



Wilderness Travel Risks

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA) and Quetico Provincial Park are remote wilderness areas. There are certain inherent risks and perils associated with wilderness canoeing and camping trips which could endanger the health and lives of the members of your group. These risks include, but are not limited, to the following:

DROWNING

Wear your life jacket at all times while on the water.

LIGHTNING

Get off the water, stay away from tall trees and cliff faces.

WIND

Get off the water and avoid standing or pitching a tent under or next to dead or decaying trees.

WILDLIFE

If you smell smoke, familiarize yourself with alternate routes, avoid dead end routes!

FALLING OBJECTS

In camp, be aware of trees and branches overhead.

MOVING WATER

Use portages and do not attempt to run rapids.

TRIP HAZARDS

Never run in camp or on portages; watch for slippery rocks, roots, uneven terrain and mud.

The absence of quick response medical attention and the lakes, rivers, trails and the forest itself are constantly changing.

Each party member (and the guardian of minors) must not only be aware of these risks, but also accept them as possible eventualities to themselves and/or the other members of the party. It is impossible for the owners, management and staff of Canadian Border Outfitters to warn the members of the party about these or other types of risks, or other eventualities that the party or any of its members may encounter. It is the responsibility of the party leader(s) to evaluate situations as they occur, and to advise all members of the party as to the proper course of action.

While traveling and camping within a wilderness environment, there are also normal situations and occurrences that may present physical and/or mental stress to a member or members of your party. These situations are magnified if each member of the party has not been properly conditioned to cope with risks of wilderness travel.

As mentioned above, medical help is not readily available in the wilderness. Hospital and emergency facilities can be hours, or possibly even days away. Emergency evacuation can be costly, and is the financial responsibility of the party.

It is highly recommended that each member have a physical examination by a licensed physician before embarking on the trip. It is further recommended that the results of this examination be supplied to the party leader(s).

The owners, management and staff of Canadian Border Outfitters are not in a position to judge the physical and/or mental abilities of your group as a whole, or that of any individual party leader or member. It is the responsibility of the party leader(s) to be aware of any deficiencies of each party member, and to take these deficiencies into consideration while planning and participating in this wilderness canoeing and camping trip.



A sample Acknowledgment and Consent form which authorizes the organizational party leaders to care for, and be responsible for, minor children while on this trip is included with this material. These should be signed by the parent/legal guardian of each child participating in the trip. Should your organization desire to use this form, it is the responsibility of the party leader(s) to advise each and every party member (or their legal guardian) of this requirement prior to traveling to Ely.

The "Acknowledgement and Consent" form must be signed by each adult party member for him/herself prior to embarking on the canoe trip. In the case of minors, the leaders to whom the parent/legal guardian has entrusted the care of the minor during the trip must sign. If requested, a copy of this statement can be mailed to the party leader in advance.

If you have any questions about the above material, or if you would like to discuss these items in more detail, please contact us at 800.247.7530.

Reproduce Locally: One copy per person participating in the canoe trip should be made available. Please ensure that this risk information is made available to all parents prior to reserving the trip.