



First Congregational United Church of Christ

865 Lincoln Lake Ave SE

PO BOX 234

Lowell, MI 49331

Boundary Waters Canoe Trip

July 9-17, 2021

Parent and participant meeting!
Let us answer all your questions!
Fundraising plans
Scholarship information

March 28, 2021

1pm Zoom or at church (masked/social
distanced)

Topic: Alyssa Anten's Zoom Meeting

Time: Mar 28, 2021 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83378401642?pwd=a0hTRVNObHM1YjhldFpZZktjQjZ4QT09>

Meeting ID: 833 7840 1642

Passcode: 028592



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Please Read!

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), as we know it, was established in 1978 by Congress through BWCA Wilderness Act. This Act restricted logging, mining, and most motorized access to this 1,000,000+ acre area in northern Minnesota. The BWCAW is part of and managed by the Superior National Forest. The BWCAW is visited by more than 200,000 visitors who travel the more than 1500 miles of canoe routes and stay at the 2000+ camp sites. The Boundary Waters is a pristine, yet rugged wilderness. The lakes are cut from granite and surrounded in old pine growth, creating a wonderful habitat for all sorts of woodland creatures- big and small.

You are invited to join us as we make a 40 – 50 mile loop through this wilderness, canoeing and portaging from lake to lake. You will cook over an open fire, sleep in tents or under the stars. There is no electricity, no cell phone coverage and no modern conveniences. We will work together to carry all of our gear between lakes on our backs. This is a rugged trip but people of varying skill levels – beginners to experienced outdoors-people are encouraged to participate.

Why do we do this experience?

The First Congregational Church of Lowell finds this opportunity for our young people to experience this challenging journey creates lifelong personal & team growth. Their ability to travel with great physical exertion, without technology, & in small teams proves self confidence in ways deeper than many youth could dream. Finally, the earth, created by God, is a beautiful place & we at the First Congregational Church of Lowell feel a great sense of responsibility in protecting it. This experience allows youth to see land that's been virtually untouched by humans & gain an understanding of how much humans have shaped the land we regularly see.

Team configurations-

Youth teams – For students who are currently in 6th – 12th grade

Dates you need to know:

Open Registration

TODAY! There are limited spaces, Register early!

Registration and Deposit Deadline

April 15

Final Payment Deadline

June 30

Trip Dates

July 09-18 (*We will meet July 9 to pack- youth will stay at the church until we leave at 4am on July 10*)

Cost:

The cost for the trip is \$450. Fundraising efforts can significantly reduce this expense. Please see the Fundraising sheet.

Scholarships: We're glad you are participating! The priority at First Congregational United Church of Christ is to offer a safe and welcoming experience to all young people. Scholarships are made available through the church and through donations. Students will not be turned away from events due to financial need. The best way to accept and pay forward a scholarship is to come back! Your continued participation is the best thing for our group! If, in the future, you are able to, you can make a donation that would allow us to offer a scholarship to another person. Payment plans are always available.

Itinerary:

Friday, July 9- Arrive at church at 6:00pm to pack the van. We will also do a gear check to make sure everyone is packed. *Youth will then stay at the church overnight!* Adults are also invited to stay overnight at church or meet at 3:45AM. There will be plenty of fun activities, movies, games and snacks for youth to stay occupied. A quiet area will be provided for those who wish to sleep. Chaperones will be monitoring the event. If you are available to chaperone, please let us know.

Saturday, July 10- Leaders will meet at church **NO LATER than 3:45AM!** We will load up and depart. We will head north to the bridge, west through the UP, across Wisconsin and into Minnesota. We will arrive in the evening around 7pm. We eat fast food for lunch and dinner. We will sleep at the outfitter. *This overnight and early departure time will enable people to sleep better in the van, reduce rest-stop occurrences and allow us to get to the outfitter and unwind before our trip starts.*

Sunday, July 11 - Wake about 7am (central time). Pack and get ready, breakfast at the outfitter, get our gear, watch a required DNR video and get some basic instructions. Plan the route with an experienced guide at the outfitter. Get on the water!!

Our days on the water will be structured around the route, but generally we will wake early (6-7am), eat breakfast, pack up our campsite and canoe/portage until around noon. We will break for lunch and then continue canoeing/portaging until about 2. We will find a new campsite, set up camp, have time for fishing, sightseeing, napping, swimming, and drying our socks and boots.

Friday, July 16 - Wake between 6-7am (central time), break camp and arrive at the outfitter by noon. Unpack, shower and load the van, then head off for a real meal at a local restaurant. We will then start for home. We will travel into the UP and stay the night. Our lodging on the return is still being planned..

Saturday, July 17 - Wake about 7am (eastern time), eat breakfast and make the journey home. We should arrive in Lowell sometime around 6pm.

Camping Gear:

All camping gear will be provided for you. Tents, sleeping bags, stoves, canoes, water purification systems, etc. There is **no need** to purchase any camping gear.

Personal Gear: You will need a good pair of hiking boots. Yes, boots not shoes. You may already have a pair, if not these can be purchased at any Meijer's type store starting at about \$45. You can spend more, but you do not have to. Boots should be in good structural condition. Over the ankle boots are best. *Do not let a salesperson at a fancy footwear store tell you that you should get expensive portage shoes or waterproof boots!* You will be told that they know what is best and they will make all sorts of recommendations- but trust this: Buy the inexpensive boots! You will be glad you did! This is our 20th trip - it seems that the inexpensive boots have outlasted the expensive ones every time. Shoes have always been a problem for people- people have worn them over the years and had more blisters, colder feet and more tired feet. The only sprained ankle I can remember happened to someone wearing shoes. There may be boots you can borrow at church. BORROW if needed! You will not need any water filtration system.

You **will need** your own sleeping bag and pillow for sleeping at the outfitter and on the way home.

Food: All of the food while we are on the water will be provided. We also can meet any special dietary needs you may have. You will need to pay for your own meals only on our way there and back. **YOUR BWCA FOOD IS BEING PACKED BY SOME OF OUR LEADERS.** We must know in advance of any special needs.

Money: You will need to bring money for food on the way there and back, including a restaurant meal when we leave the outfitter. There will also be an opportunity to purchase souvenirs at the outfitter. Please do not bring a lot of money! Money for food and a little souvenir (t-shirt?) is plenty.

People: Since there is a restriction as to the number of people that can be together, we will need to break up into teams. You will have the opportunity to request to be on the same team with someone else. Efforts will be made to keep you with your friends. However, final decisions will be made by the leaders and will reflect what is best for the group. We have a limited number of spaces! Register early!

Since space is limited so early registration is a must. Late registrations will not be accepted unless there is a cancellation.

We will continue monitoring news of the COVID-19 carefully. We are committed to keeping everyone as safe as possible and encourage you to help by following the CDC guidelines and state orders for your family at home. We monitor changes daily and will adapt as needed.

We are proactively planning ahead to minimize risks to be as safe as possible, including:

- Group size is limited to 9 in the BWCA at all times anyway
 - We will be taking more, smaller capacity vehicles
 - Provide hand washing and/or hand sanitizing facilities
 - Symptom check before departure and before entering the BWCA
 - Masking in public spaces during travel to and from the Boundary Waters
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FUNDRAISING

POP CAN DRIVE: March - August

We are collecting pop cans for the group. Families are asked to sign up for a month where they return the cans and proceeds benefit the group. Last year, we raised almost \$800 without really trying... If we really try, we can break this record! [POP CAN Sign up](#)

Service Saturday April 17 9am-1pm

Do chores as commissioned by church family and friends

Possible?? Mothers day gift basket delivery (like we did at Christmas)

Car Wash June 6, 2021 (at church) 9am - noon

Other ideas??

Boundary Waters Canoe Trip

July 9=17, 2021

Open to all youth, who are currently in the 6th -12th grades and their friends. We will be traveling to Ely, MN on the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. We meet at church at 6pm on July 9. We will return around 6:00pm on Saturday, July 17. Cost is \$450 per person*. Registration and \$100 non-refundable deposit is due no later than April 15.

* See Cost on previous pages

REGISTRATION FORM: Please fill out and return. Registration forms and \$100 are due no later than April 15! Make checks payable to First Congregational Church.

Participant Name: _____

Date of birth _____ ☐ Youth (6th – 12th grade) ☐ Leader

Address: _____ city _____ zip _____

Student Email Address: _____

Parent Email Address: _____

Phone Number- Day _____ Evening _____

Special Dietary Instructions: ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Vegan ☐ Other – please describe below.

Youth Team Participants Only:

Name of the person you would most like to be on a team with



Communications including phone calls/text messages/Facebook posts or other communication to or from parents, relatives or friends is restricted while travelling and not physically possible in the Boundary Waters.

Parents can assume that no news from the student or leader is good news. Parents will be contacted with any pertinent/emergency information.

First Congregational Church
Boundary Waters Canoe Trip
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I, _____, as parent of _____,
(Print Name) (Print Name)

acknowledge and state the following:

I have chosen to allow my child to participate in the Boundary Waters Canoe Trip.

I understand that this trip entails a risk of physical injury and involves strenuous activity including canoeing, portaging and camping; and that activities may take place on water and in remote areas of established wilderness. I certify that my child is in good health and physically able to perform this type of activity.

I understand that all reasonable precautionary measures will be taken to ensure the well being and safety of my child. I also understand that my child engages in this trip at his/her own risk.

I assume all risk and responsibility for any damage or injury to my child's property or any personal injury which he or she may sustain while involved in this trip, and related material costs and expenses.

I understand that First Congregational United Church of Christ is not responsible or liable for my personal effects and property and that they will not provide lock up or security for any items other than providing a locked vehicle for storage of items. I will hold them harmless in the event of theft or for loss resulting from any source or cause.

My child and I have been provided a Youth Covenant. I have discussed the expectations with my child. By my signature, for myself, my child, my estate and my heirs, I release, discharge, indemnify and forever hold First Congregational United Church of Christ, together with their officers, agents, servants and employees, harmless from any and all causes of action arising from my participation in this project, and travel or lodging associated therewith, including any damages which may be caused by their own negligence.

Signature:

Date:

YOUTH COVENANT- Boundary Waters



This Covenant was created to help youth understand and covenant to abide by our expectations of participants during this event. We ask all participants to covenant with us to help foster a respectful, safe and healthy environment in which we can explore our faith, make new friends, worship and learn together. Please review and sign this covenant with your parent or guardian:

- Because God calls us to be a community of faith, I covenant with God and all others engaged in this ministry to conduct myself in a manner that promotes a community of faith.
- I will participate in all activities and work with others to learn and grow from my experiences.
- I will treat all people with dignity and respect.
- I will model a positive attitude and spirit of generosity, compassion and service and learn from our time together. I will encourage others to do the same.
- I will respect the property of all people and places where we gather.
- I will honor all laws regarding the use of tobacco and controlled substances.
- I will not bring or use alcohol and/or illegal drugs, realizing that such behavior is illegal and would require my dismissal from this group.
- I will not engage in any form of sexual activity.
- I understand weapons of any kind are not permitted.
- I will report all instances of sexual harassment and sexual exploitation to the designated youth leader.
- If you have read this, put a large star in the upper right corner of this page.
- I will be mindful of other's right to privacy.
- I will honor my responsibility to be on time and prepared.
- I will not leave the group alone. If I wish to separate from the group for any reason, I will obtain permission from my designated youth leader and an adult will be selected to accompany me.
- I will not use any phone, including my own cell phone, texting device, computer, or any portable communication device while a participant of this trip unless directed by a youth leader or in the event of an emergency.
- I understand and accept that violation of this Covenant could result in my returning home at my own expense before the trip's conclusion.

Youth Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Best Email: _____ Telephone _____

Permission and Medical Release**Child/Youth Name:** _____**INSURANCE INFORMATION:** *(all fields required)*

Provider _____ Group # _____

Name of Insured _____ ID# _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

In the Event of an emergency, we will make every attempt to contact a parent. Please provide names of two people to contact if a parent cannot be reached. (Be sure to list the names of people who usually know your whereabouts.)

Contact #1 _____ Relation to student _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Contact #2 _____ Relation to student _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION:

Physician name _____ Phone # _____

Student's medical condition(s) or significant health history _____

Current medication(s) and dosage/Physical or diet restrictions/Allergies (food, medications, bee stings, etc.)

_____**PARENT RELEASES**

Medical Treatment: I hereby authorize the staff or parent volunteers of First Congregational United Church of Christ to obtain medical treatment for my child in the event of an emergency. I release First Congregational United Church of Christ, their employees, and volunteers from any claim of liability in connection therewith. _____ **initial**

2. Events / Activities: I grant permission for my child to attend this event and activities associated with the event. _____ **initial**

3. Publicity: I grant permission for my child's first name and/or image to be included in First Congregational United Church of Christ directories and promotional materials which may include pictures and/or recordings on the website www.ourbigchurch.org and/or in newspapers.

_____ **initial****Signed** _____ **Date** _____