



Getting started

ARE YOU READY TO BECOME A
BOUNDARY WATERS FAMILY?
AS BOUNDARY WATERS OUTFITTERS,
WE CAN MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU.
IN NO TIME AT ALL, YOU WILL BE READY FOR FUN,
ADVENTURES, AND QUALITY TIME
WITH YOUR FAMILY.



First it would be helpful if you considered some of following questions . . .

WHO WANTS TO PARTICIPATE?

A small family unit is ideal. The maximum party size allowed in the Boundary Waters is nine. We can help you figure out how to travel safely in canoes with group members of all ages.

WHAT SORT OF ADVENTURE DO YOU SEEK?

It isn't necessary to be seasoned paddlers to enjoy your first trip to the BWCAW. We help plenty of novice travelers get comfortable in the woods. Would you prefer to paddle a short distance and set up a campsite nearby? From a base camp you can fish, swim, relax, play, and wander on day trips as you practice new camping skills and enjoy the wilderness. Want a challenge? You can take a circle route through several portages and lakes. You can also make travel decisions as you go. We're glad to help you mold your trip to fit your wants and needs.

As a general rule we recommend that families not plan to travel (in hours) more than their youngest child's age (in years) during any day. It's also a good idea to include all of the family members in determining the route and reading the map. Children who help with the plan take more interest in the trip and often have more fun.

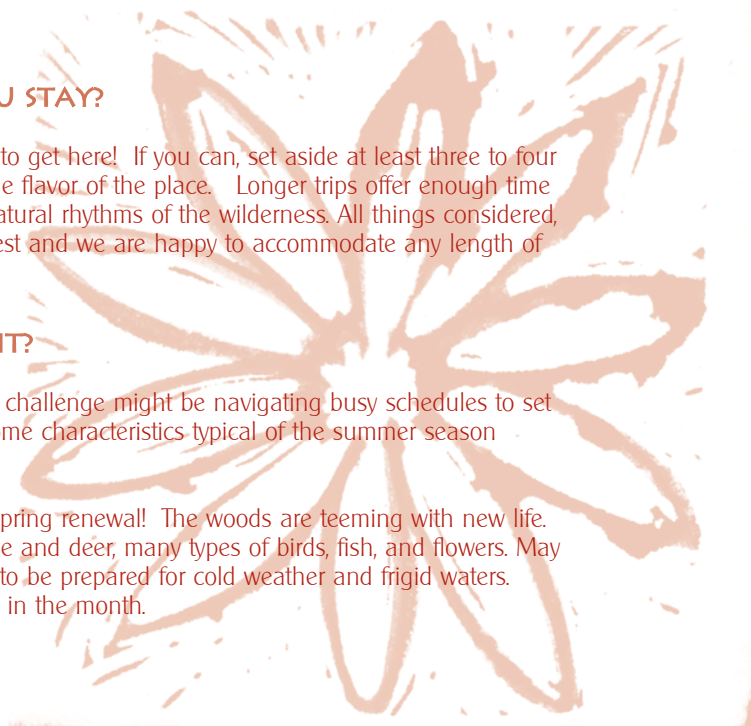
HOW LONG WILL YOU STAY?

The most important thing is to get here! If you can, set aside at least three to four days to give yourselves a true flavor of the place. Longer trips offer enough time to settle in and follow the natural rhythms of the wilderness. All things considered, you know your family the best and we are happy to accommodate any length of trip you desire.

WHEN WILL YOU VISIT?

We realize that your biggest challenge might be navigating busy schedules to set dates. Outlined below are some characteristics typical of the summer season months.

May is a time to celebrate spring renewal! The woods are teeming with new life. You may see newborn moose and deer, many types of birds, fish, and flowers. May is delightful, but you'll need to be prepared for cold weather and frigid waters. Bugs don't emerge until late in the month.



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NOT GIVE IT A TRY?



June offers the best blend of fishing, wildflowers, and birding. If you're anglers, the bass and walleyes actively feed in June. Cheerful birds will treat you to their finest mating songs. Keep in mind that the bugs can also be hearty, so we'll have headnets and safe repellent options to keep everyone happy.

July usually has warmer, drier summer weather. The berries ripen and the fishing is good. The lakes are warm enough for pleasant swimming.

August is a popular month for visitors. The weather tends to be warm and dry and the bug cycles end. Permits can be limited, so plan well ahead of time, especially if you want to visit during the first half of the month.

September is a golden month. Fewer people travel the woods, the weather is still relatively warm, and the animals are on the move. You'll have quiet, peaceful days as the leaves start to show their colors. It can get cold or even snow in late September, so it is important to be prepared for all kinds of weather.

Now you are ready to call an outfitter for assistance. We're glad to help you through the rest of the process. It's what we love to do.

WHAT ABOUT CAMPING PERMITS?

All overnight paddlers need a permit. Permits are secured through the USFS and are limited. You should arrange for one as soon as you know the dates of your visit. With that said, if you choose to work with an outfitter, don't hesitate to call at any time; we can almost always find an entry permit if you are flexible with a route. The permit will specify the lake and the date that you plan to enter the BWCAW. Once in the wilderness, you are welcome to camp in any open campsite and travel freely. In each designated campsite you'll find a fire grate and latrine. As outfitters, we are able to facilitate the permit process, issue permits, and review rules and regulations with you. All outfitters and individuals secure wilderness permits through www.recreation.gov.

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