



VOYAGEUR

READY FOR A CHALLENGE?

Background

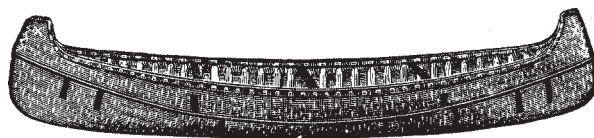
For nearly a hundred years, the French fur trade was dominated by two groups of men: the Coureurs de bois or “wood-runners” and the Voyageurs or “travelers.” While the Coureurs de bois were men who learned Indian ways and trails to assist with their fur trade, the Voyageurs were experts in knowledge 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!

1 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**
 - Purchase an inexpensive dry bag to store your personal gear inside for the trek



Remember to Bring

- Voyageur Waiver Form
- Medical Form with physician’s signature in past 12 months and a copy of Personal Insurance Card (front & back) Attached
- Tour Permit
- Proof of Troop Insurance

2 Registration - Voyageur

Voyageur Trek participants should arrive at Camp Powhatan between 1:00 and 3:00 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.



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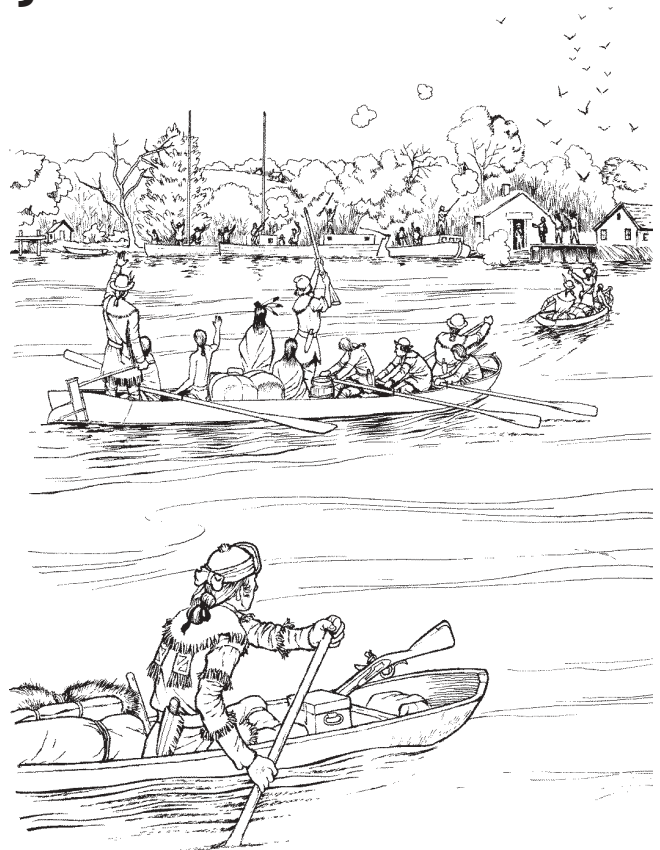
LIFE ON THE RIVER

3 Tentative Schedule

- Sunday** After registering with the Camp Director, proceed to medical check with your gear. 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 shake-down, 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 White Water Merit Badge as they learn to read the river, shoot the rapids, and calmly handle any emergencies the river might present.
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.
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) Inexpensive waterproof dry bag
- Ditty bag to help organize gear

Clothing

- (1) Pair shorts / Swimming Trunks
- (2) T-shirts
- (1) Wicking Long Underwear (optional)
- (1) Fleece or wool Vest or Jacket
- (1) Pair Long Pants
- (1) Rain Jacket and Rain Pants
No ponchos allowed!
- (3) Pairs of Socks (wool or wicking synthetic)
- (2) Pairs of Underwear
- (1) Wide brimmed Hat
- (1) Pair of Water Shoes (due to sharp rocks, we recommend closed toe shoes, not sandals)
- (1) Pair of Shoes to wear around camp

Eating Utensils

- (1) Plastic Bowl
- (1) Plastic Cup
- (1) Spoon
- (2) Water Bottles

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

Personal Items

- (1) Bandanna
- (1) Small Towel and Wash Cloth
- (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) Personal First Aid Kit
- (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

Sharable “Crew” Items

- (1) Insect Repellent
- (1) Bottle of Sunscreen
- (1) Baby Powder
- (1) Soap—biodegradable liquid soap
- (1) Backpacking Tent
- (1) Box of Waterproof Matches
- (1) Deck of Cards or small Game
- (1) Pair of small Binoculars
- (1) Camera—the waterproof, disposable type is recommended

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