

“Chicago Portage Adventure” Leader’s Guide

With Updated Information on Cost and Program Features, Revised 3/23/2017

Please Note: Important changes and clarifications have been made to the information given in the original flyer for the April 21-23, 2017 “Chicago Portage Adventure”.

Who may participate: This event is for Boy Scouts, Venturers and Leaders with separate program features for swimmers/canoists and for non-swimmers or those who choose not to canoe.

Cost: \$7:50 for event and patch, \$10:00/person/day to rent canoes, \$10:00 per person for camping at Columbia Woods (covers Friday and/or Saturday night camping).

Registration: all participants must register online (PTAC website) prior to the event. Registration will begin on Monday, March 27, 2017 and Close on Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

All attendees must have a current, **completed B.S.A. Health Form** Parts A & B (doctor’s signature not required!) with photo release. **Units** should have copies on hand at the event to present at check-in.

Canoeing Notes:

- Non-swimmers will not be permitted to canoe from Stoney Ford to Columbia Woods.**
- A Float Plan** may need to be filed by units. We will advise you before the event if that is necessary.
- Unit leaders who have not taken the BSA online “Safety Afloat” training are strongly encouraged to do so. It takes 10-15 minutes. Leaders should review water safety with their unit before the event. No horseplay will be permitted on the water.
- State license stickers** are required on all canoes and kayaks operated on Illinois public waters. Units bringing their own canoes and kayaks may obtain them at the sport section of any store selling fishing licenses, such as Walmart. Cost is \$6.50 ea. for the first 3 boats, \$3.50 ea. for each additional.
- Rental Canoes:** Although we have what we believe is a sufficient number of canoes available for the event, pre-registration is necessary to reserve your units’ canoes.
- Troops must have adults accompanying their scouts who are canoeing** (at least 1; 2 or more preferred), and they should paddle with their scouts in the same group. BSA requires a 1:10 ratio on water.
- The optional 2nd day of canoeing** is restricted to experienced canoeists. Units will need to have 2 adults with those canoeing the 2nd day and will be responsible for monitoring water safety for their unit. Please advise us ASAP if you intend to take part in the 2nd day of canoeing.
- Each person canoeing should have a dry bag for food, spare clothing and phones, etc.

Lunches on Saturday and Sunday, and Meals while camping are to be provided by the participants or troops. All participants should carry their own water and lunches on Saturday and Sunday.

Camping Notes:

- No ground fires are permitted at Columbia Woods. Bring fire pits/stoves.
- All garbage must be packed out.

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Camping Notes, continued:

- Picnic tables are not guaranteed at the grove (To be determined—we will update)
- Units may bring trailers to the grove parking lots.
- Porta-potties will be on site.

Friday, April 21 Camping Timetable:

5:00 pm-9pm: Unit arrival and setup:

9:00 pm: Leader's meeting and Cracker Barrel

Saturday, April 22 Program Timetable (tentative):

Beginning at 7:00 am: Unit check-in and orientation at Stony Ford Canoe Ramp. From Stony Ford cars of those adults who will be canoeing with their scouts may be driven to Columbia Woods where a bus will be available to return drivers to Stony Ford.

7:30 am-8:00 am Scouts will hike from Stony Ford 1 mile to the Chicago Portage National Historic Site.

8:00 am-9:30 am Presentations on the significance of the Chicago Portage, a service project (site cleanup) with the **Friends of the Chicago Portage** site stewards group, and a hike around the site.

9:30 am-10:30 am: Units will be sent in groups hiking to Stony Ford, where:

-**Those not canoeing** will be driven from Stony Ford to the Santa Fe Prairie for a presentation about the Prairie and a lunch break.

-**Those canoeing (must be qualified Swimmers)** will be set out in groups of approximately 18 canoes down the Des Plaines River to the Santa Fe Prairie. At the Santa Fe Prairie they will stop and land their canoes for the presentation, and a lunch break.

12 noon-2:00 pm:

-**Those not canoeing** will be driven to Columbia Woods where they may view our information midway and take an optional hike on the Centennial Trail.

-**Those canoeing** will continue on to Columbia Woods for the information midway.

1:00 pm-4:00 pm: Information Midway and Canoeing in the 34' Fur Trade Canoes.

-Non-swimmers will have the opportunity to go on water in the 34' trade canoes.

5:00 pm-8:00 pm: Dinner and Free Time

8:00 pm: Voyageur's Campfire!

Sunday, April 23: Those canoeing should be on the water by 10:00 am, and off the water at Isle a la Cache by no later than 4:00 pm for canoe pick-up. More Sunday details will be announced.

We will have a **leader's meeting for the event with Q&A** at the **April 12 Voyageur Trace Leaders' Roundtable**, 7:00 pm at Plymouth Place, 315 N. La Grange Rd., La Grange Park. **All leaders are encouraged to attend.**

Please contact us with any additional questions regarding this event!

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