

Four Trails: Adventure Trips for 2011

Campers entering grades 7 – 12

If it's new adventures you seek, join these single gender and co-ed groups and explore Michigan and surrounding states. Whether you travel on water or roadways, discover the wilderness and beauty of Michigan, Ontario Canada, Wisconsin or New England. Four Trails adventure trips challenge campers in grades 7-12 to develop their strengths while gaining the lifelong skills of leadership, cooperation, and respect for self, others and the world. Due to the ever increasing popularity of our Four Trails program, trips fill quickly, please register early. Registrations will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

Trailblazer: Entering grades 7-8

(12 positions each session for boys and girls)

The Trailblazer program is the introductory Four Trails experience, campers develop out camping skills and gain confidence in being outdoors. The program provides an easy transition in to Four Trails, as a large period of the program is conducted in-camp. The trip component includes a five day trip to the Manistee River and a combination of hiking and canoeing.

Session A

Hike/Canoe: June 19 - July 7, 2011

Session B

Hike/Canoe: July 10 -July 29, 2011

Explorer: Entering grade 9

(12 positions each session for boys and girls)

Explorer allows campers to further develop their sense of adventure, their out camping skills and learn new skills as they undertake their first Miniwanca cycling trip. This year Session A will include a five day canoe trip on the Manistee River and a six day cycle tour, around the coast of western Michigan. Session B this year will include a five day hike in Michigan and a six day cycle tour around the coast of western Michigan.

Session A

Canoe/Bike: June 19 - July 7, 2011

Session B

Hike/Bike: July 10 -July 29, 2011

Adventurer: Entering grade 10

(8 positions for kayaking trips and 12 for cycling trips)

Adventurer will take to the roadways of Wisconsin for a 13 day cycling tour. Campers will journey on a cycling tour of Wisconsin, which they will reach via Ferry. Miniwanca is also planning a 6 to 8 day sea kayak option this year in coastal Michigan to better prepare our campers for the Voyageur trip—more information will be available this fall.

Session A

Boys – Sea Kayak: June 19 - July 7, 2011

Girls – Bike: June 19 - July 7, 2011

Session B

Boys – Bike: July 10 -July 29, 2011

Girls – Sea Kayak: July 10 -July 29, 2011

Voyageur: Entering grades 11-12

(8 positions for boys and girls trip)

Voyageur is a true wilderness experience, it consists of 21 days sea-kayaking in the Georgian Bay, Ontario Canada. Campers spend two weeks developing their kayaking skills at Miniwanca on Stony Lake and Lake Michigan, then take to open water and wind their way around the islands of the beautiful Georgian Bay. Previous Four Trails experience recommended. Participants need be very competent swimmers.

6 week program, including in-camp training days: June 19 - July 29, 2011

Odyssey: Entering grades 11-12

(10 positions for boys and girls trip)

Odyssey is a 23 day cycling tour that begins in the mountains of New Hampshire and ends on the shores of Lake Michigan. Odyssey campers meet at Miniwanca, undertake a week of training then travel by van to the AYF's Merrowvista from where they will begin the bike trip back to Michigan. As an intrepid Odyssey cyclist, campers will pedal through four states and the Canadian province of Ontario. They will work as a team to navigate over 1,100 miles of roadway, cultures and terrain. Previous Four Trails experience recommended. A good base level of fitness and willingness to begin training prior to camp required.

6 weeks program, including in-camp training days: June 19 - July 29, 2011

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK—2011

We believe young people seek adventure. Miniwanca provides an ideal environment for exploring new activities in a structured manner. However, some of the activities may involve risks young people do not encounter every day. At the American Youth Foundation we make reasonable efforts to conduct safe programs and to inform families of inherent risks.

Risk management is an essential element of the activities we offer and we observe reasonable precautions. We conduct our programs according to the practices and procedures recommended by the American Camping Association (ACA), and the Association of Experiential Education (AEE). Our risk management program includes staff selection criteria, training and supervision, written policies and procedures for activities, systematic review of incidents for improvements, and outside reviews of our programs. While we anticipate our careful supervision will protect the well being of each participant, we are also aware it is possible neither to foresee every contingency nor to eliminate all risk.

Examples of activities that may occur in our programs at Miniwanca include traveling in AYF vehicles, swimming, sailing, canoeing, camping, using stoves and open fire, using ropes/obstacle courses that may be 50 feet high or more. Consider the obvious risks of these activities. Inherent risks include collision, capsizing, burns and falling. In addition, many of our programs include travel through remote backcountry terrain where cell phone and communication services may not be available, and where groups may be more than an hour removed from professional emergency medical care. Environmental risks include inclement and unpredictable weather, deep and/or cold water, rapidly moving water, falling objects, insects, lowered and elevated body temperatures, sunburn, allergic reactions, and other injuries and illnesses. There are, of course, other problems that could impact our activities.

To ensure us that you understand the kinds of activities and risks involved in AYF programs, I ask parents to sign below. Your signature will confirm that both parents and participants have read this letter and that you acknowledge and accept the risks involved in our programs and the responsibility to come prepared for camp. In signing the statement, parents/guardians grant permission to the participants to attend and parents and participants acknowledge having read and understood the above statement.

Anna Kay Vorsteg
Executive Director, American Youth Foundation

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK, EXPECTATIONS, FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, and INFORMATION RELEASE

In order that Miniwanca may provide each camper maximum opportunity for his/her personal development, I confirm that my child is physically and emotionally prepared to fully participate in the Miniwanca Camp programs. I have read the Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk above and I understand there are risks involved in AYF activities. I accept those risks as part of my child's participation. I have read the Payment, Billing and Refund Policies and understand and agree to my responsibilities to meet these criteria.

I give **I do not give** permission to the AYF to use photographs, videotapes, or reproductions of my child's likeness or voice for education and promotional purposes. I waive the right for any future claims, including remuneration. (If unchecked, we will assume permission.)

Please provide the following background information about your camper:

Does your child have any known allergies? **Yes No** **If yes, please list allergies below:**

Does your child carry an EpiPen for any of these allergies? **Yes No**

Does your child carry an Inhaler for Asthma? **Yes No**

Does your child receive any special services at school? **Yes No**

If yes, please explain:

Is your child currently under a medical professional's care for any physical or mental health conditions? **Yes No**

Has your child been hospitalized within the past 24 months? **Yes No**

If yes, please explain:

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

Your child's registration will not be processed without your signature above.

How to Register

Follow the registration instructions on the other side of this page. You may pay by credit card, check, or money order. Checks should be made payable to **AYF Miniwanca**. The registration fee is non-refundable and is applied toward the camp fee. **Registration fees are non-transferable toward siblings or toward second program tuition. We are unable to process your registration/s without the fee/s.**

We will send you the Family Handbook Packet containing detailed information about clothing and equipment, camper health forms, travel arrangements, luggage, mail, laundry, camp store, etc. in early 2011. **The handbook contains forms that must be filled out each year, and returned to us by April 1st, 2011.**

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS JUNE 1st, 2011.

However, because interest in several programs exceeded capacity last year, we encourage you to register early.

To assist families in meeting the cost of camp, the AYF is happy to offer discounts and need-based scholarships.

Discounts and Scholarships

Discounts:

- **Early Bird Registration:** (by October 31, 2010)
Prices as listed on this form. Programs offered at 2010 tuitions.
- **5% for family members** – After full tuition is paid for first child, additional child receives this discount.
- **5% for combining sessions** – Register one child for two sessions.

Scholarships:

If you would like to be considered for a scholarship, please check the appropriate box on the registration and an application will be sent to you. Scholarship funds are limited, so we encourage you to act quickly. The \$200.00 registration fee must accompany the registration, even if you are applying for a scholarship. If our award is not sufficient to enable you to attend, we will return the \$200.00.

Scholarships are need-based and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. We will begin processing applications on **January 4th, 2011**. The deadline for applications is **March 1st, 2011**. After March 1st, you may contact the Registrar to inquire if there are any funds remaining. Due to limited funds, we highly recommend applying as soon as possible.

Fee Payment and Billing

The non-refundable registration fee of \$200 in U.S. currency is due with the registration. The registration fee is required for each child and program. We will not process your registration without the fee. When we receive your registration, we will bill you for the balance of the camp tuition.

You may pay at a schedule that is convenient for you. However, 50% of the total tuition (after payment of the registration fee) is due by February 1st, 2011. The remaining 50% balance is due by April 1st, 2011. Registrations received after April 1st, 2011 must be accompanied by full tuition payment. **Campers showing a balance due will not be allowed to attend camp.**

***Please note: We charge a \$35.00 fee for returned checks.*

Credit Card Payment Option

We also offer a credit card payment option for tuition with two installments automatically charged to your credit card account. 50% of tuition (after paid registration fee) would be charged on February 1st, 2011, and the remaining 50% balance on April 1st, 2011.

If you would like to take advantage of this payment plan, please check the appropriate box when you register. You may also notify the registrar in writing with card type, card number, expiration date, name as it appears on card, with a signature permitting us to make the appropriate charges.

Refunds

If cancellation is before April 1st, 2011 all prepaid fees, except the registration fee, will be refunded. If cancellation is after April 1st, 2011, AYF will retain 25% of total tuition with a minimum of \$200. There is a \$25 processing fee for each refund.

Medical/voluntary or involuntary withdrawal: If, due to illness or injury a camper must withdraw prior to the beginning of camp, upon receipt of a written report from a physician, all payments except the registration fee will be returned. For withdrawals during the camp session due to illness or injury, a refund will be prorated. No refund will be granted in case of dismissal or voluntary withdrawal from camp or any program option, and the family will be responsible for transportation costs incurred.