

About the Programs

Two options: a 7-day canoe adventure to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota or a 5-day sailing expedition on Lake Michigan. The BWCA is a rigorous true wilderness adventure – no electricity, no plumbing – just us, our canoes and nature. We travel from camp to camp each day, at times carrying our canoes and gear from lake to lake. For the sailing adventure, we will crew a 26' sailboat – learning all aspects of sailing.

This expedition is a Leadership program and a fund raiser – pay some money, raise some money, learn new skills, do good.

The proceeds go to:

1. Fund this adventure.
2. To subsidize the Journeys' program with our sharing parish St Malachy+Precious Blood. You will be part of this program, too, and get a year of free adventures!
3. To help cover our equipment and insurance costs, so that youth in poverty can experience their own Adventure through us.

You will get a tax deduction of approximately \$250 and all your donors will get a 100% tax deduction.

About Us

Chicago Voyagers engages teens in activities such as rock climbing, canoeing, sailing, caving and camping and teach them the importance of teamwork, of acting responsibly, and of leadership. Such life lessons empower youth to stay in school, avoid negative behaviors and create a better future for themselves.



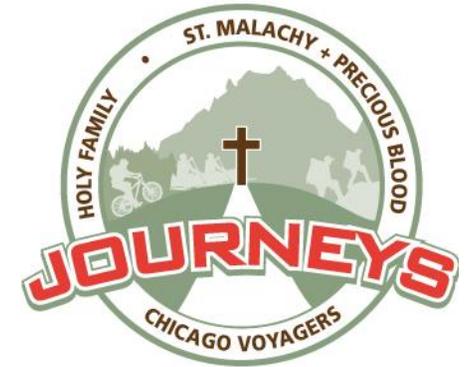
Parent Testimonial

"Our son, Andrew, went on what he called "the trip of a lifetime." Andrew went with some teens from our church, along with three adult guides to canoe the Boundary Waters in Minnesota. At first I was a bit apprehensive because he was going to be in a remote area without access to electricity or running water. This trip was life-changing for Andrew. He discovered things about himself he didn't know he had within. I would highly recommend this trip to anyone of any age, but especially to a teenager looking to explore nature and discover themselves." - Kristen Berryhill



What equipment is supplied?

Chicago Voyagers will supply group gear such as tents and cooking equipment. We also have loaner items such as sleeping bags, rain gear and even sandals. See <http://chicagovoyagers/holyfamily> for a list of what you need to bring.



Take the Challenge!



Adventure Program for Holy Family Teens and Friends

July 12-18 canoe expedition
or
June 25-29 sailing expedition

Frequently Asked Questions

How is this a leadership program?

Teens will get the chance to lead the group for a day, being coached on his or her leadership skills. We also teach and teens practice different styles of communication and decision making, as there are important characteristics for effective leaders.

How else will I benefit?

The BWCA paddling, and especially the portages, will be big physical and mental challenges. The sailing adventure is highly focused on sailing skills and teamwork. So, building self-confidence and self-motivation is a natural outcome of this program. While all this is happening, you will build friendships that will last many years.



What do we do?

Boat, talk about our lives, & view God's majesty. Hang out in camp/on the boat. Swim. Fish. Sleep in tents or on the boat. Make friends. View stars, maybe even the Northern Lights. Look for wildlife. Learn a lot about ourselves and others, build leadership skills, learn how to use a compass and cook outdoors.

What does a typical day look like?

- a. Up early – breakfast & pack up
- b. Canoe about 10 miles (or sail), stopping for breaks and lunch
- c. afternoon break to fish, swim, hang-out
- d. Evening: set-up camp (drop anchor), dinner, discussion

How many can attend?

We will have 2-3 adults 5- 6 teens on each trip. Three teen spots for the July 12th trip will be filled by St Malachy teens. Please invite your friends to join us. They do not need to be Holy Family parishioners or Catholics.



Is this right for me?

If you answer these questions yes, then please consider taking advantage of this exciting opportunity:

1. Can I keep a good attitude, even if it rains or there are bugs? Can I do without a shower for 4 days?
2. (BWCA) Am I physically fit? You will need to paddle a canoe for several hours at a time and portage (carry) a heavy load for short distances.
3. Am I looking for a fun time and opportunities to grow as a person?
4. Do I want to help at-risk youth experience outdoor adventures?

What about training?

We will schedule a training day to learn how to sail or canoe/portage (carry equipment) and all the skills need to for the wild.

What about cost?

The cost is \$500 (\$250 deposit and \$250 May 15) + a commitment to fundraise another \$500. Holy Family is organizing an event which should cover part your fundraising goal. When you consider the trip, equipment, transportation, and meals en route, the retail value of this adventure is over \$1,500. We will provide you a web page to help with fundraising. If you prefer, you could just pay the \$1,000 and you'd still be getting a nice discount!

How about Transportation?

Transportation is provided from/to Holy Family. The BWCA drive is about 9 hours.

Can I bring a cell phone?

There is no cell phone service in the wilderness and we will turn phones off while on the sailboat. You can bring your phone for the drive.

What about weather?

As long as there isn't lightning, nor severe weather/winds, we can paddle/sail. We will provide rain jackets/pants and other warm clothing as needed. We can stay safe in all sort of weather and will take refuge from storms if needed.



Who is the Wilderness Guide/Leader?

Bernie Rupe, Holy Family catechist and member of the Teen Faith leadership team, will be the leader. Bernie has led 21 expeditions of teens to the BWCA, is a certified ACA canoe guide and (medical) Wilderness First Responder.

What about safety?

This is a remote wilderness experience. We will teach strategies to live in the wilderness safely. It would take some time to get to a hospital, so everyone's safety will be a priority in all decisions we make. We will have a satellite phone if we were to need a rescue, but we have never had to do that. Because of our experience, safety policies and good decision making, Chicago Voyagers has an excellent safety record.

*To find out more contact Bernie Rupe,
847 636 0422 Bernie@chicagovoyagers.org or
visit chicagovoyagers.org/holyfamily*