



**BIRCHBARK EXPEDITIONS BSA**  
**GREATER NIAGARA FRONTIER COUNCIL**  
**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

Dear Scouts, Venturers and Parents,

It is with great pleasure that we present a challenging high adventure program for Venturers and Older Scouts. **BIRCHBARK EXPEDITIONS BSA** is a fully guided, seven-day canoe trip, steeped in the rich *Age of Exploration* history of our area. The voyages take place in Algonquin Provincial Park, and on the wilderness rivers of northern Ontario, which offers some of the best canoe tripping in Canada.

The Greater Niagara Frontier Council, BSA, has developed a program specifically designed to bring teenagers to the northwoods, and to bring adventure to teenagers. In the process nature will give us an ideal opportunity to help mold them in to men and women - strong, confident, resourceful - who can work towards a goal with their peers, and who can become good stewards of our natural environment.

As a Scoutmasters ourselves, and as a parents of teenage children, we know how important good, wholesome, challenging programs are for our young men and women. If we could, we would help every Scout and Venturer become a Voyageur!

*David Bliss, Hank Stopinski and Alan Percy*  
 Birchbark Expedition Program Chairs

**Eligibility for Birchbark Expeditions**  
 Age 13 by September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of your trip & BSA Blue Swimmer-Swim 100 yards are required. First Class Rank recommended.

**INVITATION TO ADVENTURE**  
**2021 SEASON**

**FULLY GUIDED CANOE TRIPS INTO THE  
 CANADIAN NORTHWOODS**

**ALGONQUIN PARK 7-DAY CANOE TRIP**

- Session 1 - Sat, July 10 through Sat, July 17
- Session 2 - Sat, July 17 through Sat, July 24
- Session 3 - Sat, July 24 through Sat, July 31
- Session 4 - Sat, July 31 through Sat, Aug 7
- Session 5 - Sat, Aug 7 through Sat, Aug 14

**Expedition Cost:**

Crew Size	Early-Bird*	Regular
7 – 8	\$425/pp	\$450/pp
5 – 6	\$450/pp	\$475/pp

**\*Secure your reservation with a \$400/crew deposit before January 1, and get a \$25/person early-bird discount!**

*Fee covers all back-country food, camping permits, use of canoes and crew gear, and support by a highly trained guide. Transportation to/from Algonquin and some personal gear is not included.*

**FULLY GUIDED**  
 With Highly Trained and Experienced Guides  
**AFFORDABLE**

An Excellent Value for all Scouts

**TURN-KEY**

With all crew gear, backcountry food, permits and logistics included

**CLOSE BY**

Within one day's drive from Western NY, PA, OH and MI

**CUSTOMIZABLE**

Flexible itineraries to match crew capabilities

**Secure your reservation online at:**  
[www.wnyscouting.org/Birchbark](http://www.wnyscouting.org/Birchbark)



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## ALL INCLUSIVE TRIP PACKAGE

We have intentionally designed the fees so that almost everything is included in the participant fee. Other than transportation and two lunches, there are no major add-on costs. Participant Fee Includes:

**Guide.** A Friendly, Personable, Experienced, Veteran Birchbark Expeditions Guide for the duration of your expedition

### Use of the following Equipment

- 17 foot lightweight Old Town tripping canoes
- Paddles, Life Jackets, Safety Equipment
- Tents-lightweight, with mosquito netting
- 2xButane Stoves with fuel, cook kits, dining fly
- Canoe Packs for personal, crew gear, and food
- Water purification systems
- Bear bag ropes and pulley system

### Food

Lightweight, easy to prepare tripping meals

### Park and Guide Fees

All park vehicle fees, adult and youth camping fees, interior permit fees. Guide Fees are also included.

### Ste. Marie Among the Hurons

Admission fees, all meals, accommodations.

### Each Crew is responsible for the following costs:

1. Travel to and from Ste. Marie and Algonquin Park.
2. Sunday lunch enroute from Ste. Marie to Algonquin.
3. Saturday lunch coming home from Algonquin.
4. Spending money for souvenirs, and extra maps.
5. Fishing licenses for those who wish to fish.

## FOR OUT OF COUNCIL CREWS BONUS PRE-TRIP VISIT TO NIAGARA FALLS

Why not come a day early for a tour of Niagara Falls!

**Niagara USA Discovery Pass.** The *Discovery Pass* (716-278-1770) provides all-in-one admission to the *Niagara Falls tour trolley, Aquarium, Discovery Center; Niagara Legends movie; world class Maid of the Mist boat ride, and the awe inspiring Cave of the Winds – an excellent value. You can take a whole day (or two) to do all that! Or, you can visit the attractions individually. Niagara Falls State Park!*

**What to do.** Day 1 of the trip starts on Saturday. You may wish to come a day early to Niagara Falls. That will break up your travel time, and give you some time to tour spectacular Niagara Falls. You could also plan a side trip to historic Old Fort Niagara, which commanded the entrance to the Niagara River Portage, the major supply route to the Ohio Valley, Fort Duquesne, and the Mississippi River.

**Accommodations.** For crews coming from outside the Western New York Area, the Greater Niagara Frontier Council offers accommodations in cabins at Camp Stonehaven, which is just 12 miles from world famous Niagara Falls. Call the Council Office for rental information. Tent sites are also available.

**Meals.** There are many reasonably priced restaurants and supermarkets in Niagara Falls.

**Costs.** The pre-trip tour day of Niagara Falls is an optional bonus day designed for our out-of-council units. The costs are not included in the basic trip package, because not all crews will take advantage of the touring day. However, we believe you will find the cost and value of this day to be very attractive.

## TRAVEL TIMES AND DISTANCES

Distance (miles) between Niagara Falls, NY and...

Rochester, NY.....	90 miles (1½ hours)
Erie, PA.....	125 miles ( 2 hours)
Frederick, MD.....	400 miles ( 8 hours)
Washington, DC...	500 miles (10 hours)
Richmond, VA.....	625 miles (12 hours)
New York, NY.....	400 miles ( 8 hours)
Midland, Ontario...	160 miles ( 3 hours)
Algonquin Park....	300 miles ( 6 hours)
Mattice, Ontario...	620 miles (12 hours)
Moosonee, Ontario	820 mi (10-day paddle from Mattice)
Fort Albany, Ont	1000 mi(10-day paddle from Hearst)

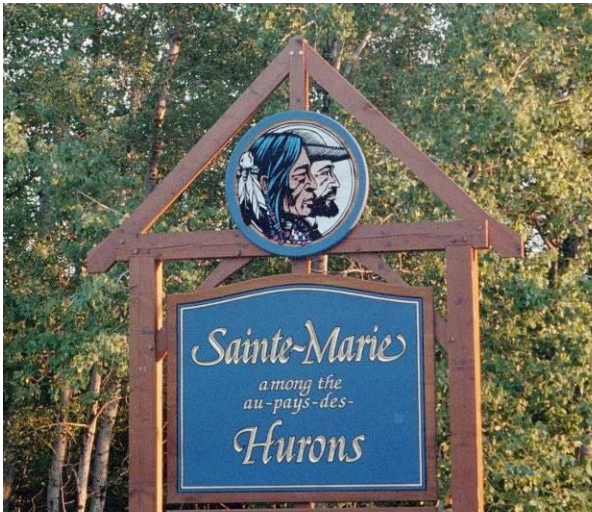
BROCHURE - INVITATION TO ADVENTURE



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The year was 1639. It had been 24 years since the explorer Samuel de Champlain first reached Georgian Bay, opening the continent to the fur trade. Quebec had been established; however the interior of the continent still had no permanent French settlement.

That year Sainte-Marie was founded by French Jesuits in the land of the Wendat, or Huron people. The mission was designed as a retreat for missionaries and a refuge for Christian Hurons. It also stood as an example of French culture in the isolated heart of New France. The Hurons shared their knowledge with the European newcomers and the little mission struggled to become self sufficient.



The Hurons had no resistance to the European diseases brought to their land by the newcomers. Measles, smallpox and influenza killed many. The situation was compounded by the rekindling of traditional rivalries between the Hurons and the Iroquois of what is now New York State. The contest for dominance over the lucrative Georgian Bay – Ottawa River fur trade route further fueled the life-and-death struggle.

## HISTORICAL TOUR (INCLUDED)

# SAINTE-MARIE AMONG THE HURONS

During its ten-year existence, Sainte-Marie was the only European community in what is now Ontario. It was the site of Ontario's first hospital and first European style farm. By 1649 Sainte-Marie housed 66 Frenchmen, one-fifth of the population of New France at the time. Constructed by French helpers and craftsmen, Sainte-Marie was built using stone and timbers from the surrounding countryside. Some items, like candles, books, and small amounts of iron came from Quebec by canoe, a hazardous four week journey. The addition of cattle, chickens, pigs and gardens made the isolated mission virtually self-sufficient, even though it was 800 miles inland from Quebec.

In 1649 Fathers Jean de Brebeuf and Gabriel Lalemant, along with hundreds of Hurons were captured and killed. As neighboring Huron villages were destroyed by the fierce Iroquois, the Jesuits prepared to leave their mission home. In June 1649 they packed their most precious possessions (including the relics of the slain Fathers Brebeuf and Lalemant) and set out by canoe for Christian Island, burning Sainte-Marie to the ground lest it fall into the hands of the Iroquois enemy.

Traveling by canoe to Christian Island they established Sainte-Marie II. After a winter of terrible hardship and starvation there, the Jesuits decided to abandon their mission. Accompanied by a few hundred Christian Hurons, they returned to Quebec in 1650. The wilderness claimed the ruins of Sainte-Marie among the Hurons. And the once strong Huron people were obliterated from their ancient homeland by the twin terrors of disease and Iroquois ferocity.

Today Sainte-Marie is reconstructed on its original site. Costumed interpreters tell the story of two cultures in early New France, revealed through archaeological findings and the writings of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Jesuits themselves. Eight Frenchmen who died between 1642 and 1649 have been recognized as saints, and *Martyr's Shrine*, across the highway from Sainte-Marie, is dedicated to these Canadian martyrs.





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## The Flagship Program – Algonquin Park

The flagship program of Birchbark Expeditions BSA, a 7-day, fully guided canoe trip in Canada's Algonquin Provincial Park, which offers some of the best canoe tripping in the world.

### Saturday

All-day tour of historic *Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons*, the 17<sup>th</sup> century French and Indian settlement on Georgian Bay, occupied for ten years during the exploration of the vast North American continent.

### Sunday

Your crew arrives at our Birchbark Expeditions BSA Base Camp on *Whitefish Lake*, conveniently located on Highway 60 between the *Canoe Lake Portage Store* and the *Algonquin Visitor Center*. Many crews visit the magnificent Visitor Center for an in-depth introduction to the Park (and a good meal). Whitefish Lake provides an ideal sheltered location to hold our pre-trip canoe training. Opening and closing campfires are held here. And on Sunday at Base Camp you will meet your Guide, who will stay with your crew for your whole trip.

### Monday through Friday

On Monday your crew leaves Base Camp for five days of canoeing in the Interior. Motor boats are banned beyond the first access lakes, so within a day you will be in a remote wilderness section of the park. There are literally hundreds of lakes in Algonquin, and dozens of canoe routes. We custom design a trip to your crew's desires and experience levels. Get ready for unsurpassed canoe tripping!

## ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK CANOE TRIP

### Algonquin

The oldest and most famous provincial park in Ontario, and one of the largest in Canada, is 300 miles (six hours) from the Niagara Falls USA/Canada border. Situated on the geologically ancient Canadian Shield, Algonquin sprawls over 3,000 square miles (2 million acres) of wild and beautiful lakes and forests, bogs and rivers, cliffs and beaches – a canoeist's paradise. The vast interior, only accessible by canoe and portage, is populated by beaver, moose, bear, wolves and loons.

### Birchbark Expeditions BSA Guides

are all hand picked outdoorsmen. Most have been Scouters for decades and have canoed Algonquin Park for years. Our *Canoe Routes of Algonquin Park* is chock full of detailed *Guide Notes* describing 35 different routes our Guides have travelled.



A Scout's first canoe trip - Algonquin Park

### The One-trip Portage

Your Guide will help you become an expert canoe tripper, the hallmark of which is the *one-trip portage*. Through the use of careful packing technique, and specialty lightweight equipment, most crews traverse the often rugged portages in one trip.

### Pre-Requisites for Scouts and Venturers:

- Age 13 by September 1st of the year of your trip
- BSA swim test (100 yards)
- First Class Scout or equivalent

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