

## Places to Paddle/ Planning and Packing for a Trip

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### **PLANNING FOR A TRIP**

#### **1. Evaluate your situation.**

How much time do you have?

How much money are you willing to spend? (Driving and using your own equipment is much less than flying and going on an outfitted/guided trip.)

How much work are you willing to put into the planning?

How will you be traveling to your destination? (drive, bus, train, boat, fly)

What is your skill level?

Who else will go on your trip? (Kids?) (Choosing your travel companions. How many?)

What is the skill level of the weakest member of the group?

Will you base camp? Move your camp each day? Travel from Inn to Inn?

#### **2. Choose an appropriate destination**

Research destinations that fit your situation based on previous answers.

- Guidebooks
- Internet
- Chamber of Commerce/Office of Tourism
- Recommendations from friends
- Outfitters and outdoor stores in the area you are considering visiting
- Look at maps

#### **3. Set goals/objectives for the trip**

What is the objective of your trip? High mileage, leisure pursuits, family trip, etc.  
(Agreement among participants)

What will be the mileage that you will travel on your trip? (Estimate daily travel. Figure in extra days for being weatherbound.)

#### **4. Assign roles for the participants**

How will the trip be organized? (Everyone fend for themselves, or highly organized group?)

Assigning roles for members of the trip. (leader, medical, food, repair, research, fundraising, treasurer, navigation, weather forecaster, PR, photographer, getting permits, making arrangements, assembling group gear, etc.)

#### **5. Logistics**

##### Equipment

What equipment will you need? (Consult equipment lists and/or make your own for group gear and personal gear) (What is the climate and conditions at your chosen destination?)

What equipment do you own? What would you need to buy or rent?

Who will be providing group gear and personal gear?

##### Food and Water

Do you need to carry all of your food and water, or can you re-supply?

How will you obtain drinking water?

Plan a menu and determine food needs.

##### Permits and Regulations

Are there any regulations that you need to be aware of or follow (fires for cooking, handling human waste or other garbage, etc.)

Getting permits. Are any needed? Who will get them?

Do you need to consider security for your gear or yourselves? What is allowed?  
(firearms, bear spray, flares, emergency communication, etc.)

##### Physical Condition

Make sure you are in adequate physical shape for the trip you are doing. Get on a training program in advance of the trip.

##### Miscellaneous

Prepare your navigational charts in advance of the trip.

Make travel arrangements/ Arrange the shuttle.

Calculating costs and determining how to pay for the trip.

## **PACKING FOR A TRIP**

### **1. Pre-trip**

Start far enough ahead of time.

Make lists.

Designate a spot in the house to begin assembling gear for the trip.

Develop a system for packing, repacking, and finding items during the trip.

Plan for moisture management (keeping gear dry, keeping you dry in wet weather) Certain key pieces of gear need to be kept completely waterproof (sleeping bag, food, clothing)

Try to do a trial packing if you have not gone a trip before and have no experience in what and how much gear will fit in your boat.

### **2. During the trip**

Keep heavy items low and close to the center of the boat.

Trim the boat fore and aft and from side to side.

Keep the decks as clear as possible on a kayak and keep the load as low as possible in a canoe.

For kayaks, several smaller drybags work better than fewer large bags

Stow things that you will need during your day so that they are easily accessible.

Be prepared to refine the packing plan that you came up with before the trip.

## **PLACES TO PADDLE**

### **1. Local Rivers**

- Milwaukee River
- Fox River (Illinois Fox or Little Fox)
- Root River
- Rock River
- Bark River
- DesPlaines River

### **2. Local Inland Lakes**

- Beaver Lake
- Big & Little Muskego
- Geneva Lake
- Horicon Marsh
- Lulu Lake
- Pewaukee Lake
- Pike Lake
- Pine Lake
- Upper & Lower Nemahbin/Upper & Lower Nashotah
- Wind Lake
- and many others

### **3. Wisconsin Inland Paddling Destinations**

- Wisconsin River
- Chippewa Flowage
- Turtle-Flambeau Flowage
- Namekagon River
- St. Croix River
- Wolf River
- Peshtigo River
- Upper Mississippi
- and many others

### **4. The Great Lakes**

#### **Lake Michigan**

- Door County/Rock Island - Wisconsin
- Beaver Lake - Michigan
- Wilderness State Park - Michigan

### Lake Superior

- Apostle Islands National Lakeshore - Wisconsin
- Isle Royale National Park- Michigan
- Pictured Rocks - U.P. Michigan
- Pukaskwa National Park/Superior Provincial Park
- North Shore - Minnesota
- North Shore/Slate Islands - Ontario

### Lake Huron

- Les Cheneaux Islands - U.P. Michigan
- Drummond Island - U.P. Michigan
- Georgian Bay & North Channel - Ontario

### Lake Erie

Point Pelee

### **5. Water Trails**

- Boundary Waters - Minnesota
- Cascadia Marine Watertrail/San Juan Islands - Washington
- Maine Island Trail
- Northern Forest Canoe Trail - New England
- Upper Missouri River - Montana
- Wilderness Waterway - Florida
- and many others

### **6. Distant North American Paddling Destinations**

- Channel Islands - California
- Colorado River/Grand Canyon - Arizona
- Lake Powell - Utah
- Glacier Bay - Alaska
- Prince William Sound - Alaska
- Kongakut River/ANWR - Alaska
- Yukon River - Alaska
- Baja Peninsula - Mexico
- and many more

## **RESOURCES**

### **Books**

"Paddling Southern Wisconsin" by Mike Svob

"Paddling Northern Wisconsin" by Mike Svob

"Paddling Illinois" by Mike Svob

### **DVD's**

"River Trails of Southern Wisconsin" - Morrall River Films

"River Trails of Northern Illinois" - Morrall River Films

<http://www.morrallriverfilms.com/Videos.html>

### **Pamphlets**

"Inland Lakes Public Access Guide" Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Southeast Region - information also on website, <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/boataccess/listboat.asp>

### **Maps**

BackCountry's Fishing Maps "Guide Book #3 - Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth Counties"

Published by BackCountry Enterprises, LLC - Manitowoc (920)686-0994

DeLorme Atlas & Gazetteer (available for most states)

### **Websites (links to water trails)**

<http://www.sherrikayaks.com/our-links/places-to-paddle/>

[http://www.seakayakermag.com/community/water\\_trails/watertrails.htm](http://www.seakayakermag.com/community/water_trails/watertrails.htm)

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