
Scout's Name

Troop 89 Medfield – Whitewater Rafting Trip Deerfield River, Massachusetts June 13-14, 2009

TRIP INFORMATION AND EQUIPMENT LIST

Trip Description:

We will travel to Charlemont, Massachusetts for a thrilling day of whitewater rafting on the Deerfield River, surrounded by beautiful Berkshire mountains countryside. Scouts 14+ will be able to ride Class IV rapids on the “Monroe Bridge Dryway” section of the river, on one of the few days annually when water is released from the reservoir above the river section sufficient to create the rapids. Other Scouts will ride the “Zoar Gap” section of the river with Class II-III rapids. We will camp at the property of our rafting outfitters, Zoar Outdoor, right on the river in the village of Charlemont, Massachusetts. See <http://www.zoaroutdoor.com/> for more info on the rafting options and campground.

The rafting will occur on Sunday, June 14, because that is the date of scheduled dam release on the Dryway section. On Saturday June 13 after we arrive in Charlemont Scouts will have the opportunity for afternoon canoeing on a lower section of the Deerfield River, or hiking, advancement and games around the campground.

Signup & Cost:

Signup will take place at the May 14, 2009 troop meeting. This will be the deadline. Cost will be \$115, payable by check to Troop 89. This includes transportation, rafting fees, guide's tip, camping fees, and meals for Saturday lunch through Sunday lunch.

It is important to sign up by this deadline so that we can give an exact count to the rafting company.

Rafting Option:

As part of the signup, the Scout or adult must indicate which river he wishes to ride. Scouts 14 and older, and adults, may choose either trip. All Scouts 13 or younger will raft the Zoar Gap section. The choice cannot be guaranteed, however, because there is a limit of the number of reservations we have set aside.

Logistics and Schedule:

Saturday, June 13, 8:30 am: Report to the Scout Shed for prompt departure by 9:00 am. Patrol leaders and grubmasters should arrive 30 minutes earlier to organize crew gear. We will arrive at the rafting company and set up camp approximately 11:30 am. For the afternoon we will have a canoe trip on the lower Deerfield River, or a short hike and activity program at the campsite facilities.

Sunday, June 14: We will enjoy the rafting adventure, and then return home with **7:00 pm** target for return arrival at the Scout Shed. Scouts will be dismissed for pickup after normal procedures for unloading and stowing gear. Scouts will call ahead to notify parents of exact time.

Parental Approval:

The regular Troop 89 parental approval form must be on file with the troop. In addition, there is a form of Release required by the rafting company, which is attached. This must be completed and signed by the parent or guardian. Please turn it in with the signup check.

Weather and Preparation:

While we hope for warm and seasonable late spring weather, be prepared for cold and rainy. We will sleep in tents and the temperature may be cold at night. In addition, cold river water provides an extra challenge. The water temperature will be in the 60's. Expect to get wet in the rafts, and plan for how to stay warm. Bring a wool hat, wool or fleece socks, a thin polypropylene top, fleece top, bathing suit, and sturdy windbreaker with hood. Do not wear cotton on the river. Cotton stays wet and keeps you cold. Don't forget a water bottle, sunscreen, and footwear for the river.

Swim Test:

As per the BSA "Safety Afloat" requirements for a trip of this nature, all Scouts and adults participating must be classified as a "swimmer" based on passing the BSA "swimmer" test within 1 year prior to the event. Those who passed the test at Camp Squanto last year are set. Others, such as new Scouts who have not been to Camp Squanto, will have to pass the test before the trip. We will offer the opportunity to take the swim test at the Westwood High School pool on Tuesday, March 19 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Watch for further announcement from Mr. Dalton.

The BSA "Swimmer" test consists of:

"Jump feet first into water over your head. Swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be swum continuously and include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating."

Equipment List and Packing:

For the river-

- Wool cap
- Wool or fleece socks
- Wool or fleece mittens
- Polypro top
- Fleece top
- Windbreaker or rain jacket with hood
- Swimming suit
- Towel

- Jungle boots, water shoes or old sneakers
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Sun hat
- Sun glasses
- If you have it, a small dry bag to bring extra gear in the raft

For the camping and the rest of the trip-

- ___ sleeping bag
- ___ ground cloth or pad
- ___ drinking cup
- ___ mess kit

- ___ flashlight with extra batteries
- ___ duffel bag or backpack
- ___ plastic trash bags
- ___ hiking boots or equivalent
- ___ socks
- ___ 2 pair wool socks
- ___ 1 pair long pants
- ___ 1 pair short pants
- ___ long sleeve shirt
- ___ extra T-shirts
- ___ Wool or flannel short or fleece top
- ___ jacket
- ___ 2 pair underwear
- ___ pajama or other heavy sleepwear (sweat suit)
- ___ hand towel
- ___ brush/comb
- ___ toothbrush and toothpaste
- ___ personal basic first aid kit
- ___ any personal medications needed
- ___ compass (optional)
- ___ jackknife (optional - usage requires Totin' Chip card)
- ___ spending money
- ___ optional - frisbee, hacky-sack, games
- ___ optional – camera
- ___ Scout handbook for advancement

Do NOT bring personal electronics (cell phone, I-Pod, CD player, Palm Pilot, etc.).

Questions:

E-mail Mr. Lester at tripcoordinator@troop89medfield.org.