

## **Pioneer one month program**

This is a 19 day whitewater and flat water canoeing adventure. The trip will be in Northern Ontario and Quebec regions. Some trips we have done in the past are the Dumoine, Coulonge and Noire. The group will be moving on a daily basis. Each morning they will pack up camp and paddle through lakes and down rivers. There are sections of the trip that will include whitewater where the group will get a chance to shoot whitewater sets and learn new paddling skills. There will also be a fair amount of portaging throughout the trip. Food will be prepared by the trip leaders before the group leaves on trip. Each day the meals will be assembled by the group. Some of the tasty meals include pancakes, pasta salads, and pizza! Though the route and food are predictable the weather is not. It is extremely important that when coming up to camp, your child is prepared for weather extremes, this means rain and sun. Please remember that campers carry their own gear into camp when they arrive at our parking lot, we do help with some of the heavier loads (for those arriving by bus) but it is a 1km portage into camp. If you are driving your campers to camp you and your child will be carrying the load into camp.

## **Notes on clothing**

Investing in gear at this age is a tough call. It is always good to have the best when out in the wilderness. However, we understand that while children are growing clothes have a short lifespan. Therefore we recommend you buy mid price range items.

**Rain suit** – Your rain jacket must be waterproof. Breathable is highly recommended, though not imperative. A rain jacket is a good place to invest some money if your child has done the bulk of their growing. Rain pants are usually worn at night to keep dry while on the camp site if it is raining. Breathability for rain pants is recommended, though not highly. Rubber rain pants are sufficient.

**Shirts, Pants, Sweaters, Long Johns** - Cotton on trip is cumbersome and at times dangerous. When wet it uses the body's heat to dry itself causing the person wearing it to become colder. Thus, we ask that your child does not bring cotton on trip. We recommend that your child bring clothes made of quick dry or wicking materials. These clothes dry fast and keep your child warm. Good materials to look out for are fleece for sweaters, merino wool or polypropylene for long johns and shirts, and quick dry for shorts and pants. These rules about cotton apply to socks as well. Wool and smart wool are good sock material. It is important to remember that there will be varied summer weather and temperatures, so you must prepare for both possibilities.

## **Notes on gear**

**Sleeping bag** - Though down sleeping bags pack smaller, we believe that it is more practical for this age group to purchase a synthetic bag. It is cheaper, and dries faster.

**Sleeping pad** - Sleeping pads should be tested out at the store for comfort, length etc. Ensolite pads are cheaper but less comfortable. While Thermarest style pads are more comfortable and keep your body

warmer they are more expensive. We recommend that, if your child will be returning to camp for a few summers, to invest in a Thermarest.

**Backpack** – While clothes are quickly grown out of at this age, a good backpack can last a long time. Invest in something sturdy rather than with many “bells and whistles”. The backpack should be able to hold all of the items on the **Essentials for Canoe Trip** lists (sleeping bag and pad optional). This is around the 65 L range of pack. Size, durability, and comfort are the biggest priorities. Remember campers carry their personal packs on portages, it should be comfortable. Dry Bags and backpacks are normally measured in liter hence the 65L (liter) reference above.

**Dry bags** - The dry bag will go inside your child’s personal backpack and keep their things dry if their pack gets wet. There are many different dry bags on the market. The only essential thing to keep in mind is that the bag should say that it is waterproof. After that your personal budget is the main criteria in what dry bag you purchase.

**Paddle** – This will be a whitewater canoe trip mainly, thus, your child will need a whitewater canoe paddle. A midrange paddle can be easily purchased at MEC. A decent whitewater paddle usually has a carbon shaft and strong plastic blade. The cheapest option, and a good option for those children who are unsure about returning to camp, is a paddle with an aluminum shaft and plastic blade.

**Helmet** – There are many different types of whitewater helmets. A midrange helmet is fine for this trip. There must be a snug fit and a good chin strap. A cycling helmet **will not** do.

**PFD (life jacket)** - It is imperative that the PFD is in good condition and has good floatation. The proper size and floatation can be determined where purchased. We ask that for whitewater canoe trips, a paddling vest be purchased as your PFD. This type of PFD allows for optimal mobility while paddling and also efficient swimming in whitewater if and when you dump.

### **Essential Items – For Canoe Trip**

- 2 pairs of Shoes – One very sturdy for day that will be wet most of the time – and one lighter for evening dry wear.
- 1 rain jacket – Must be waterproof, breathable is recommended
- 1 rain pants – Must be waterproof, breathable is recommended
- 2 T-shirts
- 2 long sleeved shirts – one quick dry material – one light polypropylene
- 2 Sweaters – one for light day use, one for warmth in evening – both must be wool or fleece NO COTTON
- 1 pair of quick dry/ light weight pants – NO JEANS or SWEAT PANTS
- 1 pair of quick dry/ light weight shorts ( or bathing suit bottoms)
- 1 pair of fleece pants
- 2 pair of long johns- marina wool or polypropylene – NO COTTON
- 7 pairs of socks – 4 pairs smart wool for day, 3 pairs wool or smart wool for night/evening
- 8 pairs of underwear – quick dry/polypropylene if possible

- 2 sports bras
- 1 bathing suit
- 1 sun Hat - if child is prone to losing things bring two!
- 1 toque – wool or fleece
- mitts or gloves

### **Essential Gear- For Canoe Trip**

- 1 sleeping bag – a temperature rating as low as -7 Celsius is recommended
- 2 water proof drybags – one 20-30 L for sleeping bag- one 30-40L for personal belongings (to be able to fit in your personal pack when filled)
- 1 sleeping pad (especially great when your campsite is on the Canadian Shield)
- 1 personal ground sheet – for under tent
- 1 personal backpack – all of your child’s clothing essentials will go in a dry sack and then in this backpack ( sleeping bag and pad can be stored elsewhere) – roughly 45-70 L
- 1 flashlight and extra batteries – headlamp is recommended
- 1 bug Jacket – ( a ball cap is recommended to wear under bug jacket – to keep face mesh away from the face)
- 1 pair of Sunglasses and attachment string
- 1 lifejacket
- 2 whistles - can buy at camp if need be, these are not optional and are for safety reasons
- 1 flat water paddle
- 1 white water paddle
- 1 whitewater helmet
- water bottle
- mug

### **Essential Toiletries**

- toothbrush and toothpaste
- sunscreen – waterproof
- lip chap/balm - with SPF
- insect repellent
- sanitary products

### **Optional Items for Canoe Trip**

- sandals - sturdy Teva or Choko – no leather ex. Birkenstocks
- fishing gear
- reading and writing material
- quick dry small towel
- camera and waterproof case
- needle and thread
- musical instrument

- playing cards
- Swiss army knife ( small blade)

### **Essential In-Camp Items**

- two T-shirts – tank tops
- long sleeve shirt – can be cotton
- 1 pair of pants
- 1 pair of shorts
- 6 pairs of underwear
- 5 pairs of socks ( can be cotton)
- 1 towel
- small pillow
- sheet for bunk
- pictures etc.

bathing suit