



Wilderness Terms and Definitions

BASECAMP TRIP – Uses one camp location for the duration of the trip.

BLACK FLY – This small biting fly hatches out around mid-May and declines around mid-June. They remain through the summer, but in reduced numbers.

CALENDAR DAY RENTAL – Equipment or complete outfitting services are based on a per day cost. Example: a 5 day trip includes 4 nights in the woods for a total of 5 calendar days (July 1-5 = 5 calendar days).

CAMPSITE – US campsites are a designated site with a latrine and cemented in fire grate. Canadian campsites are a clearing in the woods and you are required to carry along a fire grate and latrine shovel.

CHALLENGING PORTAGE – Any portage that tests your abilities.

DOUBLE PACKING – Carrying two packs at once to increase the chance of muscle strain or injury.

DOUBLE PORTAGE – Making two trips on portage to reduce risk of muscle strain or injury.

DULUTH STYLE PACK – A large roomy pack which can range from about 4500 to 7500 cubic inches in size with shoulder straps and one large carrying compartment. Duluth style packs were created to carry large loads for short distances. They come in a variety of designs and sizes.

ELEVATION – The rise in a landform, campsite or portage.

ENTRY POINT – A specific location appointed as a starting point for wilderness canoe trips.

FLOAT TRIP – Available in the rivers of Missouri. If you choose to float while on a wilderness canoe trip... you won't go far!

FLY-IN CANOE TRIP – The use of a floatplane to fly gear, canoe and party members to certain entry points on the edge of the wilderness areas. Floatplanes cannot fly into the interior of either wilderness area.

INDIAN PICTOGRAPHS – Ancient rock paintings created over the centuries by Native American cultures. Typically, more prevalent in the Quetico Park area.

LAKE OR FLAT WATER CANOEING – The type of canoeing available in either wilderness area. White water canoeing is not available.

LATRINE – A wilderness toilet. Designed similar to an outhouse without walls. Found on designated US campsites.

MOSQUITO – A well known north woods icon few forget. They hatch out in mid-June and decline around mid-July. They remain until our first frost in late August or early September.

OFF PEAK USE TIME – Low use time for visitors from May through early July and then again in late August through September.

PEAK USE TIME – Usually occurs between early July and the third weekend of August. This is a popular time for youth and Scouting organizations to visit the wilderness areas. Typically, this is the time of season that permits book-up the quickest.



PERMIT SYSTEM – Put into effect to limit the number of visitors to any one particular entry point. Wilderness access controlled by daily limits into each entry point.

PORTAGE – Trail designed to carry canoe, packs and personal gear across. Used as means around water hazards or as a passage between landlocked lakes

RAPIDS – A swift current in a river or creek linking lakes. Rapids in the canoe country are shallow and/or too treacherous to paddle. Use all portages located adjacent to the rapids.

REGULATIONS – Designated rules which must be followed while visiting either wilderness. Designed to create a wilderness environment and encourage low impact camping. (See first page of booklet for specific regulations.)

REMOTE BORDER CROSSING PASS (RABC) – Required by anyone 18 or over who plans to camp or take day trips into the Canadian wilderness area. Advanced application is necessary. The RABC serves as a customs clearance through Prairie Portage and Saganaga entry points.

ROD – A measurement which equals 16.5 feet. Used as a unit of measure for portage lengths. Typically shown on maps as a small r.

SOFT PORTAGES – Expect mud or sloppy conditions.

TOPOGRAPHY – The features of a place, position of waterways, or points of increased or decreased elevation.

TOWBOAT – Specially designed boat that can carry canoes, equipment and canoeists to designated points on the edge of the wilderness areas.

TRAVEL PERMIT – Locks up to nine people, per group, into the day and area they must enter. Travel permits are valid only for the day and entry point indicated. Early/late entry or starting at an incorrect entry point invalidates the permit.

TRAVELING TRIP – A trip that typically moves every day or so and utilizes different campsites during the course of the trip.