris Blanchette, the troop Scouter, is the main person who made this canoe trip possible. Chris has 15 years + experience in canoeing and interior camping, as well as being a qualified Life Guard. He spent many, many hours putting together the program and researching the parks. Chris had the experience and confidence in his abilities and was able to convey that to the rest of the leadership and group committee to go ahead and complete this adventure.
- Jon Rae (Scouter) is a Fireman in Windsor and was our qualified first aid person.
- Lisa Blain (Scouter) was the only female leader on the adventure. She is our program director, and was responsible for cross-referencing all badges and awards for the youth and Chief Scout candidates in attendance during the trip.
- Ed Beaulieu (Scouter) was another leader qualified in canoeing and interior camping.
- Dan Bjorkman (Akela) came up from Cubs to help us out as an extra leader for this camp. Dan has three boys in Cubs and Scouts and has been involved in Scouting for several years.
- Dave Gilbert (Scouter), no experience in canoeing or interior camping...but had a ton of fun being the resident photo bug and video man.

Editor's Note: Attention all Troop Scouters

Are you aware of the Turnbull Family Adventure Challenge? If your application is accepted, and you meet all the criteria, you can receive a monetary reward of up to \$2500.00 – just for doing what you most likely are already doing!! For all the requirements and application, go to Scouts Canada's web site and click on:

<http://www.scouts.ca/media/documents/TurnbullAwardRequirements.pdf>

It's easy and rewarding!