



Expeditions

Summer 2018

BSAC High Adventure Committee

Northern Tier – Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base



The flagship base of Northern Tier, the Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base has hosted Boy Scout canoe expeditions on the shores of Moose Lake since 1941. Located twenty miles outside of the town of Ely, Minnesota, the Sommers Base outfits over 4,000 Scouts each year on wilderness canoe trips in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in Minnesota and the Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario. Trips out of the Sommers base are limited to 8 total participants plus an Interpreter.

Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base is also home to several unique individual scout programs: the Order of the Arrow's Wilderness Voyage; Forest Corps, a coeducational environmental leadership program; and Lone Voyageur, a program that allows for individual scouts and smaller troops to take out a Northern Tier trip.

Aside from summer adventures, The Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base hosts the Okpik Cold Weather Camping Program and is the site of the Boy Scouts of America's National Cold Weather Camping Development Center. Okpik Cold Weather Camping is the BSA's premier winter camping program. At Okpik, Scouts experience a true Northwoods winter: learning how to thrive in subzero temperatures, travel across frozen wilderness lakes and construct their own sleeping structures out of snow. Four types of Okpik experiences are currently offered: Cabin Stays, Okpik Weekend Samplers, Okpik Treks, and Dogsled Trips.

Contact info@ntier.org for more information.

Great Lakes Sailing Adventure



Set sail aboard Michigan Crossroads Council's sail training vessel **Retriever**! The **Retriever**, a 52' ketch, is an offshore sail training program where youth will learn the fundamentals of sailboat handling, steering, waterway navigation, marine safety, and various cruising techniques used by seasoned sailors!

Based in its home port of Mackinaw City, Michigan, the **Retriever** will utilize harbors throughout the northern Great Lakes as classrooms to teach youth how to sail. Program options include two-night weekend cruises, and six (6) day – five (5) night programs. There are extended holiday weekend programs on Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends too! The **Retriever** is designed to accommodate a maximum of 10 youth and two (2) adults. Co-ed crews are welcome, but the advisor must contact the council in advance to discuss options. All participants must be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America.

For more information go to the Michigan Crossroads Council website (www.michiganscouting.org.) and click on the Camping tab.

Zaleski Backpack Trail

The Zaleski Backpack Trail is one of the state's most—if not the most—popular overnight hiking destinations. This scenic trail passes by many points of biological, geological and historical interest which are marked in the field by lettered signs, making this the only self-guided interpretive backpack trail in the state.



Most of the main trail's 29.1 miles are laid out in a long contorted loop, with a cutoff side trail at the southern end and a one-mile section of two-way trail connecting a smaller northern loop. In 2016, a new backpacking trailhead was created at the historic Hope Schoolhouse just south of Lake Hope resulting in a 1.9-mile section of two-way trail connecting the new trailhead to the south loop.

Most hikers refer to the sections of the Zaleski Trail in terms of its *south loop*, *middle loop* and *north loop*. The configuration of the trail offers many trip options for both day hikers and backpackers alike. Any of the loops can be easily completed as a single night backpack trip, but plan on a double-overnighter to hike all three loops in one trip or to complete the 22.3 miles of a combined south and middle loop trip.