

SAFETY ON THE TRIP

Safety may be, and should be a concern by all parents and guardians – so the Voyagers wish to reflect what may be expected.

STAFF: The staff is thoroughly vetted, including security checks, and ALL guides must meet strict criteria spelled out in 1 Timothy 3. In addition, staff works together on each trip, with the entire group, eliminating any and all chances for separation and or one on one interaction. The entire group works as an articulated team, and our guides are versed on this, along with the itinerary before all trips.

CAMP SECURITY: Canoe camps are set up by creating a perimeter with the upside down canoes. Each youth secures a spot, and rolls out his bedroll on the ground allowing the canoe to cover his head and shoulders – WE USE NO TENTS, everything is out in the open, and the guides sleep along the flanks or at a point where there may oversee the group of young men.

The camp is kept clean and neat. ALL food is stored away, and hung from trees during the night. NO snacks are allowed in personal gear, and we ask all of the young men to empty any snacks before bed into a sack to be hung in the trees – this ensures that we have no nighttime visitors to deal with.

RIVER SAFETY: Rivers are selected specifically for the varying level of experience found in nearly all trips. In addition to pairing inexperienced paddlers with experienced sternman (Man who steers), we also ensure that life preservers are worn when crossing open or deep water. In most cases the river is waist deep or less – we DO NOT paddle more aggressive rivers with inexperienced.

COMMUNICATION: ALL Guides are familiar with our course, and section of river selected. In addition, we share the trip plans with Guide Support, the Outfitter and in some occasions the MDNR and USFS officials. A contact number accompanies all Voyager trips and websites so that in an emergency, parents or guardians may reach Guide Support or the Outfitter.

We encourage open communication with parents on the final day of the trip, after we are headed for home.