



## VOYAGEUR CANOEING IN VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

Along the Minnesota-Canada border lays the pristine wilderness of Voyageurs National Park, harboring 218,000 acres of forest, water, and some of the oldest exposed rock formations in the world.

You'll embark from Crane Lake and soon be in the protected waterways and rugged terrain that provide habitat for moose, otter, beaver, loon and bald eagle. Paddling together in rhythm in a historic 34' Voyageur canoe, you'll explore the same narrow inlets and wide lakes that were traveled by French-Canadian Voyageurs 200 years ago. Along the wild shorelines you'll pass by old fish camps and pioneer cabins that date back to an earlier age.

As a small group, with your two guides, you'll do everything together: cook, camp, paddle, reflect, pray, and sleep under the stars of this magnificent Canadian-shield wilderness. Few other opportunities provide the kind of positive, intense, community-building experience that this awe-inspiring week provides.

### THE MONTREAL CANOE

Our 34-foot Montreal canoes are modeled after the canoes used in the fur trade era. Over 200 years ago groups of French Canadian fur traders called Voyageurs paddled these beautiful craft from the Great Lakes into the U.S. interior, trading with the native Indians. The canoes can carry up to sixteen people and their gear. Paddling together in a Montreal canoe is an ideal way to get to know one another and develop teamwork— just as the Voyageurs did – as you sing your way to new and exciting destinations.

### WEATHER AND BUGS

Summer weather in Voyageurs National Park can be highly variable. Temperatures can range from 45 degrees to 105 degrees and rain can come quickly. Often the days are hot and sunny with cool nights. The water can get fairly warm in many shallow bays for pleasant swimming. Remember your sunscreen and warm clothes! Mosquitoes and biting flies may be present so plan to bring insect repellent as well.

### SAFETY

We take every precaution to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. Two mature guide/counselors lead each trip. They are certified in Lifeguarding, Wilderness First Aid and CPR, and are given extensive training in emergency situations, weather and travel. The canoes are stable and are equipped with marine band radios for emergency communication. The National Park Service and sheriff's department are available for emergency assistance and can normally be reached 24 hours a day. Emergency response time is usually within 2 to 3 hours, but may be a little longer in a few locations. Amnicon has a 40-year safety record of wilderness travel with Montreal canoes and meets the high standards of the American Camping Association for accreditation.

# VOYAGEUR CANOEING

## in Voyageurs National Park

### *TYPICAL SCHEDULE*

#### DAY ONE

- Arrive at Amnicon between 2-4 pm
- Meet your guides!
- Volleyball, games or initiative activities
- Dinner
- Health and Safety orientation
- Go over the specifics of your trip with your guide
- Campfire, singing, devotions on the Lake Superior beach

#### DAY TWO

- Breakfast and First Word
- Pack your Duluth packs and load up the trailer
- Depart for Voyageurs' National Park
- Paddle out from Crane Lake to first campsite
- Set up camp, cook over the open fire
- Swimming, theme study, devotions

#### DAYS TWO-FIVE (*traveling days*)

- Breakfast and First Word
- Break camp
- Canoeing through clear lake waters, viewing spectacular scenery and spotting wildlife!
- Set up camp, swim, explore, games, theme study, environmental-activities
- Cook dinner over an open fire
- Campfire and discussions, singing, stargazing, stories, Last Word
- Fall asleep to the lullaby of the wilderness

#### DAY SIX

- Breakfast and First Word
- Break camp and paddle to take-out point
- Travel back to Amnicon
- Unpack and clean up
- Evaluation and farewells
- Depart from Amnicon around 4 pm

*Amnicon is an outreach ministry of Central Lutheran Church. Amnicon's programs are open to everyone. No one will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age. Any person who believes that anyone has been discriminated against in any USDA related activity should write immediately to the Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Drive, Alexandria, VA. 22302*