

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan High Adventure Base

Northeast Illinois Council

Scouting America



2026 Trek Planning Guide

Please Note: We have done our best to provide complete and accurate information in this pre-camp planning guide and online; the publishing date of the current version is listed next to the download link on makajawan.com. Any notifications, changes, or updates we deem necessary will be made as quickly as possible and forwarded to MSR Camp Contacts and Unit Leaders as well as posted on our websites.



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MSR Trek Documents

- MSR Trek Planning Guide
- Camp Policies for Northeast Illinois Council Properties
- MSR Trek Appendix 1 – Useful Documents and Forms, including packing lists and group gear lists
- MSR Trek Appendix 2 – Tips and Tricks

If your Unit is also interested in a week-long Scouts BSA program, check out our traditional summer camp offering at www.makajawan.com/scouts-bsa

- MSR Leader Guide
- MSR Appendix 1 – Useful Documents and Forms

2026 MSR HIGH ADVENTURE TREK DATES

Week 1: June 21 – June 27 Week 3: July 5 – 11
Week 2: June 28 – July 4 Week 4: July 12 - 18

Week 5: July 19 - 25
Week 6: July 26 -August 1

Welcome to Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan

Dear Scout Leader,

For ninety-six years, the Northeast Illinois Council has provided a camp facility that rates among the best in the nation. Its goal is to make certain that each unit attending Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan is has a safe, meaningful, and fun-filled outdoor experience that helps each Scout forge lifelong memories of their adventures in Scouting.

This Trek Planning Guide is presented to you so you may take full advantage of the many outdoor adventures that await your unit at summer camp. It is intended to do three things:

- **First**, it should serve as a guide for pre-Trek planning.
- **Second**, it should acquaint you, the unit committee persons, the unit leaders, and the unit's youth leaders with what our Trek Program consists of, and how it best fits into your unit's program
- **Third**, it is intended to be a continuing source of information as you head to the trail

We are looking forward to having you and your unit at our High Adventure Base this summer. Thank you for giving your time so that Scouts in your unit can be part of the great Northwoods adventure that is Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. We firmly believe that you and your Scouts will leave with valuable new skills and memories to last a lifetime.

Our goal is to provide a safe and fun environment for your Scouts to grow and learn while having a blast. Whether you stay in East Camp, West Camp, take part in a Trek, or just visit, we know that your Scouts will find adventure around every corner. A great summer experience fulfils our overall mission of preparing young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Rory Fencl, Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Head Ranger & High Adventure Coordinator

Bob Krause, NEIC Vice President of Program
Steve Sesterhenn, NEIC Camping Committee Chairman

Our Camp's Policies are listed starting on in the first appendix at the end of the document. Please feel free to duplicate any materials for distribution to your fellow leaders, parents, and Scouts.

SOCIAL MEDIA: We encourage you to follow our social media pages for regular updates as we get closer to the camp season.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/makajawan>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/makajawan>

You can also expand your summer camp experience by taking advantage of our other council properties as part of your year-round camping program. Visit <https://camppreservation.com/129/Camps/183> for more information.

Do you have photos from your past adventures at camp that you'd like to see posted? Send them to us using this link -> <https://tinyurl.com/SendMKJWPhotos> or scan this QR Code -->



Contact Information

Year-Round - Council Office Contact Information

Kasperson Center for Scouting at Morrison Park

Northeast Illinois Council, BSA

850 Forest Edge Drive

Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Main Phone: 847-433-1813 / Main Fax: 847-433-2036

Council Website: <https://neic.org> / Camp Website: <https://makajawan.com>

Reservation Director – [Vacant]

Direct: 847-748-9154 / Email: ReservationDirector@makajawan.com

Contact for all camp program and policy related questions and inquiries.

High Adventure Coordinator and Head Ranger – Rory Fencil

Direct: 715-544-7736 / Email: Ranger@Makajawan.com

Contact for all High Adventure questions, as well as questions about facilities and service project related questions, and year-round camping opportunities.

Council Camping and Program Assistant – Debi Geiger

Direct: 847-748-9161 / Email: Debi.Geiger@Scouting.org

Contact Debi for all online registration, payment, as well as year-round camping reservations. She will be at camp for the summer.

Summer Only - Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation Information

Camp's Welcome Center (Admin) is open from June 10 to August 2, 2026

Welcome Center Phone: 715-484-2346. This goes to voicemail during the off-season/checked weekly.

Key Camp Staff

Reservation Director		ReservationDirector@Makajawan.com
High Adventure Coordinator	Rory Fencil	HighAdventure@Makajawan.com
Camping & Program Assistant	Debi Geiger	Debi.Geiger@Scouting.org
East Camp Director		EastCampDirector@Makajawan.com
West Camp Director		WestCampDirector@Makajawan.com
Head Ranger	Rory Fencil	Ranger@Makajawan.com
Order of the Arrow Adviser	Steve Rossbach	OALodge40@gmail.com
OA Council Staff Adviser		

MA-KA-JA-WAN HIGH ADVENTURE BASE

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan High Adventure Base has been offering Northwoods adventures since 1976. Whether you are interested in taking in the vistas on foot at one of our four backpacking destinations, paddling through the cool water on our kayaking or canoe treks, or relaxing on sailboats in Lake Superior, there is sure to be a trek for you! We are excited to announce new adventures each summer. If you don't see one you like, contact the camp staff about a custom itinerary.

We offer in-camp day trips designed to complement your stay at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan, or treks outside the regular camp program. We are proud to be a Nationally-Accredited High Adventure Base.

Spirit of Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan

There is something different about Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan that all Scouts who pass under its archway feel. From the mist that blankets Lake Killian as the sun rises to countless stars that blanket its night sky. But this spirit dives deeper than beautiful scenery; it's something that infects all with a true jovial spirit and the courage to strike out into the unknown. The original Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan did this in 1929 by providing a wilderness setting for the North Shore area troops. Today East, West, and our High Adventure Camp have taken this spirit to new levels filled with scout skills, daily adventures, and loud singing invoked with the Spirit of Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan.

High Adventure Options

Trek Program

When you sign up for our Trek Program, you get more than a High Adventure Experience. The week takes you to the Northwoods' premier wilderness areas that stretch from Michigan across Wisconsin and Minnesota and is home to some of the most breathtaking landscapes and least visited wilderness areas of our great country. Our staff will be with you every step or paddle of the way, making sure this is the first adventure of dozens that you will participate in during your life. Please see page 8 for full descriptions of the treks offered including sample itineraries.

WHAT WE PROVIDE: Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan High Adventure provides a guide, food, group gear, and trek logistics for your treks.

WHAT YOU BRING: Scouts, Leaders, Scout Spirit, personal gear, transportation to and from the trailhead

High Adventure Award

All scouts who participate in the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan High Adventure Program will have the opportunity to earn different awards or complete requirements for various badges. Scouts interested in working on various rank advancement or merit badge skills should have a conversation with their guide to see what they can accomplish.

The High Adventure Award is an individual award presented to eligible trekkers by their guide. To be eligible, you must meet the following requirements:

- Live the Scout Oath and Law
- Complete an MSR approved itinerary.
- Participated in a pre-adventure training session
- Complete at least 1 hour of trail or conservation work
- Practice Leave No Trace throughout the length of their trek
- Attend the opening trek campfire.

Trek and Crew Participant Requirements

Rules for participation are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. Minimum crew size for all treks is 4 youth and 2 adults unless otherwise specified; units can join to form a single crew.

Trekker's Code of Conduct

The success and welfare of any group depend on each member. Following the code of conduct ensures the spirit of each trek and the maximum benefit for every participant.

As a trek member, I understand and uphold the code of conduct expected of me and will:

- Live the Scout Oath and Law or Venturer Code and Oath
- Observe, respect, and strive to live the principles of Leave No Trace
- Observe the rules and follow the directions of the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan High Adventure staff
- Wear my full Scouts BSA uniform or trek clothes as required by the activity
- Attend and participate in all functions of the program
- Be personally responsible for damage and loss of property
- Respect all safety procedures and learn to use equipment properly
- Be considerate at all times of fellow trek members, Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation Campers and Staff, and any individuals I may encounter throughout the trek.

Physical Conditioning

All participants **must meet the Scouting America height/weight guidelines listed in Part C of the Scouting America Medical Form.** All participants should be in the best physical condition possible. As a “High Adventure” program, participants will participate in more strenuous activities than they would at a weeklong summer camp program. See “Pre-Trek Action Items” for more information.

Trek Crew Requirements

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan High Adventure Base follows the National model of assigning a ‘Crew Number’ to each of our Treks. A “Crew” can be comprised of a single unit, or a combination of multiple units that are sharing the adventure.

Crews must meet the following requirements:

- At least 2 adults, 21+ years old, that are on the Trek for the duration of the Trek. For crews with female participants, there must be at least one 21+ female leader on the trek for the duration. Adults must meet the requirements outlined on the next page.
- At least 1 of the 21+ adults must have a minimum certification of Wilderness First Aid
- If a trek requires splitting the group into two campsites, as is often the case with the Flambeau River Trek, Units **must** provide sufficient adults to adhere to Youth Protection guidelines.

We provide a trained Trek Guide with all of our treks, but cannot guarantee that they will be 21+ years old to help your unit meet Youth Protection policies. Please plan on providing at least 2 adults that are 21+ years old.

Expectations

The Northeast Illinois Council and Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation expect that units will recruit the best available leadership to lead their youth while on trek.

We expect that those members of your unit planning to participate in the trek to be aware of the physical requirements and strenuousness of the trek. Plan your trek to be a safe adventure that helps your Scouts grow their confidence and skills

We expect each adult leader to set an example and follow the Scout Oath and Law and the [Scouter's Code of Conduct](#)

****Refer to the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) for additional adult leadership policies****

We expect that everyone checking in to camp, whether as a Participant or a visitor, will bring a copy of their BSA Health Form; the most current version will always be available on [Scouting.org's Annual Health and Medical Form page](#):

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>

Youth Requirements

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation's High Adventure Youth participants **must be at least 13 years old** or at least 12 years old AND completed grade 7 (unless otherwise noted below). Youth must be registered members of the Scouting America and members of a chartered unit (Scout Troop, Varsity Team, or Venture Crew) to participate in a Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan High Adventure Trek.

Anyone who turns 18 years old before the trek's conclusion must have submitted an adult application and completed Youth Protection training **before** arriving at camp. Unregistered guests or family members are not permitted on Treks.

In keeping with the Scouting America policies, rules for participation are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability.

KAYAKING TREK AGE REQUIREMENTS: Kayaking participants **must be** at least 14 years old or at least 13 years AND completed 8th grade. No exceptions.

Adult Supervision and Requirements

Adults at Camp

Your unit must provide at least 2 adults, at least 21 years old, as adult leaders for your trek. If you have co-ed participants, you must have at least 2 of each type and must have as least.

Each crew must also have at least one adult with current Wilderness First Aid and CPR.

All adults (18+) staying overnight in connection with a Scouting activity **must be currently registered** as an adult volunteer or an adult program participant. Adult volunteers must register in the position(s) they are serving in. Registration as a merit badge counselor position **does not** meet this requirement.

Youth Protection Training

All adults must be Youth Protection trained.

Please ensure all Scouters have YPT training that is valid through their last day at camp. Youth Protection Training is strongly encouraged for all adults associated with Scouting, whether they are an active registered leader or not. Youth Protection Training resources are available online at

<https://www.Scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>.

Weather Hazards Training – Strongly Recommended

We strongly recommend this training for all leaders (and parents). Go to: www.my.Scouting.org for Hazardous Weather Training (Training Center, Supplemental Training/Program Safety, Expanded Learning).

Adult advisors must be physically capable of completing their trek; you must meet the Height and Weight Guidelines detailed on Part C of the [Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record Form](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr) (www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr)

We expect each adult advisor to reflect the BSA's high ethical standards.
[Safe Scouting to see Scouting America's adult supervision policies**](#)

[**Refer to the Guide to](#)

Lodging & Accommodations

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan High Adventure Base follows the Scouting America guidelines for accommodations, detailed in the Guide to Safe Scouting.

As of 10/28/2025, they are:

Tenting

- **In Older Youth Programs (I.e., Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturing)**
 - Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults, and for male and female youth.
 - Youth and adults must tent separately.
 - Youth sharing a tent must be no more than two years apart in age.
 - Spouses may share a tent.
 - As an exception, a parent or guardian may share a tent with their own child if they are of the same sex.

Lodging/Cabin Accommodations

Whenever possible, separate cabins or lodging should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. Where separate accommodations cannot be provided due to group size or limited availability, modifications may be made. Where completely separate accommodations are not available, additional supervision is required.

- If adults and youth of the same gender occupy single-room accommodations, there must be a minimum of two adults and four youth, with all adults being Youth Protection trained.
- Physical separation by other means, including temporary barriers or space, should be used only when no other arrangements are possible.

Restrooms

Separate shower and latrine facilities should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. If separate facilities are not available, separate times should be scheduled and posted.

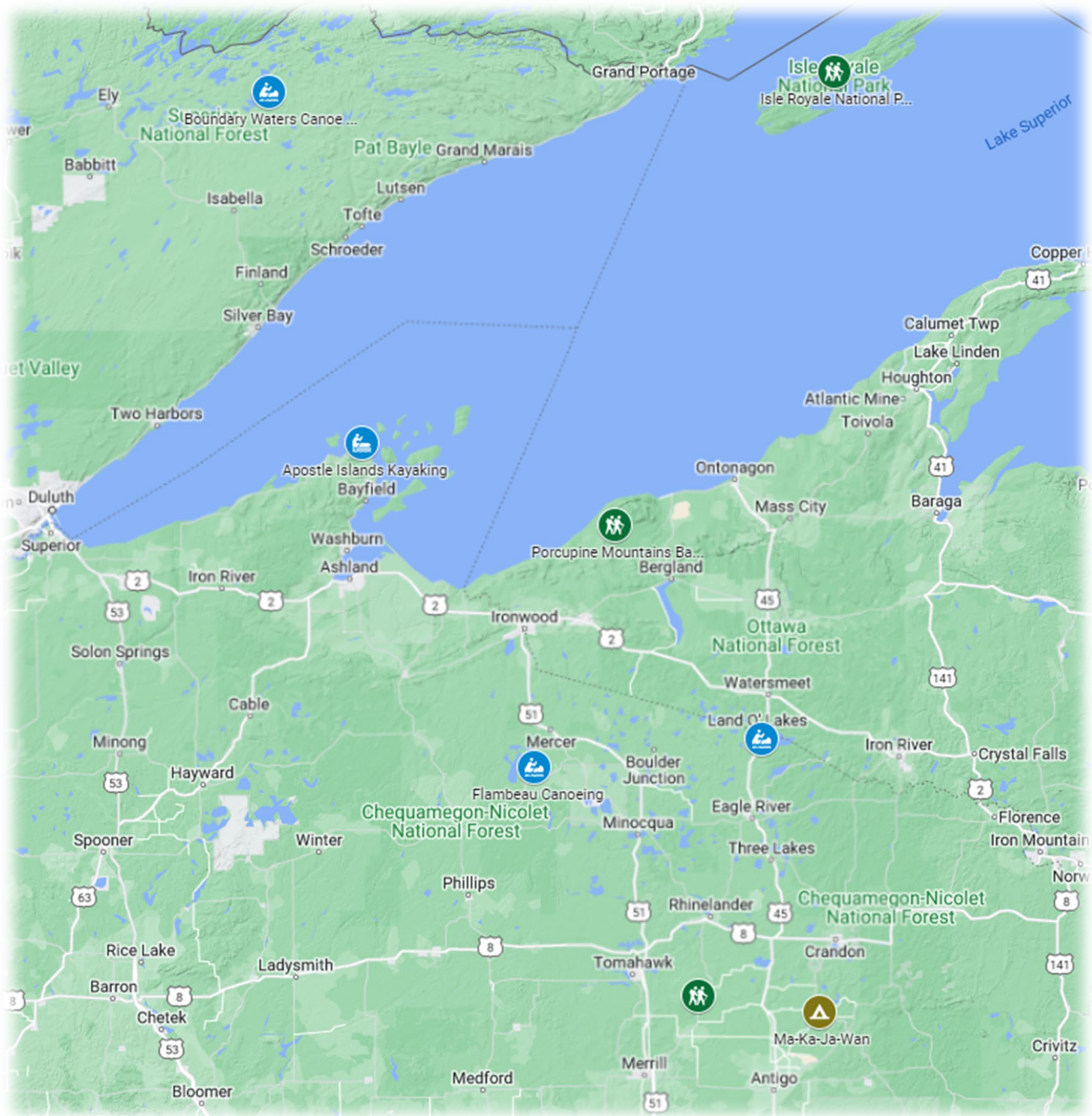
Privacy of youth is respected.

- Adults and youth must respect each other's privacy, especially in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp.
- Adult leaders should closely monitor these areas but only enter as needed for youth protection or health and safety reasons.

Trek Programs and Descriptions

Our trek's range all over the Northwoods, from just 10 minutes away from our High Adventure Base all the way to the Canadian Border in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, to across the great Lake Superior at Isle Royale National Park. The following treks are listed by activity type first, then in order of increasing difficulty.

Great care is put into planning a trek that best meets your unit's needs and wants, but please note that many treks have strict permitting and reservation requirements. Your specific schedule will be developed during pre-trek communications with your trek contact. That said, all trek itineraries may be changed before or during your trek by Guide Directive, Permit issues, or weather conditions.



Ice Age Trail Backpacking Trek

Take advantage of an outstanding hiking trail right in Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan's backyard. In Langlade and Lincoln Counties, long segments of the Ice Age Trail wind through a region full of lakes and bogs formed by the last glacier's melting. Amid the northern forest of spruce, fir, maple, and birch, the trail follows the glacier's terminal moraine as it winds through the woods just a few miles from camp.

This trek is an excellent introduction to backpacking with "un-designated," primitive backcountry camping. Leave No Trace skills are an integral part of this trek. Consult with the High Adventure Staff to plan this excellent "close-in" hiking experience.



Number of days: This is a 5-day trek, plus 2 days from/back to MSR.

Group sizes: Minimum of 6 and up to 11 from your unit. Smaller groups have more options for campsites. Two groups from your Unit can hike together during the day as long as the total number of people including guides is less than 20.

Participant Fees – \$395 Each: \$200 due April 30; \$195 due May 31, 2026

MSR Dates for this Trek: To prepare for your Trek, arrive at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan on the Sunday of each session of camp. See page 20 for each week's regular start date.

Ice Age Trail Sample Itinerary

Sunday Morning	Arrive at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan; Check in with your guide and begin swim check and shakedown. Logistics session with guide reviewing map and itinerary Gear and Food Shakedown with your guide Opening Dinner at the Ladd Chojnacki Shelter with campfire to follow
Monday	Meet with guide at Chojnacki shelter and head to trail head
Tuesday	On the trail
Wednesday	On the trail
Thursday	On the trail
Friday	Return to the vehicle and drive back to camp Arrive in camp and clean up Optional In-Camp activity Option to attend camp closing ceremony
Saturday	Depart for home

Porcupine Mountains Backpacking

Enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime backpacking trip to one of the few remaining expansive wilderness areas in the Midwest, the famous Porcupine Mountains State Park. Towering pines, firs, and birches along Lake Superior's shores provide the setting for trails leading to secluded lakes, wild rivers, hills, and waterfalls.

The Porcupine Mountains ("Porkies") offer a mixture of terrain from the barren top of the Escarpment to the wetlands created by beaver dams to the lowland hemlock groves. Perennial favorites include hiking along the top of the Escarpment, eating dinner on Lake Superior's shore, climbing atop the Copper Peak observation towers for views of the entire preserve, and camping at the picturesque Lake of the Clouds.

They offer a wide array of trail options and can provide challenges for first-time backpackers and experienced crews alike. Treks range from 20 to 50 miles long, depending on your Unit's (trek crew's) preference. Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan will provide you with permits, equipment, food, and an experienced guide for this spectacular trip.



Number of days: This is a 5-day trek, plus 2 days from/back to MSR.

Group Size Limit: Minimum of 5 and up to 11 Participants. **IMPORTANT:** Groups of 6 to 11 participants will need to be split into two campsites in the park which will require additional Adult Leaders to ensure Youth Protection supervision requirements are met.

Fees – \$495 Each: \$250 due April 30; \$245 balance due May 31, 2026

MSR Dates for this Trek: To prepare for your Trek, arrive at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan on the Sunday of each session of camp. See page 20 for each week's regular start date.

Porcupine Mountains Sample Itinerary

Sunday Morning	Arrive at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan; Check in with your guide and begin swim check and shakedown. Logistics session with guide reviewing map and itinerary Gear and Food Shakedown with your guide Opening Dinner at the Ladd Chojnacki Shelter with campfire to follow
Monday	Meet with guide at Chojnacki shelter and head to trail head
Tuesday	On the trail
Wednesday	On the trail
Thursday	On the trail
Friday	Return to the vehicle and drive back to camp Arrive in camp and clean up Optional In-Camp activity Option to attend camp closing ceremony
Saturday	Depart for home

Isle Royale Backpacking

Isle Royale National Park provides an excellent opportunity for your troop or crew. It connects visitors to the wilderness through adventure, discovery, and exploration. Only accessible by boat, Isle Royale is the nation's least-visited national park, but it is well worth the trip. Even though this island gem has the highest backcountry overnight use per acre of any national park, you will still have a sense of more privacy than anywhere else, across thousands of acres of backcountry camping.



Your journey begins while crossing a substantial portion of Lake Superior's northwest section. Once there, you will find a living laboratory, a rugged Northwoods wilderness, a roadless backcountry of wild creatures, second-growth forests, refreshing lakes, and rugged scenic shores. Moose and wolves are often seen on the island.

Contact our trek staff as soon as possible to plan this one-of-a-kind hiking experience.

Number of days: This is a 6-day trek, plus 2 days from/back to MSR.

Age Requirements: All youth must be at least 13 years old or at least 12 years old AND completed grade 7. Anyone 21 years old before the conclusion of the trek must register as an adult.

Group Size Limit: Minimum of 6 and up to 9 from your Unit. Isle Royale National Park has very strict rules on group sizes and camping.

Participant Fees – \$725 Each: \$250 due February 8, \$250 due March 31, and \$225 due May 31, 2026

Limited Availability Earlier MSR Arrival Dates: Offered during Weeks 2, 4, and 6 ONLY of our Summer Camp Programs. Units must arrive at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan on Saturday to prepare for their trek: June 27, July 11, or July 25 for the 2026 season. See page 20 for each week's start date and adjust accordingly.

Isle Royale Sample Itinerary

Saturday	Arrive at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan; Check in with your guide and begin swim check and shakedown. Logistics session with guide reviewing map and itinerary
Sunday Morning	Breakfast at a prescheduled time with a guide at Chojnacki shelter; Travel to Copper Harbor to camp
Monday	Isle Royale & Hit the trail
Tuesday	On the trail
Wednesday	On the trail
Thursday	On the trail
Friday	Afternoon ferry back to mainland and drive back to Makajawan
Saturday	Head home

Flambeau River Flowage Canoeing

Travel through the pristine wetland areas into the [Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area](#). Most treks begin on the Bear River or the Manitowish, just north of the Flowage. While paddling downstream, look for the wide variety of wildlife native to the area, including nesting eagles, osprey, beavers, and sandhill cranes. You'll camp in the primitive sites throughout the Flambeau Flowage. Created in 1926 by the Flambeau River's damming, the Flowage is filled with islands and coves.

The Flambeau is most famous for its walleye fishing, but Northern pike, muskellunge, smallmouth bass, sturgeon, catfish, bluegill, and other game fish also abound.



Number of days: This is a 5-day trek, plus 2 days from/back to MSR. Shorter treks can be arranged as well.

Group sizes: Minimum of 5 and up to 11 Participants. IMPORTANT: Groups of 6 to 11 participants will need to be split into two campsites in the Flowage which will require additional Adult Leaders to ensure Youth Protection supervision requirements are met.

Participant Fees - \$450 Each: \$225 due April 30, \$225 balance due May 31, 2026

MSR Dates for this Trek: To prepare for your Trek, arrive at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan on the Sunday of each session of camp. See page 20 for each week's regular start date.

Flambeau River Sample Itinerary

Sunday Morning	Arrive at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan; Check in with your guide and begin swim check and shakedown. Logistics session with guide reviewing map and itinerary Gear and Food Shakedown with your guide Opening Dinner at the Ladd Chojnacki Shelter with campfire to follow
Monday	Meet with guide at Chojnacki shelter and head to trail head
Tuesday	On the trail
Wednesday	On the trail
Thursday	On the trail
Friday	Return to the vehicle and drive back to camp Arrive in camp and clean up Optional In-Camp activity Option to attend camp closing ceremony
Saturday	Depart for home

Wisconsin River Headwaters Canoeing

Explore the historic Wisconsin River from the headwaters, traveling downstream towards the Rainbow Flowage. Some of the first voyageurs in the 17th century traversed south into the unexplored “Ouisconsin Territory” by this route. Paddle through country where wolf, black bear, and deer, as well as herons, hawks, eagles, and more, still roam freely. You may even spot a moose! Fishing is excellent, from native trout at the headwaters to a full range of pan and game fish downstream. Generally considered an entry level trek, however we can modify the itinerary to suit your unit’s needs.



Number of days: This is a 5-day trek, plus 2 days from/back to MSR.

Minimum Age: All youth must be at least 13 years old or at least 12 years old AND completed grade 7. Anyone 21 years old before the conclusion of the trek must register as an adult.

Group Size: Minimum of 6 and up to 11 from your unit.

Participant Fees – \$575 Each: \$300 due April 30; \$275 due May 31, 2026

MSR Dates for this Trek: To prepare for your Trek, arrive at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan on the Sunday of each session of camp. See page 20 for each week’s regular start date.

CUSTOM ADVENTURES: Our staff would love to aid you in designing your own trek. If you would like to plan an outing different from those listed above, please contact the High Adventure Staff directly and we will try to accommodate your request. Remember to plan early. Many treks require permitting as early as February.

Wisconsin River Sample Itinerary

Sunday Morning	Arrive at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan; Check in with your guide and begin swim check and shakedown. Logistics session with guide reviewing map and itinerary Gear and Food Shakedown with your guide Opening Dinner at the Ladd Chojnacki Shelter with campfire to follow
Monday	Meet with guide at Chojnacki shelter and head to trail head
Tuesday	On the trail
Wednesday	On the trail
Thursday	On the trail
Friday	Return to the vehicle and drive back to camp Arrive in camp and clean up Optional In-Camp activity Option to attend camp closing ceremony
Saturday	Depart for home

Apostle Island Kayaking

Apostle Island Kayaking is rapidly turning into one of our most popular treks. Rich in sea caves, lighthouses, and spectacular shores, the [Apostle Islands National Lakeshore](#) (near Bayfield, Wisconsin) is a sea kayaker's dream. An experienced guide will lead you into a pristine collection of islands and shorelines, featuring stunning geological formations – caverns, arches, and pillars – all uniquely accessible by kayakers.

Carry your gear in your kayaks while you explore the deep blue waters of Lake Superior, then bed down under the big night sky on the sandy beaches of *Gitche Gumee* (Ojibwe for Lake Superior).

Number of days: This is a 5-day trek, plus 2 days from/back to MSR.



Minimum Age: Participants must be at least 14 years old or at least 13 years AND completed 8th grade. No exceptions. Anyone 21 years old before the conclusion of the trek must register as an adult.

Group Size Limit: Minimum of 6 and up to 16 people. Your unit must provide 2-deep Adult Leadership for each sub-group (campsite, etc.). We do not send camp staff on kayaking treks. You will have guides from the kayaking outfitter, **but he/she will not count** towards your unit's adult requirements for Youth Protection, as they may not be over 21 years old. **Our High Adventure Staff must approve your group size** before taking the next step.

Participant Fees – \$900 Each: \$300 due March 17, \$300 due April 9, and \$300 due May 7, 2026

MSR Dates for this Trek: To prepare for your Trek, arrive at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan on the Sunday of each session of camp. See page 20 for each week's regular start date.

Apostle Island Sample Itinerary

Sunday Morning	Arrive at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan; Check in with your guide and begin swim check and shakedown. Logistics session with guide reviewing map and itinerary Gear and Food Shakedown with your guide Opening Dinner at the Ladd Chojnacki Shelter with campfire to follow
Monday	Meet with guide at Chojnacki shelter and head to launch point
Tuesday	On the trail
Wednesday	On the trail
Thursday	On the trail
Friday	Return to the vehicle and drive back to camp Arrive in camp and clean up Option to attend camp closing ceremony
Saturday	Depart for home

Boundary Waters Canoeing

The boundary waters between the United States and Canada are teeming with wildlife and have long been the destination for those seeking a premier canoeing experience traveling the routes of the fur trade Voyageurs. After a shakedown of equipment and skills, your group will travel to the [BWCAW](#) for an exhilarating trek in the area near the historic Gunflint Trail along the US- Canadian border.

Moose, black bear, otter, pine marten, and fisher are just a few of the animals that inhabit this area. **Contact our High Adventure Coordinator early** to begin preparation, planning, and training.



Number of days: This is a 6-day trek, plus 2 days from/back to MSR.

Group Size Limit: Minimum of 5 and up to 8 people from your Unit

Participant Fees – \$750 Each: \$250 due March 15, \$250 due April 30, \$250 due May 31, 2026

Limited Availability Earlier MSR Arrival Dates: Offered during Weeks 2, 4, and 6 ONLY of our Summer Camp Programs. Units must arrive at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan on **Saturday** to prepare for their trek: June 27, July 11, or July 25 for the 2026 season. See page 20 for each week's start date and adjust accordingly.

Boundary Waters Sample Itinerary

Saturday	Arrive at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan; Check in with your guide and begin swim check and shakedown. Logistics session with guide reviewing map and itinerary
Sunday Morning	Breakfast at a prescheduled time with a guide at Chojnacki shelter; Travel to BWCA Outfitter
Monday	Paddles away!
Tuesday	On the trail
Wednesday	On the trail
Thursday	On the trail
Friday	Shuttle back to outfitter and start heading back to Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. Camp at a State Park along the way.
Saturday	Drive back to Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan, clean up, and Head Home

Things You Should Know

Medical and Health Services

Trekking is a self-sufficient adventure that requires everyone to be healthy and trained on first aid prior hitting the trailhead. **Be Prepared** is our motto, and nowhere is that more critical than while planning and carrying out a High Adventure Trek. While you are at the High Adventure Base at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan, there is a central Health Lodge, staffed 24 hours per day while camp is in session.

In the event of a health emergency while you are at camp, medical services will be provided at the Base or the Health Lodge by an individual qualified in first aid. If the medical staff determines that the situation requires a higher level of medical care level, patients will be transferred to a hospital or clinic for treatment. Camp Staff will notify parents immediately of any serious health situations. **Unit leaders should not remove anyone from the Reservation for medical care without consulting or informing Health Lodge personnel.**

While you are on Trek, the first practice of preventing medical emergencies is to manage risk, and any emergencies that arise that are outside your crew's ability to control will need to be addressed by your crew and your guide together. Each guide is equipped with communication devices that will work regardless of location. For areas without cell reception, our Guides carry Garmin InReaches and check-in twice each day with our Camp Leadership team.

Please Remember: Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation is not responsible for any Scout or Adult who arrives at camp with a pre-existing illness or injury.

Medications

Each participant at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation who has a condition requiring medication should bring an appropriate supply, including some extra should they not return home when intended. Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan cannot provide anything other than individual doses of "over-the-counter" medications, which are in limited supply while on trek. In certain circumstances, duplicate or even triplicate supplies of vital medicines are appropriate and recommended.

People with an allergy to bee, wasp, or hornet stings must bring an epi-pen or equivalent and are required to always keep it with them. Inhalers and similar medications should also always be with the participant.

Participants carrying epi-pens, inhalers, or similar medications are encouraged to share the medications' location with the adult leaders and their guide.

Medication containers should be labeled with the Scout or Scouter's name and presented to the Health Officer at the Medical Recheck during the Check-In Process. An adult leader should be aware of youth members who need prescribed medications and monitor the administration.

We require prescription medication information for each type that is taken at camp. Complete the "PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION" section of the B.S.A. Annual Health Form.

TRANSPORTING PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION TO CAMP

The medication must be in a prescription container from your pharmacy that includes the following information. Ask your pharmacist about containers specifically for camp (one for each prescription).

No exceptions to any of these policies are possible.

- Pharmacy name
- Name of prescribing physician
- Directions for use
- Camper's name
- Prescription number
- Date prescribed
- Name of prescription

Prescription Medication Distribution

Units must present medications for anyone under age 18 (participating in the traditional or provisional camp program) during their medical check-in. The health officer will record it and return it to the unit leaders on Sunday evening. The unit's adult camp leadership is responsible for distributing medication to the Scouts **and must document that distribution daily, even while on trek**. A sample medication distribution log is included in Appendix 1. Remember to assign the responsibility of logging medication distribution to one of your unit's adult leaders before you arrive at camp (at least two weeks before, if possible)

UNIT INSURANCE

The same B.S.A. Insurance covers all registered Scouts and Adults of (U.S.A.) B.S.A. Units, so no "certificate of insurance" is required.

INDIVIDUAL INSURANCE

The following insurance information **must be attached** to the completed B.S.A. Annual Health Form **for each participant attending** (A legible copy of the insurance card):

1. Year-round policy provider's company name.
2. Policy number.

For more information, go to <https://www.Scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss10/>. This link takes you directly to the National B.S.A. website, so it is the best place to get the most accurate information.

First Aid

Scouts are prepared. Your Scouts are highly encouraged to have a small personal first aid kit on their person for small incidents, and your unit should have a well-stocked kit in your campsite as well. Our Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation staff members are also highly trained for your experience in the Northwoods, including First Aid and C.P.R. certifications. Every program area within each camp will have a first aid kit. You must keep a log of any incidents requiring first aid.

Health Lodge

Scouts are a healthy lot. Most never have a need for any kind of medical attention. For the protection of those who may need professional help **while on camp property**, we have licensed and skilled Health Officers on our staff in a central health lodge who will respond to provide immediate care in the event of an emergency beyond basic Scout-rendered first aid. Due to the number of active persons on property at any given time, our Health Officers need to be available to respond to serious emergencies at a moment's notice. Any incidents requiring basic Scout-rendered first aid within the skills of Scouts and Leaders should be handled and recorded as such. If the Health Officer in charge determines the accident or illness to be of a serious nature, the patient will be transferred to a hospital for treatment. We are only 30 minutes away from the nearest medical facilities in Antigo, WI. Parents will be notified immediately of any serious illness or injury.

Homesickness

Homesickness is a natural response to being away from a positive homelife. It is important that it is addressed so the Scout may have a positive camp experience, but remember that the Health Lodge is best suited for physical injuries, and is not a very exciting place to stay inside on a bright sunny day. Homesickness is best remedied with encouragement and activities amongst peers and leaders. It is best practice to *not* let the Scout phone home- this has commonly shown to only further entrench the blues into Scouts, and possibly even hasten an early departure. Our camp staff are trained in navigating this sensitive issue and are ready and willing to assist Scouts and leaders in combating this familiar camp ailment.

First Aid

Our staff members are highly trained for your experience in the Northwoods, including First Aid and CPR certifications. However, the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan High Adventure Program requires an adult leader accompanying the crew to be trained in Wilderness First Aid or equivalent certification and hold a current CPR certification. It may take several hours for an injured or ill person to reach additional medical assistance in some of the wilderness areas that we travel. Education and useful first aid skills will result in proper and prompt attention to all injuries.

The Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation Staff reserve the right to make medical decisions regarding individuals' participation in the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Summer Camp program. Adult leaders are encouraged to bring a first aid kit to keep at your campsite.

Food Service

While in camp, Kandle Dining is our food service provider and is ServSafe certified and experienced in working with camps to provide nutritious dietitian approved meals.

While on Trek, your food will be appropriate to the trek that you are participating, and may be a combination of freeze-dried, dehydrated, and other food appropriate to the trek to ensure you have the right number of calories and nutrients to safely enjoy your trek.

Allergen Policy

Allergies and special diets are a common concern of our campers. Our food service providers are very experienced with accommodating most diets, including food allergies, religious restrictions, and other health-related diets. We are happy to accommodate any diet with religious, medical, or allergy needs. Camp cannot guarantee your Scouts and adults will not be in contact with foods they may be allergic to or to other allergens. If they have a severe allergy or dietary restriction, contact the Reservation Director in advance to discuss if the Camp can manage their needs.

Special Diets

People with special dietary needs **must submit the online Special Diet Request Form at least two weeks before their arrival at camp**. You can find each week's deadline on the 2024 Registrations, Fees, and Deadlines page.

Please use this link to submit your special diet requests directly to Kandle Dining's Dietician:

http://www.kandledining.com/specialdietrequest_MSR. Each family is responsible for submitting their own online form so please make sure to share this link with them. Parents or adults must provide a daytime phone that will be answered or that is checked often, or an email address is checked frequently

(daily). **We cannot guarantee meeting dietary needs** for any form completed less than two weeks before your camp arrival.

We are able to accommodate most special dietary needs, even while on trek, as long as we know far enough in advance to ensure we have the appropriate ingredients.

Technology

Many of the places that you will go on your trek will have limited cell signal. We encourage you to limit what devices your Scouts bring on the trek to only those you as a unit deem necessary. Cell phones can be great tools for backcountry navigation, but they can also serve as a great distraction from the trek experience. Our guides, both from Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan or our outfitters, will be able to keep you reliably oriented and located during your trek. Our guides also carry an emergency beacon as a means of requesting emergency support when all other means of communication are unavailable.

Other Dates

Virtual Mug Club Dates: We will email each date's link and topic to the Unit Leader and other camp Contacts provided. These meetings give adults from your troop or crew an opportunity to learn details about our summer camp program and council/camp policies, with a time for Q & A at the end. Each date will also contain a link to submit questions for the upcoming meeting and suggestions for future meetings.

Mug Club dates will be added to the NEIC Calendar (www.neic.org/calendar), posted on MaKaJaWan.com, and emailed to the Troop's main contact people. If you have questions that are unit-specific, please reach out to Rory Fencl for assistance.

If you have questions that are not answered in this Guide or on the FAQ page (www.makajawan.com/faq), please submit a question here: <https://tinyurl.com/MKJWMugClubQuestions>.

Payment Options

When you register online, you can choose one of the following payment options:

1. Pay Later (mail/bring in payment): Option ends 15 days before the first Trek session's date.
2. Credit card (3% processing fee online and at store/office): Available until the registration closes at 11:59 PM
3. E- checks (0.5% processing fee online; no store option): Option ends 10 days before the first Trek session's date.

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU REGISTER

- DO NOT tell your families to register their scouts or adults for the High Adventure Trek. You can let them use the Parent Portal to pay fees. Only one Unit registration may be completed each week for each trek, unless two or more trek crews are needed to stay at the trek capacity.
- If you plan to host a scout for the Trek, register them online with your Unit.
- Payment deadlines must be adhered to. See the Trek Quick Information Guide on the next page for details.

Units collecting payments from their families should have their deadlines more than two weeks earlier than those listed above. Send/bring the money to the council office right after registering online or pay the fee online. DO NOT wait for those who miss your deadline and risk putting everyone at the "regular" rate.

Camperships

NEIC's supportive Scouting community has created an endowment fund specifically to assist all registered Scouts in attending our summer camp programs. This assistance is for Youth only.

The **2026 NEIC Camps Scholarship Application** is open for submissions. **Pass along this link to ALL of your scouting families:** <https://247scouting.com/forms/?OrgKey=BSA129&id=5351>. Let them decide if they have a need, but please check it out for important information you also need to know. IMPORTANT: This form requires **personal and confidential details** that only families should provide, so please DO NOT complete it for others.

MARCH 15 (11:59 PM): This is the initial deadline to complete the scholarship application, but we will reopen it if funds are still available. If the questions are there again, the new deadline will also be listed. Contact the Camping and Program Assistant if you have any questions.

Camp Scholarships are available to Youth for the following MSR High Adventure Treks:

- Boundary Waters Canoeing
- Flambeau Flowage Canoeing
- Ice Age Trail Backpacking
- Isle Royale Backpacking
- Porcupine Mountains Backpacking
- Wisconsin Headwaters Canoeing

Pre-Trek Action Items

Starting in the Fall

- Review trek options, contact HighAdventure@Makajawan.com or call the High Adventure contacts list in the Trek Planning Guide for more information.
- Once you have decided upon a destination and your Scouts are agreed, fill out the High Adventure Request Form

Throughout the Winter, Spring and early summer

- Incorporate appropriate physical conditioning into your unit meetings and outings. Treks are more physically demanding than a regular campout or even a full week at summer camp. Depending on your trek, you will need to be capable of carrying 30-50 pounds for up to 10 miles if you are backpacking or paddling up to 4-8 hours/day in various weather conditions.

Two to Four Weeks Before Camp

- Give every participant a copy of the packing list (what to bring/not bring to camp). Individualize it, as needed.
- Collect all Scout and Leader BSA Annual Health Forms (**see Medical Policies**).
- Assign Medication disbursement duties to one of your full-time Adult Leaders (**see Medical Policies**).
- Assign Camp Check-in duties to one of your full-time Adult Leaders for each week you are in camp. This person will be responsible for turning in all annual health forms and informing the camp leadership of any additional participant information deemed necessary.
- Assign a full-time Adult Leader to pay charges accrued that week, as well as the 2022 MSR Trek Form fee (bring the completed form or fill one out there). Unit Check-out is completed each week at the Administration Office (Welcome Center).
- Complete the Kandle Dining Special Diet Request Form and also communicate those dietary needs to the High Adventure staff.

At Least One Week Before Camp

- Remind Scouts and Leaders of camp/troop policies & standards to ensure a safe, productive, and fun time for all.
- Finalize transportation to and from camp, providing the necessary schedule and location information.
- Remind Scouts and Leaders of finalized lunch plans (money or pack one) for Departure Date.
- Ensure everyone knows the departure time, so your troop gets to camp between 1 pm and 3 pm.

Right Before You Depart (Crunch Time)

- Collect Medications and any last-minute BSA Health Forms (see Medical Policies)
- Verify drivers will be at camp BEFORE 9:30 am to pick up Scouts at the end of the week (Saturday).