

Ranger Outdoor Adventure

Pilot: Summer 2022

Start-Up & Pilot Operation Costs: \$20,500

VISION:

To create a program that teaches transferable life skills, leadership opportunities, team building, and unique experiences for youth in grades 7 - 11. Specific trip cohorts would have a more limited age range to ensure all students in each cohort are of similar maturity.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The program would start with an application process where interested students would submit a cover letter and application. Candidates would then go through an interview process to narrow potential applicants to those who are truly serious about participating and following through with the program. This would also expose students to scenarios similar to job searching.

The program participants would be selected by a committee composed of the Community Ed staff and Program Lead and Assistant. Applicants not selected for the initial program would be kept as alternates in the event that someone is unable to follow through with the pilot and for future offerings.

Participants for an individual program will include seven students - all the same gender - and two guides. The BWCA allows for a maximum group size of 9 people for all trips. If it is a boys' trip, the guides will be two males. If it is a girls' trip, the guides will be one male & one female. For the pilot program, we will be accepting applicants from students completing grades 10 & 11 at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Should a special education student qualify for participation and the needs of that particular student dictated that a one-to-one paraprofessional or parent accompany the student, the student count would reduce to six and the adult count would increase to three. Adults will not stay in the same tent as any student. We would aim to do one boys trip & one girls trip this summer.

Throughout all of these activities, participants will gain valuable life skills in areas of teamwork, resiliency, self discipline, independence and accountability as well as have the opportunity to experience several days "unplugged" from life and technology. Doing so will encourage them to immerse themselves in the natural beauty of northern Minnesota, experience the value of human interaction, and rely on themselves and their team for essential human needs (food, shelter, and water).

PROGRAM DETAILS

Classroom:

We will start with several classroom meetings to learn about expectations, roles & responsibilities, first aid training (possible certification through CRMC), address any mental health and physical health needs, and cover skills training in the following areas:

- Canoeing/Paddling
- Portaging Packs, Gear, & Canoes
- Preparing & Packing Food & Clothing Packs (Including Dehydrating & Vacuum Packing)
- Orienteering (Map & Compass Reading)
- Tent Set Up & Take Down
- Stove Set Up, Use, Starting a Campfire, Safety, Etc
- Shopping for groceries

Trip:

The planning and training will culminate with a 5 day/4 night trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) where we will be able to put all of these skills together. Students will be assigned different jobs each day, working in different areas such as cooking, cleaning, tent set-up/take down, wood gathering/fire starting, route decision-making, etc. They will also learn about what it means to respect our natural world and “Leave no Trace” while they enjoy their trip.

Itinerary:

A typical trip would leave C-I in the early morning and travel to Ely or Grand Marias to access the BWCA using two of the District’s vehicles (one would have to be the Suburban to allow for trailering) with one Guide driving each vehicle (both drivers would be Type 3 trained as regulations require) and participants and gear in each vehicle. Upon arrival, we would locate and secure a campsite as quickly as possible that first afternoon.

Subsequent days will begin around sunrise. Participants will cook and eat breakfast, tear down camp, pack up and prepare for paddling & portaging. Paddling will consume 2 - 6 hours/day depending on weather conditions, route plans, and campsite availability. The group will travel to multiple campsites. One day will likely be a “layover” day where we will stay at the same site and enjoy some time fishing, swimming, hiking, exploring, playing games, etc.

The final night will be spent close to our return destination to allow the group to be off the water, back in the vehicles, and on the road home by lunchtime.

Estimated Expenses - Initial Equipment & Per Trip)

This is a list of the initial supplies that would need to be purchased to start the program. Some of these supplies would need to be replaced after 2 -3 years (like sleeping bags) but others would likely last 5 & 10 years. We would seek to store the smaller items in an empty cage under the Woock and the Canoes could be stored outside, unsheltered on a rack trailer.

ITEM	QTY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
We-No-Nah Spirit II or Aurora Canoes(Or Old Town Discovery or Penobscot) (T-Formex/Rolex) 16'-18'	4	1500	6000
Paddles - C paddle cormorant or similar	15	60	900
Life Jackets - Stearns life vests	15	50	750
Canoe/Kayak/Equipment Trailer	1	2500	2500
Granite Gear food packs	2	175	350
Granite Gear #3.5 packs	4	175	700
Coleman Camp Stove	2	100	200
Misc. Cooking Gear (pots, pans, plates, bowls, cups, silverware, storage bins, etc.)	1	300	300
Kelty 4-person tents	4	400	1600
Tent pads	4	25	100
Kelty tarps	2	75	150
Thermarest mattress pads	12	70	840
Slumberjack Sleeping bags + stuff sacks	12	75	900
Zoleo Satellite Communicator + 3-month service subscription	1	250	250
Basic Camping Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - water filtration system \$150 - camp ax & saw \$100 - maps, map cases, compasses \$150 - medical/first aid kit \$100 - Matches, rope, knife, tape, etc. \$100 - Miscellaneous 	(varies)	(varies)	800
		TOTAL	\$17,200

Estimated Expenses - Per Trip

Expenses for Each Trip:

ITEM	DETAILS	APPROX. TOTAL
Food	~\$10/person/day Likely less than \$500 but would vary per trip and participant's dietary needs	500
BWCA Permit	\$16/adult and \$8/student	88
Transportation/Gas	\$4/gal x 300 miles round trip use District 182 vehicles for transport	200
MN Canoe Registration	\$25 annual fee for each boat	100
Guide Fee	\$150/day for the lead \$100/day for assistant Classroom, Prep, Etc = \$25/hr	750 500 750
	TOTAL	\$2,888

Potential 2022 Trip Dates (Classroom & Prep Leading Up to)

1. June 13-17 Mon-Fri
2. Aug 4-8 Thurs-Mon
3. July 13-17 Wed-Sun
4. June 23-27 Thurs-Mon

*****Note: We would look to charge students \$100 to create commitment & buy-in and generate a carry forward fund to continue this program in future years. We would establish fundraising efforts to help cover the cost of the annual consumables & staffing to keep the cost of this program at that same rate in future years.*****