



# Rifle River Expedition

## FAQ

(6/2/2018 edition)

### Who is leading this trip?

- Shawn McCloskey, Skyline's Maintenance Supervisor, and 2 counselors.

### What about the transport?

- 25 passenger bus

### Where exactly will you put in on the river?

- We will begin canoeing at the northernmost outpost in Skidway Lake, then kayak another portion of the river, then finally tube the last portion of the journey finishing in Sterling.
- <http://www.whitescanoe.com/>



### Where will you stay overnight?

- Camp outposts on the Rifle River, owned and operated by White's Canoe Livery including Greenwood Campground, Pipeline Campground and M70 Campground.

### What kind of lodging is provided?

- On Sunday and Thursday nights, the campers will sleep in cabins at Camp Skyline. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, campers will sleep in tents, males and females in separate tents, of course.



### Why the Rifle River?

- The Rifle River is one of the most beautiful rivers in eastern Michigan. Designated as a wild/scenic/natural river, the Rifle is a very popular canoeing river in Michigan. With an average depth of eighteen to twenty-four inches, the Rifle is highly recommended for beginners and is excellent for families.
- The Rifle River is about 120 miles Northwest of Camp Skyline and a logical choice for an easy out trip.

#### **Where will you access safe drinking water?**

- There is a safe supply of drinking water at each campsite.

#### **How will you ensure food safety while off site?**

- The staff are trained in food safety.
- We will use dehydrated fruits & vegetables & sauces, canned goods and other non-potentially hazardous foods such as dried pasta, dried grains, cereals, bread, nut butters, honey, jam, ultra pasteurized milk, etc.
- We have access to ice at all of the campgrounds.
- There are stores nearby where fresh food can be accessed when needed.
- The campers/staff are trained in proper dishwashing and sanitizing practices for food utensils.

#### **How will you ensure health and safety on the trip?**

- Arrangements have been made with the health care supervisor to have health screening prior to departure and upon return for all campers on this trip. The staff will obtain copies of health histories and signed permission-to-treat cards from the health care supervisor.
- The staff is certified in appropriate level of First Aid/CPR. They are trained in First aid procedures and will have cell phones at all times in order to obtain emergency assistance.
- At least one of the staff will be a certified Lifeguard.
- Per American Camp Association standards, participants are required to wear personal flotation devices (lifejackets) on the river.

#### **Emergency Access Numbers**

We will be preserving battery life by having cellphones mostly off. If we need to be reached in an emergency, the best manner will be contacting the livery.

White's Livery 989-654-2654

OTHERS TBD

# What to pack...

## **FOR SURE YES:**

- Clothing. Lean towards quick-drying stuff. Warm stuff for nights, socks for nighttime. Swimsuits.
- Personal items. Toiletries, sleeping bag, pillow (or pillow case for stuffing makeshift pillows), flashlight.
- Shoes: 2 pairs – something to be wet, something to be warm-and-dry (e.g. water shoes and sneakers, or two pairs of sneakers, or sandals and sneakers. Avoid flip flops or open-heeled things that the river could carry off).
- Hat. Wide-brim if possible.
- Sunglasses and strap.
- Sunscreen.
- Towel (small or sports-style quick dry if available)
- Any necessary/prescribed medications

## **OPTIONAL YES:**

- Laundry bag (we'll have lots of lightweight bags).
- Lifejacket – only if you already have one you like that fits. Otherwise, provided.
- Waterbottle/camelback. We'll have a water bottle for all campers, but they may bring their own too.
- Camera. Bring at own risk. We'll have one or two to document the trip.
- Small instrument (harmonica/ukulele). We'll do our best to bring these along and keep them dry.
- Bugspray.
- Pocket knife/multi-tool.
- Small games (cards etc)
- Small daypack/backpack (will get wet – we will provide a simple nylon backpack for carrying on the river)
- A book, journal etc...

## **SOME THINGS WE'LL PROVIDE/HAVE COVERED**

- Food
- Tents
- 65-80 liter dry bag
- Nylon drawstring daypack

## **FOR SURE NO – NOT NECESSARY AND/OR DESIRABLE:**

- Pets
- Foods, snacks or candy

- Clothes you wouldn't want to get dirty
- Cell phones/ iPods etc
- Money, wallets, purse
- Anything which would result in tremendous unhappiness if it were lost, broken, or got dirty.
- Items NOT permitted silly string, weapons, alcoholic beverages, unauthorized drugs.

#### **THE PLAN FOR STUFF:**

- As part of our trip preparation, we will do everything possible to squeeze each camper's things in to one large drybag (these bags are designed for keeping contents dry while even immersed). The bag pictured shows the size. Anything that cannot fit but is nevertheless necessary will be brought along somehow (we have additional bags).
- We will carry all of our belongings with us downstream each day, set up camp, enjoy the night, break down camp and repeat the process.

