

Dear Parents and Scouts,

This summer's high adventure trip is a rare opportunity to claim a 100+ mile adventure in a single trip. Scouts and leaders will paddle 149 miles along the scenic Upper Missouri River encompassing part of the historic Lewis and Clark expedition as described below. The dates for the trip will be July 15-25, 2020. At the conclusion of the canoe trip, we will also camp two nights in Yellowstone National Park taking time to tour the park's amazing features. Scouts must be 14 years old by December 31, 2020 and have the rank of Star to be eligible for the trip. Estimated cost for the 11 day trip is \$850 to \$900. Space is limited and a \$200 deposit is needed to reserve a spot. **We are requesting that your deposit be made by October 8, 2019 so that we may begin the reservation process.** Many places require a deposit to secure a reservation. Should your scout decide not to participate after a deposit has been made, we will return any money deposited so long as reservation fees are refundable or a replacement for your Scout can be found. Once we have the total participant numbers and cost of the trip finalized, you will be informed of the payment schedule. No scout will be denied this opportunity due to financial considerations. Scholarships and work opportunities are available to help defray the cost.

149 Miles Afloat on the Upper Missouri River in Montana

Montana's Upper Missouri River is an irreplaceable legacy of the historic American West and as such, it was designated a National Wild and Scenic River by Congress in 1976. It is unquestionably one of the premier canoe trips in North America. This Class I river with no rapids passes through 149 miles of spectacular scenery, interesting geology, and unique flora and fauna that requires overnight camping on the river. The Upper Missouri has a rich and interesting history, including remnants of Native American habitation, Lewis and Clark campsites, still-standing old homestead buildings, fur trade sites, and steamboat landings.

During the summer the weather is typically hot and sunny; temperatures in the 90's are common, but fortunately humidity is very low. Evening temperatures are normally in the 40's and 50's. Spectacular afternoon thunderstorms - sometimes quite violent with strong, gusty winds - are fairly common, but are usually short-lived.

The wilderness character of the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River provides good wildlife viewing opportunities. During the summer the river is alive with waterfowl, including ducks, geese, and the majestic pelican. Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles are not an uncommon sight. Whitetail and Mule Deer are frequently seen along the banks, and elk inhabit badlands along the lower stretch of the river, which is also an excellent place to look for bands of Bighorn Sheep. It is not uncommon to hear the wail of coyotes in the distance at night, or the hoot of an owl perched overhead in the limb of a towering cottonwood tree as it searches for prey. Beaver are commonly seen swimming in the river, and they slap their tails and dive as canoes approach; these beaver are not dam builders, instead inhabiting cavities dug into the mud of the river's banks.

There will be opportunities for swimming in the waters almost every day

Fishing is permitted. A non-resident fishing license is required. You can eat the fish you catch. Fifty species of fish, ranging from tiny minnows (weighing a half-ounce) to immense paddlefish (which can grow to 140 pounds) reside in the river. Smallmouth bass, walleye and northern pike are frequently caught.

Parents may join us providing space is available. Priority for space will be given to current registered scouts and adult leaders of both the boys and girls Troops. BSA requires any parent that accompanies a scout troop on a high adventure trip must take the online Youth Protection Course and register as an adult leader. (No, this does not automatically require you to come to all meetings.)

We are interested in participating in this year's trip to the Upper Missouri River and Yellowstone National Park. Enclosed is a \$100 deposit per person.

Number from your family requesting to participate: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Participant Names:

Parent's Signature and Date