

# Northern Tier National High Adventure Programs Boy Scouts of America Advisor Planning Guide 2013



*"We ran the same rapids, knew the waves on the same big lakes, and suffered the same privations. Though ours was a modern age, we knew the winds still blew as they had then; the dim horizons looming out of the distance were no different from the mirages [the Voyageurs] had known. In the mornings we saw the same mists, resembling white horses galloping out of the bays. We knew all this, but most important was the deep companionship together. We had been most everywhere, and for us the North was much more than just terrain. We were part of its history."*

- Sigurd Olson, *Of Time and Place*

E-mail: [info@ntier.org](mailto:info@ntier.org)  
Phone- 218.365.4811  
Fax- 218.365.3112

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## WELCOME TO NORTHERN TIER...

Founded in 1923, Northern Tier is the oldest High Adventure Program in the Boy Scouts of America. For 90 years, Scouts at Northern Tier have paddled pristine lakes, sweated over rugged portages and explored the untrammled wilderness of the Great North American Canoe Country.

Though there have been many changes since 1923 (wood-canvas canoes giving way to aluminum canoes giving way to Kevlar canoes), the basic program of Northern Tier has remained the same. A massive wilderness area in concert with the expertise and leadership of a trained staff member (called an “Interpreter”) combine to provide a challenging and meaningful program for youth. The program is simple, and it works.

The end goal of Northern Tier is to develop good people. Through the experience of the rugged wilderness, Scouts learn physical fortitude and mental strength; through the isolated interactions within their crew, Scouts learn lessons in leadership, in the importance of doing their share of the work and in the necessity of teamwork to accomplish difficult tasks; through the careful practice of Leave No Trace Wilderness Ethics, Scouts learn to assess the impact of their actions upon their surroundings, to be aware of how they affect the environment and the people near them; and through the completion of their trip, Scouts gain confidence in their abilities to overcome tough challenges.



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## Part 1- General Information

### HOW DOES A NORTHERN TIER TRIP WORK?

#### The Crew

All Northern Tier participants belong to a crew. Crews vary in size (at the Ely Base they are limited to 8 people; at the Canadian bases they are limited to 11 people), but all crews consist of at least two adult leaders, a youth crew leader and a majority of youth participants. A Northern Tier Interpreter accompanies all crews.

Larger troops will be divided into “sister” crews. Though sister crews may know each other, they will have independent experiences while at Northern Tier to maintain the integrity of the wilderness program.

#### The Crew Leader

The Program of the Boy Scouts of America is specifically designed to develop youth leadership. A well-qualified Scout or Venturer should be selected as the Crew Leader early in the planning of each Northern Tier Expedition. The Crew Leader is responsible for leading the discussion of the Crew’s [route selection](#), organizing the pace of travel during the day and establishing the Crew duty roster for camp chores.

#### The Advisor

The Crew Advisor serves as a counselor and coach to the Crew Leader. The Crew Advisor is also responsible for ensuring the safety of everyone in the crew: all Crews are required to have an adult with training in [Wilderness First Aid and CPR](#). Finally, the Crew Advisor addresses crew conflicts that may require appropriate discipline.



#### The Interpreter

The Interpreter is a Canoe Country Counselor who serves as a teacher and resource for the Crew Leader and Crew. The Interpreter has received special training in the best practices for canoe country travel. The Interpreter aids the Crew Advisor in insuring the safety of the crew. Finally, the Interpreter is responsible for imparting the unique flavor, history, culture and adventurous spirit of the North Country to the crew.

#### The Wilderness

Northern Tier crews paddle through massive wilderness areas, where solitude allows for deeper meditation and the rugged terrain and mercurial elements provide for physical challenge. The wilderness is part-classroom and part-instructor in the Northern Tier experience.

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## WHAT ARE NORTHERN TIER'S PROGRAMS?

Northern Tier consists of three Wilderness Canoe Bases located in Ely, Minnesota; Atikokan, Ontario; and Bissett, Manitoba. Each base has its own personality and specific characteristics that make it more appealing to certain crews. In addition, certain bases have specialty programs that may be of interest to your Scouts.

### [Ely, Minnesota \[Charles L Sommers Canoe Base\]](#)

Northern Tier's oldest base, the Ely base outfits over 4,000 participants every year for wilderness canoeing. Northern Tier has hosted trips out of the Ely base since 1941.



Located outside of Ely, MN, crews leaving from the base can choose to paddle the [Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness \(BWCAW\)](#) in Minnesota or cross the border (only a 6-mile paddle away) into Ontario's [Quetico Provincial Park](#). Crew size is limited to 8-people at the Ely Base.

### **ORDER OF THE ARROW: WILDERNESS VOYAGE AND CANADIAN ODYSSEY**

The Ely base is also host to two award-winning Order of the Arrow Programs for 16-20 year old individual Scouts, the *OA Wilderness Voyage* and *OA Canadian Odyssey*. Both programs last two weeks featuring a service week of strenuous trail work for the US Forest

Service or the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and a second week of paddling. The program emphasizes leadership, cheerful service and character development. For more information visit our [website](#).

### **FOREST CORPS**

Based off of the highly successful Order of the Arrow program, Forest Corps is a coeducational wilderness experience focused on conservation and leadership development. The program features a week of wilderness volunteer work within the BWCAW followed by a week of canoe tripping. Participants are young men and women between the ages of 16-20. For more information visit our [website](#).

### **LONE VOYAGUER**

The *Lone Voyageur* program allows for individual scouts or troops who cannot reach the minimum number of scouts required for a trip to meet each other and form their own crew. These 6 day trips are offered throughout the summer. For more information visit our [website](#).

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## [Atikokan, Ontario \[Donald Rogert Canoe Base\]](#)

Located on beautiful Perch Lake outside of the community of Atikokan, Ontario. Atikokan base outfits over 1500 participants every summer. Crews at the base paddle in two distinct regions, the Quetico Provincial Park and the Canadian Crown Lands (part of which is the Turtle River – White Otter Provincial Park). The Quetico is an exceptional wilderness area where almost all human traces have been removed while the Crown Lands contain old trappers' cabins, abandoned gold mines and rotting logging sluices in addition to a gorgeous wilderness. In addition, crews in the Crown Lands can have up to 11 members.

### **FISHING EXPEDITIONS:**

For crews interested specifically in fishing, the Atikokan Base offers intensive fishing trips, complete with fishing gear and specifically trained fishing interpreters. For more information, see page [35](#).

### **KAYAK TREKS**

Specialized kayaking trips are available for those who want to try their hand at a different type of wilderness travel. Crews will spend a day learning how to properly and safely use a kayak, before embarking on a wilderness excursion. For more information, see page [36](#).



## [Bissett, Manitoba \(Northern Expeditions Canoe Base\)](#)

The most remote High Adventure opportunity in the Boy Scouts of America, the Bissett Base offers an unparalleled wilderness adventure opportunity for those scouts who desire a greater challenge.



All trips begin and end with a float plane trip to a canoe cache that Northern Tier maintains in the heart of the 1.5 million acre [Atikaki Provincial Park](#). The 500-600 Northern Tier participants that use the park every year form the majority of users for the area – the region is very wild and very beautiful, and the fishing is excellent.

Bissett crews are typically older and have prior High Adventure experience or have a significant interest in fishing. The area is very remote and travel can be quite strenuous – if you find these facts exciting, you may be well suited for a trip through Bissett.



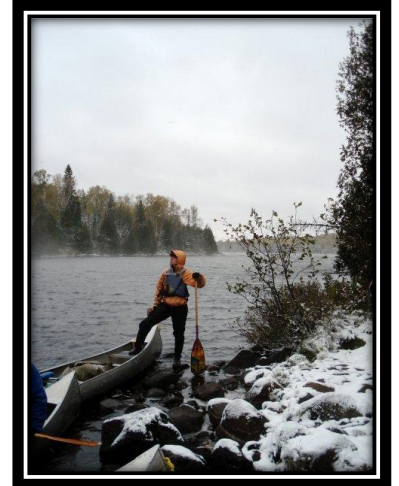
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## Second Season Opportunities- Ely, MN

### AUTUMN ADVENTURES

A plethora of opportunities are available for adventures in the fall. Northern Tier has a very flexible fall program that can be customized to fit the crew's need. Programs generally fall into these four categories:

- **FALL CANOE TRIPS** – Enjoy the beautiful colors of fall on a fully outfitted canoe trip, complete with an Interpreter.
- **FALL BACKPACKING TREKS** – Backpacking trails abound in the BWCAW and the fall is the best time to explore them. No bugs and beautiful weather make it the perfect time to go for a hike.
- **FALL FISHING TRIPS** – Customized Fishing Trips are offered throughout the fall.
- **“GET YOUR FEET WET” ADVENTURES** – Introductory Canoe Trips for Parent-Son pairs.



### OKPIK COLD WEATHER CAMPING

Northern Tier's OKPIK Cold Weather Camping Program is one of the most unique programs in scouting. OKPIK runs from December 27 – the first weekend in March. OKPIK Programs include:

- **CABIN STAY AND WEBELOS WEEKEND:** Designed for WEBELOS and younger scouts, OKPIK's Cabin Stay program provides an excellent introduction to the world of High Adventure activities. Try out skiing, snowshoeing, shelter building and more, while still having a warm cabin to return to each night.
- **OKPIK SAMPLER-** The OKPIK Sampler is designed for First Time Winter campers. Sleep out on the ice in a snow village you constructed in the wilderness and try your hand at a variety of winter activities (from skiing to ice fishing).
- **OKPIK TREKS:** Explore deep into the wilderness on skis, snowshoes or by foot. OKPIK Treks are multi-day excursions emphasizing efficient winter travel techniques.
- **DOGSLED PROGRAMS:** Try your hand at dogsledding. Northern Tier offers two Multi-Day dogsledding programs – choose whether you want to sled out to a remote campsite with the dogs or stay in a heated cabin and go for day trip rides.



### TRAINING CENTER AND CONFERENCES

Northern Tier hosts training events throughout the year: LNT Master Educator, Wilderness First Responder, Cold Weather Leader Training, Wilderness First Aid, etc. In addition, Northern Tier facilities are available for conference use throughout the fall.

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## WHAT ARE THE RISKS? (RISK ADVISORY)

The Northern Tier National High Adventure Programs have an outstanding safety record. The Boy Scouts of America and Northern Tier emphasize safety through education and strict adherence to established policies and procedures. The safety of your group is dependent upon your attention to these procedures as well as being physically fit, properly equipped and trained for the rigors of remote wilderness canoeing.

The policies and procedures of Northern Tier and the Boy Scouts of America, if followed, will minimize these risks as much as possible. Parents, leaders and participants should be advised that despite our best attempts at risk management, it is not possible to remove ALL risk from a wilderness expedition.

- Possible risks include (but are not limited to) motor vehicle accidents; severe weather conditions such as hail, lightning, heat or cold and high winds; forest fires; medical conditions such as heart attack, appendicitis, hypothermia, severe allergies and asthma or diabetes related conditions; insect borne diseases such as the West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease; accidents such as cuts, embedded fish hooks, burns or falls; risks associated with being on large, cold lakes; and encounters with wildlife.
- Medical evacuations and rescue services are coordinated by Northern Tier in close coordination with local authorities.
- Please carefully read the information in this Planning Guide and share it with your **crew(s), leaders, parents and youth**. If you have any further questions about risk management, contact Northern Tier by phone 218.365.4811 or e-mail at [info@ntier.org](mailto:info@ntier.org).

## OTHER GENERAL INFORMATION:

### Insurance

Northern Tier fees include accident and sickness insurance coverage. This applies for your travel to and from the Northern Tier base as well as your Northern Tier Expedition. This policy is secondary to a family policy. All participants with family insurance should include the insurance company name and policy number on their BSA Health and Medical Record form and should also submit a copy of the insurance card with the medical form. A BSA [\*Camper's Accident and Sickness Insurance\*](#) pamphlet will be sent in the Advisor packet and is also available online at <http://www.ntier.org/filestore/NorthernTier/pdf/HSR.pdf>.

### EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER

If there is a home emergency while your crew is attending Northern Tier, **please contact Northern Tier at 218.365.4811.**

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## Part 2- Getting Started: Trip Reservations, Finances, and Schedule

### WHAT ARE THE REQUIRMENTS TO ATTEND NORTHERN TIER?

Each Crew must have:

- A minimum of two adults (one of which must be at least 21 years of age and registered with the BSA). There are no gender restrictions for leadership except for co-ed Venturing crews, which must have both male and female leadership 21 years old or older.
- 1 adult leader trained in the following:
  - [Wilderness First Aid](#) (16 hour course)
  - [CPR](#)
  - [Weather Hazards](#)
  - [Safe Swim Defense](#)
  - [Safety Afloat](#)
- All adult leaders must be trained in [Youth Protection](#)

All participants:

- Must be 13 years of age by the end of the year in which you attend
- Must weigh 100 LBS and no more than 295 LBS- more information on pg. 21
- Must have a current (within 12 months) and complete [BSA Health and Medical Record](#)
- Must be classified as a [BSA swimmer](#)
- Must be a registered Boy Scout, Varsity Scout or Venturer

### I'M READY TO PLAN MY TRIP. HOW DO I MAKE A RESERVATION?

The first step to planning your Northern Tier Expedition is to answer the following questions:

- 1) Which Base do we want to attend?** Ely? Atikokan? Bissett? See pg. 7 for more information on the bases.
- 2) What day do we want to arrive?** Crews can arrive any day between June 12 and August 14<sup>th</sup>
- 3) How long of a trip do we want?** We offer 6-10 night trips (7-10 nights in Bissett). The first and last nights are spent in a cabin on base; all other nights are spent camping in the wilderness.
- 4) How many crews will we need?** Groups are a minimum of 6 people and maximum of 8 in Ely and 11 in Atikokan and Bissett.

Once you have answered all of the above questions, call Northern Tier on the phone to make your reservation. After reserving your trip, you will have 3 weeks to turn in your \$300 deposit per crew (note: if making reservation after October 1, we require a \$1,300 deposit per crew).

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## WHAT IS MY CREW NUMBER?

During your phone reservation, you will be given a crew number. This number should be referenced in any correspondence with Northern Tier. Your crew number is assigned to you based upon which base you are attending, the date you are arriving and the number of crews that you have. For example crew number **E072613ABC** is compiled of:

1. **E** represents the base you are attending:
  - a. E is for Ely
  - b. A is for Atikokan
  - c. B is for Bissett
2. **072613** is the date this crew will arrive at Northern Tier (July 26, 2013)
3. **ABC** indicates that this group consists of 3 crews: Crew A, Crew B and Crew C



## WHAT IS THE CREW PAYMENT SCHEDULE AND POLICY?

Each crew pays for their trip in three installments, all of which are non-refundable and non-transferable:

- 1) The first installment is a **\$300.00 DEPOSIT PER CREW** due within 3 weeks of reservation.
- 2) The second installment is a **\$1,000.00 FIRST PAYMENT PER CREW** due Oct. 1 or within 3 weeks of reservation (whichever date is later).
- 3) The final installment consists of the **BALANCE OF PAYMENT**. Before making this payment, confirm the number of youth and adult participants on your Final Billing Statement. This installment is due:
  - o June crews – March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - o July crews – April 1<sup>st</sup>
  - o August crews – May 1<sup>st</sup>
- 4) Any potential refunds that fall outside of these policies must be requested in writing within 30 days of the crew's arrival date at Northern Tier.

**ALL FEES (Deposit, First Payment and Balance of Payment) ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE IN EVENT OF CANCELLATION. EXERCISE CAUTION IN MAKING RESERVATIONS OR PAYING FEES FOR ANYONE WHO HAS NOT MADE A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT.**

Northern Tier High Adventure Programs must commit financial resources to employ staff, purchase food and supplies, and prepare for base operations. Participants are, therefore, also required to make a financial commitment to attend. Be conservative in making reservations to avoid losing fees due to cancellations.

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## HOW DO I PAY FOR MY NORTHERN TIER TRIP?

We are only able to accept checks for your crew payments. NO CREDIT CARDS! Please make checks out to the BSA. Please send payments to:

Northern Tier High Adventure  
Attn: Registrar  
PO BOX 509  
Ely, MN 55731

### Camperships

[Camperships](#) are available to youth members with special financial needs who are participating in the Northern Tier program. The campership application can be found on our website at [www.ntier.org/triplanning](http://www.ntier.org/triplanning). The completed [application form\(s\)](#) and other required documents must be returned to Northern Tier by January 31 of the year your crew attends. The camperships will be reviewed in February with notification going to the crew advisor prior to the due date of the final crew payment.



### WHAT ARE THE FEES TO ATTEND?

A detailed budget worksheet can be found on our website at [www.ntier.org/triplanning](http://www.ntier.org/triplanning) (click on the next steps page which is appropriate to the base in which you are attending).

There are two types of required fees: Northern Tier Camping Fees and Park Permit fees. Bissett crews do not pay any Park Permit fees, but must budget for contracting their float plane trip. Atikokan crews traveling in the Crown Lands do not pay Park Permit fees.

### Northern Tier Camping Fees:

- **6-8 DAY TRIPS-** \$63.00 per person per day
- **9-10 DAY TRIPS-** \$58.00 per person per day
- **Specialty Trips:** Fishing Expeditions cost \$474/participant and Kayaking Treks cost \$424/participant.

\*\*\*Additional taxes are charged for all crews in Canada: in Atikokan, a 13% Harmonized Sales Tax is added to all crew fees and in Bissett a 5% Goods and Service Tax is added to all crew fees. In addition, a \$30 work permit fee is charged to all Crews traveling in Canada (including those entering the Quetico from the Ely base).

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## Park Permit Fees:

**BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS (BWCAW) FEES** – All crews at the Ely base who will be staying in the United States will need a [BWCAW](#) Permit. To reserve a [BWCAW](#) permit, a deposit of \$38.00 is required and will show up on your final billing statement under “Miscellaneous Fees.” This \$38.00 pays for the Park Permits of 2 adults at \$16 per adult as well as a \$6 reservation fee. The remainder of the permit fees will be paid at check in and collected by credit card. **Be prepared to pay additional fees on day of arrival.**

Total [BWCAW](#) Fees include:

- \$6.00 Non-Refundable Reservation Fee (paid at time of final payment)
- \$16.00/Adult (2 adults are paid for at time of final payment, the rest are for upon arrival at Northern Tier)
- \$16.00/Interpreter (paid for upon arrival at Northern Tier)
- \$8.00/Youth (paid for upon arrival at Northern Tier)
- \$.25/Person/Day on Water: Interpreter User fee (paid for upon arrival at Northern Tier)

**QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK FEES** – To reserve a [Quetico](#) Permit, a deposit of \$115.00 is required and will show up on your final billing statement under “Miscellaneous Fees.” This consists of a \$100 deposit that goes towards your final payment of permit fees and an \$11.25 non-refundable permit reservation fee, and the CND to US exchange rate. **The remainder of the permit fees during your trip to Northern Tier.**

[Quetico](#) Costs are different depending on whether you enter from the North (through the Atikokan Base) or the South (through the Ely Base).

Ely Base Quetico Fees:



During the Spring you will have to pay a few additional fees: an \$11.25 Reservation Fee (included on your final payment bill) and a \$30/adult fee for a [Remote Area Border Crossing Permit](#) - need to obtain 1 permit per person (both youth and adult) prior to your arrival. To learn more about how to apply for an RABC, go to page [31](#).

The vast majority of your permit fees will be paid after your arrival at the Ely Base. At the Ely Base, the remainder of Permit Fees will be paid at a remote Canadian Ranger Station on the first day of your trip. You will need a Credit Card to pay these fees.

- \$21.50 CND/Adult/Night (paid at Canadian Ranger Station)
- \$21.50 CND/Interpreter/Night (paid at Canadian Ranger Station)
- \$8.50 CND/Youth/Night (paid at Canadian Ranger Station)

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## Atikokan Base Quetico Fees:

During the Spring you will be charged an \$11.25 Reservation Fee (included on your final payment bill).

The vast majority of your permit fees will be paid during your trip. **The listed fees below must be paid at the Quetico Parks office in Atikokan prior to your arrival at Northern Tier.** You will need a Credit Card to pay these fees.

- \$15.00 CND/Adult/Night (paid at Quetico Parks Office)
- \$15.00 CND/Interpreter/Night (paid at Quetico Parks Office)
- \$6.50 CND/Youth/Night (paid at Quetico Parks Office)

## Other Costs of Northern Tier Trips:

**MAPS** – Northern Tier requires that a set of Maps be carried in each canoe. In Ely, Maps cost \$7.75 and an estimated 3 maps are needed for each canoe. In **Canada, Maps cost \$15.00 and an estimated 2-3 maps are needed for each canoe.**

**FLOAT PLANES** – A Float Plane Shuttle is required at the Bissett Base. While the cost of a Float Plane cost will not be announced until January, \$210/Person would be a good budgetary guess.

Crews are responsible for paying for their Interpreter's Float Plane ride.

**LIGHTWEIGHT CANOES** - Lightweight Canoes (Kevlar or Duralite) are available at both the Atikokan and Ely bases for \$30/Canoe/Day. An availability chart for Lightweight Canoes can be found online at [www.ntier.org/tripplanning](http://www.ntier.org/tripplanning). To reserve the canoes we

will need to know your crew number and length of trip. You will need to pay a \$50 deposit per canoe.

**CREW PHOTOGRAPHS**- When you arrive at Northern Tier each crew has a photograph taken. You can order copies of pictures - **5x7**- \$5.99 or **8x10**- \$7.99



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## Fishing Licenses

Northern Tier recommends that all Fishing Licenses be purchased online in advance of your trip. If youth under the age of 16 (for fishing in Minnesota or Manitoba) or under the age of 18 (for fishing in Ontario) would like to fish, they can fish under the license of a single adult. However, their catch will be restricted to this adult's limit.

**MINNESOTA FISHING LICENSES**- All individuals, 16 years of age and older need to obtain a license to fish in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), licenses can be purchased in advanced over the phone by calling 1-888-665-4236, or [online](#). For current pricing and license information visit <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/>

NOTE: A social Security number is required to obtain a Minnesota Fishing License

**ONTARIO FISHING LICENSES** - All individuals 18 years of age and older need to obtain a license to fish in Ontario (i.e., Crews at the Atikokan Base or Ely Crews travelling into the Quetico). Licenses should be purchased over the phone at 1-800-288-1155 or online at <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/>. NOTE: There are several regulations in Canada that may be different than what you are used to in the US.

**MANITOBA FISHING LICENSES** – All individuals 16 years of age or older need to obtain a license to fish in Manitoba. Crews are encouraged to pre-purchase a license through paper application well in advance of their trip (2 months). Licenses can be bought in Manitoba from private vendors (see page 39 for information on where to buy licenses on your way to Bissett) but are not sold at the Bissett base. For more information, visit the Manitoba Conservation website: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/>.

In most Canadian Parks, special fishing rules are enforced:

- No organic bait
- Barbless hooks are required. Barbs can be pinched flat with a pair of pliers. (Having barbless hooks dramatically increases the survival rate of released fish, are significantly easier to remove from human tissue if accidentally embedded, and do not significantly decrease the chance of landing a fish.)
- Lead-free tackle is required.

## **WHAT IS INCLUDED IN MY NORTHERN TIER CAMPING FEES?**

- Group Gear - Over \$5,000 in trail equipment is issued to your crew: stoves, tents, rain fly, cook set, packs, and more
- All Food while on the trail and 2 nights on base.
- Lodging the night you arrive and the night before you leave.
- Aluminum Canoes ([upgrades](#) are available for addition fee), paddles and PFD's.
- Trained Staff Member (Interpreter) who will accompany you for your entire trip.
- Emergency communications device (radio or satellite phone)
- Special Participant Emblem
- Camper's Accident Insurance (see pg. 10 for more info)



# Advisor Planning Guide 2013

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## HOW SHOULD I SCHEDULE MY TRIP PLANNING?

### Winter 2013:

Northern Tier begins taking reservations [online](#) on January 7<sup>th</sup> for the summer of 2014. Start planning your trip prior to this date so that you can make a reservation as soon as possible. The earlier you make your reservation, the more likely you will be able to get the trip dates you want.

You will need to recruit individuals to attend your trek (if you have not done so already). It is recommended having a few more individuals recruited than needed so that you can continue to maintain full crews as individuals drop out.

- We have promotional material available for download at <http://www.ntier.org/Resources>
- Depending on the area that you are in we may be able to send out a previous staff member or crew that has attend Northern Tier before to help in your recruitment efforts.

You will then need to collect a [deposit](#) from these individuals to secure your spot.

Arrange to complete your required Adult Leader [Trainings and Certifications](#).

### Spring and Summer (April – August) 2013

- Consider special trip options like [lightweight canoe rentals](#).
- Start training for your Northern Tier Expedition – make sure that the other members of your crew are training as well. Training should include:
  - Engaging in physical activity for at least 30 minutes 5 days each week
  - Develop basic camping skills: cooking, building fires, pitching a tent and throwing a bear bag.
  - Canoeing and Backpack: learn a J-Stroke, carry a 50-lb Pack, and portage a Canoe.
- Begin arranging your travel to and from Northern Tier: flights, ground transportation to and from the base and any lodging while traveling. More information on travel options to each base can be found on pgs. [28](#), [33](#) and [38](#).

### Fall (September – December) 2013

- Begin collecting funds for your first payment of \$1,000 per crew. [This payment is due October 1](#). Make sure to update Northern Tier of any changes to your number of crews, and your participation numbers.
- Make sure your crew sets up Doctor Appointments to update their BSA Health and Medical Record. These Records must be current within a year of your trip. Make sure all members of your crew meet the physical requirements to participate in a Northern Tier trip, including the Height and Weight Requirements found on pg. [21](#).
- Northern Tier will send you information on the different types of parks and routes to paddle through in November. Use this information to fill out your Permit Application Form. [The Permit Application Form is due on December 1](#).
  - [Ely Permit Application Form](#)
  - [Atikokan Permit Application Form](#)
- Bissett crews should begin making [float plane reservations](#) for Bissett.

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- Begin reviewing the personal [equipment list](#) with your crew. Gear items make great Christmas gifts and can be purchased in our trading post online at <http://www.northerntiertradingpost.org/>

## Winter (January and February) 2014

- Crews traveling in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Quetico Provincial Park should expect reservation confirmation e-mails in January and February. If you have not received your BWCAW reservation confirmation by February, please contact the Northern Tier Registrar.
- Complete [campership applications](#) in January. Campership applications are due on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Spring (March – June) 2014:

- Keep your eyes peeled for a Spring Mailing Package in your mailbox. Please review materials with your units.
- Final Payments are due in the Spring:
  - For Crews arriving in June, the Final Payment is due March 1
  - For Crews arriving in July, the Final Payment is due April 1
  - For Crews arriving in August, the Final Payment due May 1
- Double check that all of your [Check In Paperwork](#) is together:
  - Complete and Submit your Crew Roster online. The form can be found at [www.ntier.org/resources/](http://www.ntier.org/resources/)
  - Submit your [BSA Tour and Activity Plan](#). Double Check that all Certifications ([WFA](#), [CPR](#) and [BSA E-Certifications](#)) are complete and that all participants have current [BSA Health and Medical Records](#)
  - Make sure that you have a completed [BSA Swim Test](#) for all participants
  - Go over the [Participant Policies Sheet](#) with the Crew Leader
  - Pack a full and thorough [First Aid Kit](#) to take with you on your trek.
- Finalize all Transportation Plans. Bissett and Atikokan Crews should double check to make sure that their Float Plane shuttles are correct. If you have any questions, please contact Northern Tier!

# Advisor Planning Guide 2013

## Part 3 - Preparing For Your Trip

### WHAT DO WE NEED FOR CHECK IN?

- WILDERNESS FIRST AID AND CPR CERTIFICATION** – Each Crew must present proof that one adult leader is currently certified in [CPR](#) and one adult leader is currently certified in [Wilderness First Aid](#). A list of organizations that offer Wilderness First Aid can be found online [here](#).
- BSA E-CERTIFICATIONS** – The following trainings can be found at [www.myscouting.org](http://www.myscouting.org). Each Crew must present proof that at least one adult leader has training in each of the following:
  - **BSA Safety Afloat**
  - **BSA Safe Swim Defense**
  - **BSA Weather Hazards**
- BSA YOUTH PROTECTION** – All Adult Leaders must present proof of current Youth Protection Training. This training can be found at [www.myscouting.org](http://www.myscouting.org).
- SWIMMING CLASSIFICATION RECORD** - All participants (both youth and adult) must successfully complete the BSA Swimmers' Test. This form can be found at [www.ntier.org/resources](http://www.ntier.org/resources).
- BSA HEALTH AND MEDICAL FORMS** – All participants must submit complete and current (within 1 year) Medical Forms and meet Height/Weight Requirements.
- PARENTAL RELEASE FORM** – To be used by any crew crossing the border into Canada. See page 32 for more information on why it is required.
- PARTICIPANT POLICY SHEET** – Must be signed by the Youth Crew Leader indicating their understanding of Northern Tier policies.
- Copy of a submitted application for a [TOUR AND ACTIVITY PLAN](#)**
- PERMIT INFORMATION** – Crews travelling in the BWCAW and Quetico should bring their permit information with them.

In addition, Crews will be asked:

- If they have a complete and thorough **FIRST AID KIT**
- If they have arranged a **FLOAT PLANE SHUTTLE**
- If they have any **SPECIAL DEPARTURE PLANS** (Early Breakfast, etc.)

### WHAT PHYSICAL CONDITIONING AND PREPARATION IS NEEDED?

To insure safety, all participants must be physically prepared to enjoy a rugged canoe trip. On a canoe trip, you may be paddling 10 miles a day or more in windy conditions and may carry as much as 85 pounds across a portage. You will be using your arms and upper body for paddling and your back and legs for portaging. It is important that everyone be in very good condition so that both youth and adults can participate in the level of adventure that they deserve.

A regular program of physical conditioning for at least six months prior to the trip is very strongly recommended. Plan some type of aerobic exercise for 30 to 60 minutes a session, three to five times a week. Jogging, running up and walking down hills or flights of stairs, and hiking with a full pack are excellent methods of physical preparation. How fast you can run or how far you go is not nearly as important as regular exercise. Other aerobic exercises such as swimming, bicycling, stationary cycling and aerobic exercise classes can supplement your training. Start slowly and gradually increase the duration and intensity of your exercises.

You should also do some upper body exercises such as push-ups, weight training, pull-ups or best of all, paddling. Remember; the first step is to check with your physician before starting any physical fitness program.

You must get a physical examination from your physician within 12 months (ideally 30 days) of your High Adventure expedition. No other form other than the [BSA Health and Medical Record](#) will be accepted upon arrival. Make sure your scouts take the current [Form](#) to the doctor at the time of their physical.

Anyone with significant hypertension (150/95 or higher) should be treated before coming to Northern Tier to reduce their blood-pressure and bring it as close as possible to normal (135/90). They should continue on blood-pressure medication while participating in the expedition. Hypertension can increase the risk of angina or stroke. While we do not operate at high altitudes participants will be carrying heavy loads over steep and rocky trails and will experience strenuous activity in remote areas.



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### WHAT ARE THE HEIGHT AND WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS?

The following table shows the recommended weights for each height, as well as the maximum weight for that height. **Northern Tier strongly recommends that each participant not exceed the maximum weight on the table for their height. Northern Tier requires that you fall between the minimum (100 pounds) and maximum (295 pounds) allowed weights for participation.**

Weight-to-Height Table Northern Tier National High Adventure Programs		
Height	Recommended Weight (pounds)	Maximum Weight (pounds)
<b>Minimum Allowed Weight</b> <b>***No participants weighing less than 100 pounds will be allowed to participate.</b>		<b>100 pounds</b>
5' 0"	100 - 138	166
5' 1"	101 - 143	172
5' 2"	104 - 148	178
5' 3"	107 - 152	183
5' 4"	111 - 157	189
5' 5"	114 - 162	195
5' 6"	118 - 167	201
5' 7"	121 - 172	207
5' 8"	125 - 178	214
5' 9"	129 - 185	220
5' 10"	132 - 188	226
5' 11"	136 - 194	233
6' 0"	140 - 199	239
6' 1"	144 - 205	246
6' 2"	148 - 210	252
6' 3"	152 - 216	260
6' 4"	156 - 222	267
6' 5"	160 - 228	274
6' 6"	164 - 234	281
6' 7" +	170 - 240	295
<b>Maximum Allowed Weight</b> <b>***No participants weighing more than 295 pounds will be allowed to participate.</b>		<b>295 pounds</b>

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## WHAT GEAR IS NEEDED?

### Required Gear

- BOOTS** - All participants are required to wear boots that have full foot and ankle coverage, a rugged stitched or vulcanized sole and drainage at the instep. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS.** Boots may be purchased through [Northern Tier](#).
- RAIN GEAR** - We require a quality rain jacket and recommend rain pants. Make sure that your rain gear is waterproof, not just water resistant. Ponchos are not acceptable and are very dangerous in the event of a capsized canoe.



### Suggested Personal Gear

#### **'DRY CLOTHES' (also known as 'camp' clothes for the trail)**

- Closed-toed and closed-heeled camp shoes (lightweight sneakers). Sandals, Water Slippers, Vibram Five Fingers<sup>®</sup> and Crocs<sup>™</sup> are not allowed.
- [T-shirt](#) (synthetic)
- [Pants](#) (synthetic)
- [Socks](#) (wool or synthetic)
- [Lightweight fleece jacket or vest](#)
- Underwear (synthetic)
- [Stocking hat](#)
- [Long Underwear](#) (synthetic)

#### **'WET' CLOTHES (also known as 'travel' clothes for trail)**

- [Boots](#) (**REQUIRED**)
- [T-shirt](#) (synthetic)
- [Long-sleeve shirt](#) (synthetic) for sun and bug protection
- [Socks](#) (wool or wool/synthetic)
- Underwear (synthetic)
- [Pants](#), zip-off legs (synthetic). If not zip off then shorts (synthetic)
- [Broad-brimmed hat](#)
- [Rain coat](#) (**REQUIRED**)
- [Rain pants](#)

### **OTHER GEAR**

- [Sleeping Bag](#) – synthetic, lightweight and compact 35 degree bag with compression stuff sack
- [Stuff sacks](#) for clothing and other gear - compression sacks or dry bags
- [Sleeping pad](#) - closed cell or self-inflating foam
- [Bandanna](#) or small camp towel
- [Belt or suspenders](#)
- [Toothbrush](#)
- [Bowl](#), plastic - 12 oz
- [Spoon](#), plastic or metal
- [Cup](#), plastic or metal

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- [Water bottle](#) - 1 L (high quality - no recycled beverage bottles)
- Sunglasses and eye glasses with keeper strap
- Lip balm with sunblock
- Personal medications as needed (2 supplies to carry in 2 locations)
- Feminine hygiene items as needed
- [Pocketknife](#) - small
- [Flashlight or headlamp](#) - small
- Whistle
- [Small Compass](#)



## OPTIONAL PERSONAL GEAR

- Camera with extra batteries
- Head net for mosquitoes
- Comb or small travel brush

## ITEMS FOR THE END OF YOUR TRIP

- Clean, dry clothes
- Dry shoes
- Toiletries
- Towel
- Bathing suit for sauna
- Flip-flops for shower
- Uniform

## CREW GEAR

- [Crew First Aid Kit \[Required\]](#)
- Repair kit (multi-tool, duct tape, sewing kit)
- Sunscreen - enough for entire crew
- Bug repellent with Deet - enough for entire crew
- Toothpaste - one small tube should outfit entire crew
- Foot powder - medicated

## OPTIONAL CREW GEAR

- Spice kit - personalized to augment the base issued spice kit
- Binoculars
- Fillet Knife
- Fishing pole and tackle - 3 to 6 per crew
- Lightweight fish stringer - 1 per canoe

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## Part 4- What Happens on Base

### WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE FIRST DAY I'M ON BASE?

The afternoon of your arrival will be busy! Please make sure that you arrive on base between 1 and 2 PM. Be prepared for the following:

- Meeting your Interpreter
- Complete your first portage! Carry personal and group gear to your crew's assigned cabin or tent (may be up to a ¼ mile hike).
- [Crew Check In](#) (presentation of paperwork, health forms, and copies of your certifications)
- Gear and food outfitting
- [Route Planning](#)
- An Interpreter led shake-down of [group and personal gear](#)
- Dinner
- Orientation presentation
- Visiting the [Trading Post](#)



It is highly preferable to fulfill all of these tasks the afternoon you arrive. Any unfulfilled tasks will delay your start in the morning and cut into the amount of time you will spend on the water.

Breakfast will be served at **7:15 AM** the next morning. Your Interpreter will lead you through any additional preparations, after which you will be ready to pack up your canoes and hit the aquatic trail.

### WHEN SHOULD WE PLAN ON STARTING THE TRIP HOME?

We're always sorry to see crews depart, but all good things must come to an end. Breakfast will be served on your final day at 7:15am and then you may depart. **The Check Out process must be completed by 8:00pm the day you get off the water, NOT the morning you leave for home.** If your crew wants to get an early start to your trip home, a continental breakfast may be made available. You will have to inform our staff of this during the Check In process when you initially arrive.

### HOW DO WE KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING ON OUR TRIP?

Northern Tier requires every canoe to have a set of [maps](#) for their trip. Crews will have two to four canoes, depending on size (we seat three people to a canoe). The number of [maps](#) needed, will depend on the route chosen. Some easier routes will only require one or two [maps](#) while other more difficult routes will require eight to ten. [Maps](#) cost approximately \$10.00 each in Ely and \$15.00 each in Bissett and Atikokan.



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### WHERE CAN WE STORE OUR ITEMS WHILE ON THE WATER?

For crews parking vehicles on base, Northern Tier requests that personal gear be stored in the locked vehicle. For crews that are dropped off at base without a vehicle, lockers are available for storing personal gear that is not going on the water. Each crew that arrives by means other than personal vehicles will be issued one locker. The dimensions of the locker are 22" wide, 24" deep and 45" high with locks provided by Northern Tier. Northern Tier suggests packing in duffel bags for an easier fit in the locker. Please note that these lockers are NOT available for crews that have personal vehicles that will be staying in the base parking lot during their trip. If this is the case for your crew, please plan on locking your non-trail gear in your vehicle. A lock box is available for all crews to store keys, wallets and other valuables.

### WHERE DO WE SLEEP ON BASE? SHOWER? DO LAUNDRY?

The night you arrive at Northern Tier and the night before you return home, you will be sleeping on base. Each crew will be assigned either a rustic Northwoods cabin or a spacious outfitter tent. Each cabin and tent is outfitted with 8-12 beds and/or cots. Crew members of a different gender than the majority of the crew will be assigned to a different cabin or tent.



There are shower/sauna buildings with toilet facilities. Crews are encouraged to wait to take a shower or sauna until the afternoon they return from their trip in order to save on water resources. Plus, nothing attracts mosquitoes better than a freshly bathed person.

Northern Tier does NOT have laundry facilities available. Please come prepared with clean clothes to change into after getting off the water. Uniforms are encouraged for the evening programs.

### HOW DO WE STAY IN TOUCH WITH OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHILE WE'RE AT NOTHERN TIER?

Remember that you will be embarking on a Wilderness Canoe Trek. Crews are strongly encouraged to leave connections to the urban world on base when out on the trail. Cell phones are discouraged while in the wilderness – as there is essentially no reception, they are pretty pointless anyway.

While on base, limited cell phone coverage exists and some service providers are better than others. Due to the remote location of the bases, we cannot guarantee any cell phone coverage. Similarly the bases do not have any internet connectivity available to crews. Our internet bandwidth is extremely limited as we are quite literally at the end of the road. Because of this, our internet connection is reserved solely for our business operations. *This makes the necessity of completing all [E-Certifications](#) ahead of time and bringing paper documentation absolutely IMPERATIVE.*

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If there is an emergency at home while you're on trail, Northern Tier may be called at 218.365.4811 and we will get the message to you as soon as we are able. Please note that this means we will not be able to get the message to you until after you get off the water. We do not maintain regular contact with our crews. Remember, you're in the wilderness. Enjoy it!

### WHAT IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY WHILE ON THE TRAIL?

Before we discuss emergency communications, it is important to note that Northern Tier treks are true High Adventure experiences and your crew will be in a vast wilderness area. Northern Tier does NOT maintain regular communication with our crews as it is not necessary and is a drain on resources. If an emergency does happen while on the trail, your Interpreter should immediately contact the base and our management team will work with the Interpreter and Crew to figure out the best possible solution.

All Northern Tier crews are issued either an Emergency Radio or a Satellite Phone, depending on their route. Your Interpreter is trained in the operation of these devices and will in turn train your crew. Unless otherwise incapacitated, your Interpreter is solely responsible for any communication with the base.

*Northern Tier has an amazing safety record and we rarely have to evacuate someone. When we do have to make that decision, please realize that evacuations can take several hours and potentially multiple days as our primary method of evacuation is by canoe. While float planes are a possibility, the use of them is considered high-risk and therefore they are only used for exceptional emergencies. Also, please note that float planes are not always an immediate option. Even in cases where it is determined a float plane must be utilized it may still be several hours before the evacuation can occur depending on weather and time of day. This why it is absolutely imperative that every crew have an advisor certified in [Wilderness First Aid](#), [CPR](#), [Weather Hazards](#), [Safety Afloat](#) and [Safe Swim Defense](#) AND every crew must have a WELL STOCKED [First Aid kit](#).*

### THERE'S A [TRADING POST](#)! WHAT DO YOU SELL?

Northern Tier's [Trading Posts](#) sell a large supply of souvenirs, including patches, mugs, t-shirts, and other memorabilia. Some, but not all, gear for your trek is sold as well: boots, rain gear, maps, map cases, fishing tackle, compression sacks, nalgens, sleeping pads and fleeces. The [Trading Post](#) is also where you can purchase special awards that your crew earned while on their trek, including mileage awards (50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175 and 200 mile awards available), Duty to God Award and more.



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Certain gear that is required for Northern Tier treks (**closed-toed, closed-heeled boots and rain jackets**) are not sold in the **Atikokan** or **Bissett Trading Posts**. It is doubly important that crews make sure all participants have these gear items before they leave home.

All crews are required to buy a set of [maps](#) covering their route for every canoe in their expedition. Map cases should be bought with each set of [maps](#). Crews should budget for this additional expense.

The **Atikokan** and **Bissett Trading Posts** do not accept US Cash. Canadian Cash is accepted, as well as MasterCard and Visa Credit Cards. Please plan accordingly.

### WHAT ABOUT OUR FOOD? WHAT DO WE EAT?

Your crew will eat four meals on base. The day you arrive, you will eat dinner in our dining hall. Uniforms are encouraged for the dinner meal. The next morning before you hit the water, breakfast will be served in the dining hall. You should plan on wearing your trail clothes to breakfast, in order to expedite your departure on the trail.

After you get off the water, you will again eat dinner in the dining hall and breakfast the morning before you leave. If your crew requires an early breakfast before leaving for home, you must let our staff know ahead of time. A continental breakfast will be made available to you in that instance.

While on the water your crew will partake in some of the best trail food in the business. Our commissary is stocked according to an expertly crafted menu. Your Interpreter spends the morning before you arrive at base packing your food and getting your crew gear together. After you arrive, your Interpreter will go through the trail food with you and explain what all is included. This also allows you and the Interpreter to double check and make sure everything is packed. You will pick up the trail food in the morning before hitting the water.

**Don't forget your fresh meals!**

### WHAT ABOUT DIETARY RESTRICTIONS?

Please fill out and submit a [Dietary Restriction Notification card](#) for each crew member that has a restriction and mail it to the base. These cards **MUST BE RECEIVED** by Northern Tier no later than 45 days prior to your trek. The earlier the better though. The card may be found online at [www.ntier.org/resources](http://www.ntier.org/resources).

Please keep in mind that while we try to be as accommodating as possible, we will not be able to accommodate all food needs and may ask participants with certain needs to supplement the menu with their own food.

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## Part 5A – Base Specific Information: ELY

### ELY, MN INFORMATION

#### How do we get to the base?

Crews should arrive at Northern Tier **between 1:00 and 2:00 PM**. Lunch should be eaten en route to the base as it will not be available for your crew upon arrival.

You are responsible for your own transportation to Northern Tier. The Ely base is located 20 miles east of Ely, Minnesota. Driving directions are included on the next page.



#### TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

The Ely Canoe Base is 130 miles from Duluth, 270 miles from Minneapolis, 100 miles from Hibbing, and 20.2 miles northeast of Ely. Crews using public transportation will need to arrange charter transportation to the Base.

#### GROUND TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

##### **Shubat's Transportation**

Hibbing, MN 557546  
888.874.8228  
218.262.1042  
FAX 218.263.7182

##### **LCS Coaches**

Cloquet, MN 55720  
888.743.3527  
218.879.3391  
FAX 218.879.2020

##### **Voyageur Bus CO/ MN Coaches INC.**

Duluth, MN 55803  
218.724.1717  
218.724.2432  
[www.voyageurbus.com](http://www.voyageurbus.com)

##### **Ely Yellow Cab**

Ely, MN 55731  
218.365.6006

##### **Ely Cab & Shuttle Service**

Ely, MN 55731  
218.349.1383  
14 passenger vans

##### **Spirit of the Wilderness**

Ely, MN 55731  
218.365.3149  
800.950.2709

#### Where can I stay en route to base?

Crews traveling through Minneapolis or Duluth may plan to overnight at Giants Ridge Ski Resort in Biwabik, MN. Giants Ridge offers lodging, food service, and recreation for Scouting groups at very reasonable rates. Call 800.688.7669 for more information or [www.giantsridge.com](http://www.giantsridge.com)

If you plan on spending the night in Minnesota consider staying at Northern Star Council's **Base Camp**, a brand new urban camp located just a few miles from the Minneapolis – St. Paul airport 651.254.9135 or [www.explorebasecamp.org](http://www.explorebasecamp.org)

For other lodging opportunities in the Ely area go to [www.ely.org/lodging](http://www.ely.org/lodging)

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## What can we see along the way?

Minnesota is full of fascinating historical sites, terrific museums, and beautiful scenery. Check out our list of “Places to Visit” [here](#).

## How do we choose which park to go to?

There are two distinct differences between the [Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness \(BWCAW\)](#) in Minnesota and the [Quetico Provincial Park](#) in Ontario.

1. One of them is in the United States the other is in Canada.
2. The [Quetico](#) is more primitive, rugged and has fewer visitors than the [BWCAW](#)

If you can pick one over the other based on these two facts, then you are well on your way to selecting your park. The following is more specific information on each.

### PADDLING IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS



- **Entry Points-** The Northern Tier Reservation Team does their very best to insure that we use Moose Lake exclusively (it's so handy). While we cannot insure that we will always, 100% of the time, get a Moose Lake permit for your crew, we will get one that is either a portage or a quick shuttle ride away. While it is possible for your crew to select a different entry point, it is strongly discouraged as it will cut in to your overall time on the water and may add a shuttle fee to your overall cost.
- **Permit Reservations-** To reserve your permit for the [BWCAW](#), complete a [Permit Application](#), found online at [www.ntier.org/tripplanning](http://www.ntier.org/tripplanning).

### PADDLING IN THE QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK



- **Entry Points-** For trips out of the Ely Base, we exclusively use the 5 entry lakes a crew can get to from Prairie Portage (the closest [Quetico](#) Ranger Station to our base on Moose Lake). You will be asked to rank these five entry points in order of your preference when you make your reservation with us. If this is your first trip to the [Quetico](#), please refer to the [Quetico](#) Route Options section for more information on what you can expect from each Entry Point.
- **Permit Reservations-** To reserve your permit for the [Quetico](#), complete a [Permit Application](#), found online at [www.ntier.org/tripplanning](http://www.ntier.org/tripplanning). Most permit fees are paid directly to the [Quetico Park](#) upon your arrival at the Prairie Portage Ranger Station.

**NOTE:** If you are going to travel into the [Quetico](#), you will depart from the base on your first day and paddle directly to the Prairie Portage Ranger Station (6 miles away). You **MUST** pay your [Quetico Park](#)

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Fees at the Ranger Station. Please be prepared to take two (2) credit cards with you on the water. One to pay with and one as a backup. Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** You should call your credit card company ahead of time to let them know you will be using your card for this purchase. Sometimes cards are declined because the credit card company is not expecting their customer to make a purchase in Ontario.

### Are there any special trip options?

- **ELY TO ATIKOKAN TRIPS:** A very special trip, the Ely to Atikokan Expedition (E-to-A, for short) allows crews to travel the entire [Quetico Provincial Park](#) from South to North ending at the Atikokan Base. The minimum length for these trips is 85 miles, but many crews travel much further. This type of linear trip allows for maximizing the amount of time spent in truly remote areas of the [Quetico](#) – crews can expect to spend several days without seeing anyone else.

This is one of the coolest trips out there, but there are a few more logistical issues to resolve. Typically E-to-A crews will have a sister crew doing an A-to-E. Each crew leaves a car at the base they started from, allowing for a simple departure. Northern Tier does not provide shuttling services to E-to-A or A-to-E crews. If you are interested in this type of trip, contact Northern Tier as soon as possible.

- **GRAND PORTAGE TRIPS:** This trip is among the highest of adventures and intended for experienced crews. The trip is approximately 130 miles from the Ely base culminating with an 8.5 mile portage (the Grand Portage) to Lake Superior and the [Grand Portage National Monument](#). If your crew is interested in embarking on an historical Grand Portage trip you will want to apply for a [BWCAW](#) permit and indicate your desire on the form. Crews will have to be approved by Northern Tier management to embark on this expedition. This trip also requires a \$320 shuttle fee as it is not possible to complete a loop.

## **What documents do I need for International Travel?- Passports, RABCs and DUIs, Oh My!**

### **REMOTE AREA BORDER CROSSING PERMIT (RABC)**

Traveling into the [Quetico Park](#) requires your crew to cross an International Border in the middle of a wilderness area. All people traveling into the [Quetico](#) from the Charles L. Sommers base MUST have a [Remote Area Border Crossing \(RABC\)](#) permit (also called a “CAN PASS”) – NO EXCEPTIONS! [RABC](#) Applications MUST be submitted to the Canadian Border Services Agency no less than 6 weeks prior to your trip. The cost is \$30.00 CND for each Adult [RABC](#). Youth under the age of 18 are issued [RABCs](#) at no cost, but still must fill out and submit an application. ALL MEMBERS OF THE CREW MUST CARRY THEIR [RABC](#) ON THE WATER. Current [RABC](#) regulations and applications may be found [online](#).

It is IMPOSSIBLE to make last-minute change of crew members and leaders because of the RABC regulation. Ensure that EVERYONE in your crew has their RABC with them.

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NOTE: Canada has very strict guidelines regarding DWIs, DUIs, OWIs, OUIs as well as various other convictions. Persons with a criminal record may not be granted an RABC and will therefore not be permitted to enter Canada. If you have questions, please contact the [Canadian Border Services Agency](#) at 807.624.2162.



### CUSTOMS

Any person who has been in the [Quetico](#) and enters (or returns to) the United States, must check in at a [US Customs](#) office. Failure to check back into the US could result in a \$5,000.00 fine per person. Therefore it is imperative that every member of the crew come prepared with a Passport or Pass Card to present to the customs officials after your trip is complete. Current [US Customs](#) regulations may be found [online](#). Just follow the link found on our website at [www.ntier.org/tripplaning](http://www.ntier.org/tripplaning).

When planning your departure from Northern Tier please take in to account that the hours of operation are 8:30-4:30pm for the [US Customs](#) station. Shuttles are available from Northern Tier for an additional price of \$75 per crew.

### **Will we need to get a shuttle to start our trip? Can we take a float plane anywhere?**

There's no reason you should need a shuttle. If we are unable to get a moose lake entry for you, we will provide a shuttle if necessary to get you to your entry point. If you travel far away and don't make a loop on your trip (such as a Grand Portage trip) you will need to arrange for a shuttle back to base. If you choose to have an entry point other than Moose Lake, you will need to arrange for a shuttle to the entry point. Float planes are not a normal part of the Ely operation. However, if you would like to add this experience to your trip, you will need to book the float plane. Our staff can help you with this process.

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## Part 5B – Base Specific Information: CANADA

### HOW DO I CROSS THE BORDER INTO CANADA IF I AM GOING TO ATIKOKAN OR BISSETT?

Travel into Canada with a group of youth requires careful planning. The documentation required to travel outside the US (passports and passport cards) may take several months to acquire.

Please read the following information carefully. If you have any additional questions, please consult the US State Departments webpage on travel to Canada ([http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1082.html#entry\\_requirements](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1082.html#entry_requirements)) as well as the Canada Border Services Agency's website (<http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html>).

Please follow these steps to insure safe and conflict-free border crossings:

- **All participants who are US citizens must bring an original proof of citizenship ([Passport or Passport Card](#)) to cross the border.** Passport cards **cannot** be used for some methods of crossing the border (i.e., by plane). Naturalized citizens should bring their naturalization certificate. Getting a passport can take several months – if you need a passport, start this process well in advance of your trip.
  - Non-US Citizen participants should contact a [US Immigrations Office](#) and a [Canadian Customs](#) office to make sure their documentation is in order. Permanent non-US Citizens are advised to bring their Alien Registration Receipt Card. Non-US Citizens must have a multiple entry Visa to return to the United States.
- **All youth 17 and under must have a [Parental Release Form](#) allowing them to travel internationally.** This form can be found on the Northern Tier website [www.ntier.org/tripplanning](http://www.ntier.org/tripplanning)
  - The Parental Release Form must be *signed by both parents and have both parents' contact information*. Children with special circumstances (death of a parent, legal guardian, etc.) should bring proof of their custody arrangement.
  - The Canadian government is very concerned about the trafficking of children across the border. They require these documents to ensure that all children are crossing the border with the consent of all legal guardians. While currently, the [Parental Release Form](#) does not require notarization, rules may change in the future to become stricter.
- **Anyone with a criminal record should review this [Canadian Immigration website](#) (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/5312ETOC.asp#overview>)** to insure that they will be allowed to cross the border. In some cases, individuals may apply for a waiver to have their border crossing approved. Certain violations (DUIs and Reckless Driving, e.g.) can be significant obstacles in crossing the border.



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## ATIKOKAN, ON INFORMATION



### How do I contact the Atikokan Base directly?

The Atikokan Base is operated seasonally from June 10 – August 20. During that period the base can be contacted at 807.597.5822. For the rest of the year, any questions about the Atikokan Base should be directed to Northern Tier's administrative headquarters in Ely, MN at 218.365.4811.

### How do I get to the Atikokan Base?

The Atikokan Base is located on Perch Lake, approximately 13 miles west of Atikokan, Ontario just off of Canadian Highway 11. Please plan on arriving between 1 and 2 PM on the first day of your trip. You will need to eat lunch prior to your arrival. [Use this map to help plan your trip](#).

The towns of International Falls, Minnesota and Fort Frances, Ontario (just across the border from International Falls) are 80 miles to the west of the base. Thunder Bay, Ontario is 140 miles to the East of Atikokan. The Minneapolis/St. Paul airport is 380 miles from the Atikokan base. *Note: while almost all cities in the Minnesota, Northwest Ontario, and Manitoba regions are on Central Time, the city of Thunder Bay is actually in the Eastern Time Zone. Check your watch in Thunder Bay!*

Crews traveling to Atikokan may choose to fly through Minneapolis, Minnesota – from there they can connect to Duluth, MN; International Falls, MN; or Thunder Bay, Ontario. Crews traveling from the eastern US (primarily Northeastern States) may fly through Toronto, ON to Thunder Bay, ON. Contact Air Canada, West Jet, or Delta Airlines for details, costs, and schedules.

Travel options from airports include car and van rentals or bus shuttles. Single crews may find a vehicle rental is cheaper than a van shuttle. If you can arrange to coordinate with other crews traveling that day you can share the cost of a bus.

#### GROUND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (In Canada):

##### Grey Goose Bus Lines

Thunder Bay, Ontario  
807.345.2194

##### Asselin Transportation

Fort Frances, Ontario  
807.274.6255

##### Prestige Wilderness Shuttles

Thunder Bay, Ontario  
877.801.5466

##### North Air Van Services

Fort Frances, Ontario  
800.465.7761  
807.274.6360

##### Iron Range Bus Lines

Thunder Bay, Ontario  
contactus@ironrangebus.com  
866.345.7388  
807.345.7387

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### Where can I stay en route to the base?

When you are planning flights, please consider the option of spending a night en route. While it is possible to arrange an early flight to Minneapolis, you will arrive at the base after an already long day to begin 6 hours of intense preparation for your wilderness trip.

Crews arriving in Northwestern Ontario prior to their scheduled arrival date should not plan on staying at base. There are several good campgrounds in the Thunder Bay – Atikokan – Fort Frances region. Groups may stay at **Grey Wolf Scout Camp** outside Thunder Bay. Contact the Operations Management at the Central Scouts Canada administration office 204.786.6661 to stay at a campsite or cabin.

If traveling through Thunder Bay, you may wish to overnight at Old Fort William. **Old Fort William** is a historical recreation of an early 1800s fur trade fort, offering an overnight living history program specially catered for scouting groups. Call 807.473.2344 or visit their website at [www.fwhp.ca](http://www.fwhp.ca).

If you plan on spending the night in Minnesota before driving to the Atikokan Base, consider staying at Northern Star Council's **Base Camp**, a brand new urban camp located just a few miles from the Minneapolis – St. Paul airport 651.254.9135 or [www.explorebasecamp.org](http://www.explorebasecamp.org), or **Giant's Ridge Ski Resort** in Biwabik, MN, a resort offering lodging, food service and recreation at reasonable rates for scouting groups 800.688.7669 or [www.giantsridge.com](http://www.giantsridge.com)).

### What can I see along the way?

There are a number of interesting sites and activities in Northwestern Ontario. For more information, check out our "[Things to See](#)" page on the Northern Tier [website](#).

### What kind of Currency does your Trading Post Accept?

The Atikokan Trading Post only accepts Canadian Currency. Please plan accordingly. In addition, the Trading Post accepts Visa and MasterCard. Typically, US Debit Cards will have to be run as Credit Cards in Canada.

### What Trip Options Do I Have?

Crews at the Atikokan Base have a variety of trip options. The base offers treks into both the Quetico Provincial Park as well as the Canadian Crown Lands (Turtle River – White Otter Provincial Park), specialty programs featuring intensive kayaking and fishing are available to crews with specific interests, and crews have the option to take out Kevlar canoes.

#### WHAT IS THE [QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK](#) LIKE?

The [Quetico Provincial Park](#) is one of the finest and most famous canoeing parks in the world. The 1.2 million acre wilderness has an



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estimated 2,000 remote, unimproved campsites nestled alongside over 600 cliff-lined lakes.

Crews travelling in the [Quetico](#) are limited to a size of 8 people. Crews must pay for a park permit in addition to Northern Tier camping fees. Crews traveling in the [Quetico](#) must pick up and pay for their trip permit from the [Quetico Provincial Park](#) office (108 Saturn Ave, Atikokan, ON) in Atikokan before they arrive at the Base.

## WHAT ARE THE CANADIAN CROWN LANDS?

A vast and wild region, the Canadian Crown Lands is full of unique experiences and sights for those adventurous enough to find them. Currently, there are no camping fees or reservations necessary for paddling in the Crown Lands or [Turtle River – White Otter Lake Provincial Park](#).

Crews are required to carry a permit exemption letter with them while traveling in the park – this letter will be provided to them during the check in process. Crews traveling in the Crown Lands are limited to a size of 11 people

## Are there any special trip options?

- **ATIKOKAN TO ELY TRIPS:** A very special trip, the Atikokan to Ely Expedition (A-to-E, for short) allows crews to travel the entire Quetico Provincial Park from North to South ending at the Ely Base. The minimum length for these trips is 85 miles, but many crews travel much further. This type of linear trip allows for maximizing the amount of time spent in truly remote areas of the Quetico – crews can expect to spend several days without seeing anyone else.

This is one of the coolest trips out there, but there are a few more logistical issues to resolve. Typically A-to-E crews will have a sister crew doing an E-to-A. Each crew leaves a car at the base they started from, allowing for a simple departure. Northern Tier does not provide shuttling services to A-to-E or E-to-A crews. If you are interested in this type of trip, contact Northern Tier as soon as possible.

- **FISHING EXPEDITIONS:** While most Northern Tier crews fish on their trip, some crews really want to reel in the big ones. The Fishing Expedition (through the Crown Lands) is specifically tailored for those crews who want to fish intensively during their Northern Tier experience. Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch and Northern Pike can all be hooked in the waters around Atikokan.



Fishing Expeditions are mentored by a specially trained Fishing Expedition interpreter. Fishing trips feature special routes that minimize portaging and paddling and include the necessary gear for fishing successfully in the region.

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- **KAYAKING EXPEDITIONS:** The Kayak Trek is a 6-day (5days, 4 nights on the water) trek through the Crown Lands and Turtle River – White Otter Lake Provincial Park where fish and wildlife are abundant. Each Kayak Trek begins with instruction on the basics of kayaking. Your crew will learn paddling and rescue techniques, how to pack a kayak and then embark on a full wilderness adventure.

Crews will have the opportunity to paddle in individual as well as tandem kayaks. Special outfitting gear is provided to make travel and transportation with kayaks more practical. An experienced staff member will accompany your crew on the trek to instruct you on proper kayaking techniques and to give insight into camping in the Canadian wilderness.

- **FLOAT PLANE SHUTTLES-** While almost all crews are shuttled by bus or van to their entry point lake, float plane options are available. This is a more expensive option because equipment and canoes must be flown in with the Crew. A crew can expect to pay \$1,500-3,000 to fly the crew, Interpreter and equipment one way. The cost and the scheduling of the float plane(s) is the responsibility of the crew. The crew must also cover the cost of the flight of the interpreter.



*Please Note: Northern Tier does not control the scheduling or promptness of your flights! Weather and other safety concerns may require the float plane schedule to change causing your fly-in or fly-out to be delayed. This does not happen often, but it is a possibility you should be aware of.*

These are two contractors that commonly serve Northern Tier groups:

**Atikokan Aero**  
[807] 597 6086

**Kashabowie Outposts**  
[807] 929 2140

## What is medical service like in the area?

The nearest hospital, Atikokan General, is located in Atikokan – it is used very rarely. They do not accept American Insurance, but do provide paperwork for you to make a claim upon your return home. They expect payment in cash or credit card.

## BISSETT, MB INFORMATION



### How do I contact the Bissett Base?

The Bissett Base is operated seasonally from June 10 – August 20. During that period the base can be contacted at 204.277.5261. For the rest of the year, any questions about the Bissett Base should be directed to Northern Tier’s administrative headquarters in Ely, Minnesota at 218.365.4811.

### How do I reserve my crew’s float plane?



Bissett trips require a float plane shuttle to and from the wilderness canoe cache. The cost and the scheduling of the float plane(s) is the responsibility of the crew. The crew must also cover the cost of the flight of the interpreter.

Float Plane shuttles to the Canoe Cache are provided by [Bluewater Aviation](#). The round-trip cost for a flight to the canoe cache was \$210.00/person US currency in 2012. [Bluewater](#) typically offers a discount to crews who pay in full by March 1.

Please Note: Northern Tier does not control the scheduling or promptness of your flights! Weather and other safety concerns may require the float plane schedule to change causing your fly-in or fly-out to be delayed. This does not happen often, but it is a possibility you should be aware of.

Crews should contact [Bluewater Aviation](#) directly to arrange their flights. The company’s year round number is 204.367.2762. Their website is [www.bluewateraviation.ca](http://www.bluewateraviation.ca)

### What Trip Options do I have?

Most Bissett crews paddle exclusively in Atikaki Provincial Park. However, crews have the option of paddling out of the Atikaki into Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (in Ontario), a trip that requires a permit and a small additional fee.

#### WHAT IS THE [ATIKAKI PROVINCIAL PARK \(MANITOBA\)](#)?

[Atikaki Provincial Park](#) of Manitoba is the true home of the Northern Expeditions program. The [Atikaki](#) (meaning “country of the caribou” is



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Saulteaux-Ojibwe) is only accessible by charter aircraft or canoe. Very few people travel through the [Atikaki](#) region. Several of the River systems that traverse the park are quite famous (particularly the Bloodvein and Pigeon Rivers) and are travelled by only a handful of serious expedition canoeists each summer. In addition, several of Northern Tier crews in the [Atikaki Provincial Park](#) are limited to a size of 11 people. No permits are required for travel in the [Atikaki](#).

### WHAT IS [WOODLAND CARIBOU PROVINCIAL PARK \(ONTARIO\)](#)?

[Woodland Caribou Provincial Park](#) lies directly adjacent to the [Atikaki](#), separated only by the Manitoba/Ontario border (Atikaki in Manitoba, Woodland Caribou in Ontario). Crews can choose to paddle into [Woodland Caribou](#) in order to see several famous pictographs (Ojibwe cave paintings) on Artery Lake.



Groups of twelve may travel through [Woodland Caribou](#), but they may not camp there. Groups of nine or smaller may camp in the park. Permits are required for traveling in [Woodland Caribou](#). Permits can be acquired by phone during business hours – most crews wait to get them until they reach Bissett. If you plan on traveling through [Woodland Caribou](#), it is helpful to let the base know in advance and to arrive to the base on time (between 1 and 2 PM) The prices for permits are the following:



- Day Use Fees (no camping): \$10.75/canoe
- Camping Fees (overnight): \$15.00/adult, \$6.50/youth
- Only one type of permit is required: Day Use **OR** Camping

### WHAT OTHER TRIP OPTIONS DO I HAVE?

Because of the Bissett Base's small size and remote location, no other trip options are available. Only aluminum canoes are used in outfitting due to the rugged terrain. Because the Base difficult to get to, crews are encouraged to take longer trips. A trip to Bissett is truly the adventure of a lifetime and it makes sense for crews to maximize their time in the wilderness.

## How do I get to the Bissett Base?

The Arrival Time at the Bissett Base is between 1-2 PM Central Standard Time on the first day of a crew's trip. Make sure to eat lunch prior to your arrival. Crews should expect to leave after Breakfast on the last day of their trip.

There are many options for travel to and from Bissett. The town of Bissett is located 150 miles (3.5 hours of driving time) northeast of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Winnipeg is served by commercial air, rail and bus. [A map of both Bissett and the last major town, Pine Falls, can be viewed here.](#)

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Most crews traveling to Bissett fly to Winnipeg. Delta Airlines has regular service to Winnipeg through Minneapolis, Chicago and Denver. Other airlines may connect with Air Canada or West Jet in Toronto, Ontario.

If you are planning flights, please consider the option of spending a night en route. Keep in mind that while it is possible to arrange an early flight to Winnipeg, you will arrive at the base after an already long day to begin 6 hours of intensive trip preparation. In addition, Winnipeg is a great city with a lot to see and do.

Crews arriving by public transportation will need to arrange charter transportation to Bissett. A few of the more popular options are listed below:

## Vital Transit

Winnipeg, MB  
204.633.2022

[k.williams@vitaltransitservice.com](mailto:k.williams@vitaltransitservice.com)

## Northern Soul Wilderness Adventure

Winnipeg, MB  
866.425.9430

204.878.3570

[adventure@northernsoul.ca](mailto:adventure@northernsoul.ca)

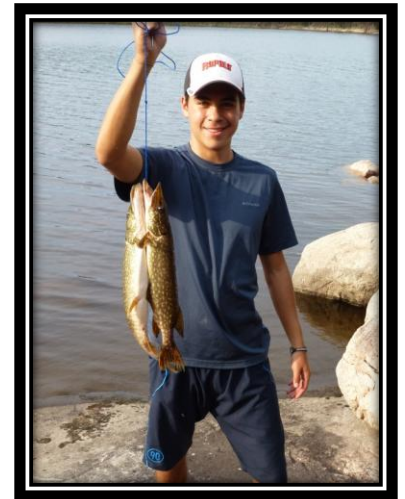
## Budget Rent A Car

Winnipeg Int'l Airport  
Winnipeg, MB  
204.989.8535

Some crews (especially those in the Great Plains states) drive themselves to Bissett. Keep in mind that the roads for the last two hours of the drive are unpaved and can be very rough.

## What are the roads like when driving to Bissett?

Drive Safely on Highway 304. While driving to Bissett, crews may encounter gravel trucks and road graders that can kick up impressive clouds of dust. There are also many moose and deer in the area, not all of whom understand the danger of fast-moving vehicles.



## Where can I fill up on Gas? Eat Lunch? Visit an ATM? Purchase Fishing Licenses?

Crews should eat lunch before arriving. Bissett offers only two places for lunch, Wynne's Place and the Hotel San Antonio, both of which are crowded with miners (since both are owned by the Gold Mine, miners are typically served before the general public).

There are several places to eat in Pine Falls / Powerview. **Charlie Biggs**, just across the Winnipeg River on Highway 304, offers a sit down lunch. There is a **Subway** and a grocery store (**Dancyt's**) in downtown Pine Falls on Highway 11. **Clarks Corner**, a gas station at the corner of Highway 11 and Highway 304, has take out Fried Chicken. They ask that crews call ahead so they can be prepared to serve them 204.367.2238.

There is a park on the south bank of the Winnipeg River just to the North of the intersection of Highways 11 and 304. There are also campgrounds on the banks of the Manigotagan River (70 km/49 miles past Pine Falls

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on Highway 304) and the English Brook (9 km/5.6 miles past Manigotagan). All are terrific places to eat a picnic lunch and stretch the legs.

The last place to fill up your gas tank is in Pine Falls. While there is a gas station in Bissett, inconsistent scheduling, high prices and the potential for a general power outage make it a sub-optimal option.

Similarly, should you need to acquire Canadian cash (the Bissett Trading Post does not accept US Currency) or use an ATM, the Royal Bank of Canada in Pine Falls is the best place to stop. The RBC has a 24-hour ATM that accepts some American Debit Cards. The ATM systems that it uses are posted next to the machine.

*Finally, if events beyond your control cause your crew to be delayed, please call so that the Bissett Base can accommodate for your late arrival. Over the past three years, luggage has been lost, flights have been cancelled and cars have broken down. Nevertheless, all crews have departed for the wilderness on time. If you run into any problems or have any questions while travelling, please contact the Bissett Base at 204.277.5261.*

### Where can I stay en route to Bissett?

Crews arriving in Winnipeg, Manitoba prior to their scheduled arrival date should not plan on staying at the Bissett base. Winnipeg has many hotels and motels at a variety of prices to choose from.

In Bissett, the only hotel is the Hotel San Antonio 204.277.5250. Please call ahead if you wish to stay here – at many points during the summer all of the rooms will be filled with miners making it difficult to get a room.

### What can I see along the way?

There are a number of interesting sites and activities in Northwestern Ontario. For more information, check out our “[Things to See](#)” page on the Northern Tier [website](#).

### What kind of currency does your Trading Post Accept?

The Bissett Trading Post only accepts Canadian Currency Cash. Please plan accordingly. In addition, the Trading Post accepts Visa and MasterCard. Typically, US Debit Cards will have to be run as Credit Cards in Canada.

In addition, be aware that the Bissett Trading Post does not sell Fishing Licenses. Fishing Licenses should be purchased in advance or purchased en route to the Bissett Base.

### What is medical service like in the area?

The nearest hospital, Pine Falls Health Complex, is located in Pine Falls, Manitoba – it is used very rarely. They do not accept American Insurance, but do provide paperwork for you to make a claim upon your return home. They expect payment in cash or credit card.



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## Part 6 - Trail Programs and Policies

**Secure Your Food:** Bears, chipmunks, mice and other rodents are fond of trail food. Hanging your food and 'smellables' at night is necessary. Remember, perfumed items (toothpaste, soaps, chapstick, etc.) may smell like food. Your Interpreter will advise you on what to do and how to do it. Whether on the trail or on base, do not take food into any tent or cabin.

**Respect Wildlife:** We are visitors in the wilderness – please be responsible and courteous guests. Do not bother or provoke wildlife. Animals should be enjoyed from a distance and should never be fed.

**Purify All Drinking Water:** All water from all natural sources - including springs, streams and lakes must be purified by bringing it to a rolling boil, treated with chemical purifier or filtered.

**Wash and Rinse Dishes Thoroughly:** Protect the health of your crew by thoroughly washing, rinsing and sanitizing dishes. Let dishes and utensils air dry. The dirty dishwater should be disposed of at least 200 feet behind the campsite and at least 200 feet from any water source.

**No Climbing Allowed:** Rock climbing, rappelling and tree climbing are not permitted. BSA regulations require advanced training and equipment which is not available for use on your trek.

**Swimming and Diving:** All swimming and water activities must be done in accordance with the [BSA Safe Swim Defense](#) policy. In addition, wet boots, a lifejacket and a swimsuit or shorts must be worn by all swimmers at all times.

Diving is prohibited at the Northern Tier per the [BSA Safe Swim Defense](#) policy. Therefore, all entry into the water must be feet first or by wading into the water. Jumping feet first into the water is allowed from rocks or ledges no greater than five feet above the surface of the water, if the water is clear and the depth of the water is 10-12 feet deep. Lifejackets must be worn at all times.

**Cliff Jumping:** Jumping into the water from any height greater than 5 feet above the surface of the water is prohibited.

**Whitewater Policy:** The running of rapids, whitewater or waterfalls is prohibited. All Northern Tier crews will portage around all falls, rapids, fast water, etc. During times of unusually high water it will be necessary to be very careful and watchful while traveling.

**Rock Throwing:** Rock throwing is prohibited.

**Solo Canoeing:** There will be no solo canoeing. There must be a minimum of two canoes at all times with 2 canoeists in each canoe.



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**Boots and Shoes:** You must wear boots or shoes in all wilderness trail campsites, while canoeing, swimming, fishing, etc. Bare feet and under-protected feet are a major cause of foot injuries.

**Tobacco:** The use of tobacco is never permitted within the line of sight of youth. No smoking is permitted in any Northern Tier building or vehicle. Each base has a single established tobacco use area.

**Alcohol and Drugs:** Possession or use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or misuse of prescribed drugs is prohibited. Groups or individuals found in violation of this national policy of the Boy Scouts of America will be sent home immediately, as arranged with the council office or parent.

**Firearms and Fireworks:** Shooting firearms are not allowed at Northern Tier. Do not bring firearms or archery equipment with you. Fireworks are a safety hazard and are prohibited by Northern Tier Nation High Adventure. Leave them at home.

**Youth Protection Policy and Abuse:** Boy Scouts of America's [Youth Protection](#) Policies must be adhered to. No one-on-one activities between youth and adults are allowed. The BSA two deep leader policies must be followed. No youth and adults are allowed in the same tents (except family members). Physical, sexual or emotional abuse (including hazing) of a camper by his or her peers or by an adult leaders is unacceptable anywhere. Reporting of abuse is the law. The local, county, state or provincial authorities as well as the BSA Council representatives will be contacted if abuse is suspected.

**Forest Fires:** Our forests are a beautiful and valuable heritage. If you spot a fire or think you have, report it to your Interpreter, who will report it to the base director by radio or phone. Your crew should not attempt to fight wildfires and should quickly leave the area. Because of the wilderness status, some of the areas which have naturally occurring fires may be left to burn naturally. Other man-caused fires may be extinguished. Trained fire fighters will monitor or extinguish the fires accordingly.

**Fires on Base:** A fire on any of the Northern Tier program base facilities needs to be reported to the base director or staff person immediately. If the fire alarm is activated, all crews are to report to the parking area of the base facility. Each base has a fire guard plan posted.

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## Part 7- Base Specific Programs

### WHEN DO I PLAN MY ROUTE?

Northern Tier Expeditions traverse nearly 6 million acres of wilderness where contiguous lakes, rivers, streams and portages offer some of the best canoeing and fishing country to be found in the world.

Once arriving at Northern Tier, your Interpreter will help your crew plan a route that best meets their overall needs, desires, hopes and dreams. In fact, one of the most beautiful aspects of Northern Tier trips is that your crew has complete control over what your route will be. Easy, difficult, short, long, remote or staying close to base are all possibilities and they are endless. As the wilderness areas in which we paddle are ever changing due to weather, fires and human intervention, we have no set routes that must be adhered to. Rather our Interpreters are trained in how to select destinations and loops in the wilderness and are knowledgeable about current route conditions.



To sum it up, your crew should arrive with answers to certain questions to enable your Interpreter to best be able to help you plan your route. We call these ten questions the Ten Point Plan

1. How many days is our trip?
2. How far do we want to paddle each day?
  - a. The average crew paddles/portages approximately 2 to 3 mph
    - i. Easy days will encompass 8 to 12 miles
    - ii. Moderate days will be 13 to 19 miles
    - iii. Difficult days will be 20 miles and above
3. Do we want to have a layover day (stay in a campsite 2 nights and a full day)?
4. Do we want to fish a lot?
5. Which of Northern Tier's special awards do we want to earn?
  - a. Which one(s)? What's the priority?
6. Do we want to try to avoid portages or embrace their amazing existence and challenge ourselves to overcome as many as possible?
7. Do we want to go on big lakes, small lakes, rivers or a combination?
8. Do we want to see waterfalls?
9. Do we want to see pictographs/petro glyphs?
10. Do we want to really get away from others, or embrace the other wilderness visitors?

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## WHAT SPECIAL AWARDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR MY CREW?

Northern Tier offers a wide variety of patches that can be earned over the course of your trek. A brief synopsis of each patch or program is offered here. For more information visit [www.ntier.org/TripPlanning/Awards.aspx](http://www.ntier.org/TripPlanning/Awards.aspx)

### Mileage Awards

At the heart and soul of Northern Tier's mileage award program is the BSA's national 50-Miler Award. All crews participating in a Northern Tier expedition should try to earn this award. What better time than during a BSA National High Adventure program?



The 50-Miler Award is presented to each qualifying individual for satisfactory participation in an approved trip. In order to qualify for the award the group of which the individual is a member must fulfill all of the following requirements.



In addition, special Northern Tier Mileage Awards are available for subsequent miles – in 25 mile increments up to 200 – traveled while on your trip. Patches and plaques are available from the Trading Post.

### Northern Tier GEO Cacher Award

Every participant at Northern Tier should be able to leave capable of navigating canoe country. Our GEO CACHER Program provides an extra challenge to navigating using your maps a compass and, if desired, a GPS unit. GEO Caching at Northern Tier is a little bit different than what most think of when considering the activity. Due to the nature of the wilderness area in which we travel we must utilize natural and historical points of interest as our "caches." One might think of the activity at Northern Tier as more of a navigational scavenger hunt.

Through completing this program your crew will be able to visit sites of historical interest such as locations mentioned in Alexander McKenzie's diary, a 1926 Buick Roadster, pictographs and logging era points of interest as well as sites of geographical and natural interest such as rock formations and the oldest cedar tree in Minnesota.



### S.C.E.N.E.

The Scout Center for Excellence in Nature and Environment (S.C.E.N.E.) program is authorized under the auspices of the World Scouting Organization. This program provides experiences for Scouts/Venturers which emphasize education through nature and environment, learning about nature and environment, and action for nature and environment.

An important aspect of the program is to provide practical opportunities for Scouts/Venturers to "leave the world a little better than they found it." In completing both types of conservation projects, at high adventure

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and at home, Scouts/Venturers and leaders are eligible for a S.C.E.N.E. emblem available from the Northern Tier Trading Post.

## Northern Tier Lake Monitoring Program

Our Lake Monitoring Program provides your crew with an experience to learn about the water quality in the lakes of Northern Minnesota and Northwestern Ontario and how it changes. It also provides a community service opportunity for your Scouts as the data collected is used by government agencies and scholars to monitor water clarity and provide an assessment of suspended material in the water (often algae). Long term monitoring provides scientists with valuable data to detect trends in water quality and detect signs of degradation to a lake.



## Quetico Adopt A Lake Program

This program is administered by the Quetico Provincial Park. Crews who complete the program will likely fulfill the requirements of the S.C.E.N.E. Program and the 50-Miler award described above.

Quetico has in excess of 2,000 campsite locations scattered around the Park on over 600 lakes. Maintaining all of these on a regular and continuous basis is an impossible chore for our park staff. The Adopt-A-Lake program was initiated so you can help. To become involved your party can maintain at least 5 campsites per person on one or more lakes in the park.

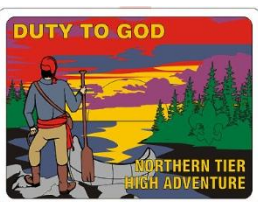


## BSA National Historic Trails Award

Due to the rich historical significance of canoe country, Northern Tier expeditions are a great time to earn this National BSA award. To earn the award, members of your unit must plan and participate in a historic activity. A unit historic activity requires members to locate a historical trail (which are plentiful in the areas Northern Tier paddles), hike or camp 2 days or 1 night along the trail, and plan or stage a historic pageant or public event to instruct the greater community about the trail. All of these requirements can be accomplished at Northern Tier.



## Northern Tier Duty To God Program



While at Northern Tier, you will encounter divine handiwork on many occasions. The Duty to God program will help you reflect on these special moments. This popular program requires an on base religious service, participation in at least three devotionals while on your trek, and the leading of grace at a campfire meal.

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## **Triple Crown of High Adventure Award**

Scouts and Scouters who have participated in at least one program at each of the three national high-adventure bases operated by the Boy Scouts of America (Northern Tier, Philmont, and Florida Sea Base) can earn the Triple Crown patch and certificate. To qualify, you must earn a high-adventure program participant emblem (patch) from each of the three national high-adventure bases.



An application must then be submitted with fees for the patch and certificate. The application may be found on the Northern Tier website at <http://www.ntier.org/TripleCrown.aspx>.

*Note: To earn the Triple Crown, you must complete each high adventure through the Scouting program. For example, canoeing the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness or Quetico through another outfitter other than Northern Tier will not qualify.*

E-mail: [info@ntier.org](mailto:info@ntier.org)  
Phone- 218.365.4811  
Fax- 218.365.3112