

Livonia YM Camp Plan

What to expect:

Spiritual Growth: The primary purpose of this activity is to build faith and deepen conversion, promote brotherhood and quorum unity, and develop skills, resilience, and responsibility. To that end, we will have many opportunities for young men to grow spiritually through activities such as scripture study, daily prayer, devotionals, testimony sharing, gospel lessons and service. Additionally, spending time together without the distraction of daily life will build unity among the group. Finally, the outdoor experiences will challenge each person in different ways where we will not only learn, but also strengthen our relationship with our Savior as we build faith to rely on Him. Our most earnest prayer is that each participant returns from the week with a strong testimony and deeper faith in the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Canoeing: We will be canoeing 60 miles over the course of about 4 days. That might seem like a lot; however, the river has about a 6-mile current, so physically there isn't a lot of effort that needs to be expended every day. The challenge (and fun) comes from steering the canoes around turns in the river, logs, and other natural obstacles. There is one section of the river just ahead of the dam where the water no longer flows, and it turns into a lake. This part will be more challenging, but by that time we will have a couple of days paddling under our belts and so we will be ready for the challenge. The river is not very deep for the most part, except for the lake leading up to the dam, most points of the river are less deep than your knees, sometimes we will even bottom out. As we approach the dam, there is a portage where we will pull the canoes out of the water and carry them to the other side to continue paddling. There is an area designed for this purpose, so it is relatively easy to do, but makes for a unique and fun experience.

Camping: We will be camping at established campsites along the river. These are accessible by canoe and vehicle. They have campfire rings, places for tents, pit toilets, water pumps, and garbage dumpsters. The toilets are cleaned often and are very well maintained. The water comes from a standard camp pump, but it does not taste like rust — in fact is clean, cold, and tastes great after some time in the sun. As the campsites are small, we will camp by quorum, but will be within shouting distance if not right next to each other.

Safety: Safety is our priority. While there are inherent risks with water and outdoor activities, we are taking precautions to minimize the risks. Each participant will have a life jacket and will be required to wear them at the proper times. We will also ensure that the group is not separated from each other by having a designated lead and last canoe at each section of the trip. While in and around camp, the buddy system will be in place to make sure none of the young men along if anything hazardous were to happen. Additionally, we have several leaders trained in wilderness first aid and many years of experience in outdoor adventures. We will likely have cell phone coverage along the way, but if not, we will have a satellite communicator that can reach emergency services at the click of a button. We will also have a chase vehicle that will meet us at every stopping point along the way which will be able to transport anyone to the hospital in Grayling if needed. If there are any specific concerns, please let an adult leader know so that it may be addressed ahead of the trip. From a food safety standpoint, because we have a chase vehicle that can refresh us with ice for coolers throughout the trip, we will be able to safely store food that requires refrigeration. We understand that there are participants with dietary restrictions, so please contact a leader as soon as possible to make sure that all needs are accommodated. Participants are also okay to bring their own snacks, but we just ask them not to store them inside their tents as we want to avoid a rare visit by a black bear, or more commonly raccoons and chipmunks.

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Itinerary:

A Link to the trip map, with GPS markings, can be found in the YM Camp Page on the website.

Tuesday, July 23

7AM -- Meet at ward building; Pack up cars, coordinate carpooling

8AM – Leave building for Grayling

10:30AM – Arrive Grayling

Lunch (sack lunches to be packed beforehand) and get set up with outfitter

12PM – Paddling begins

Paddle to Campsite

CAMPSITE 1: KEYSTONE LANDING

Afternoon / Evening activities TBD

Wednesday, July 24

7AM – Wakeup

Breakfast / Morning activities TBD

9AM – Begin morning paddle

12PM – Lunch at WAKELY BRIDGE

Afternoon Paddle to Campsite

CAMPSITE 2: RAINBOW BEND

Afternoon / Evening activities TBD

Priest Quorum to Backpack to Wilderness Location to camp overnight

Thursday, July 25

7AM – Wakeup

Breakfast / Morning activities TBD

Priest quorum to return to camp to retrieve canoes and continue paddle

9AM – Begin morning paddle

12PM – Lunch at PARMALEE BRIDGE CAMPGROUND

Afternoon Paddle to Campsite

CAMPSITE 3: MIO POND

Pizza Dinner – to be ordered and brought back to camp from the town of Mio

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Afternoon / Evening activities TBD

Friday, July 26

7AM – Wakeup

Breakfast / Morning activities TBD

9AM – Begin morning paddle

12PM – Lunch at MEADOW SPRINGS

Afternoon Paddle to Campsite

CAMPSITE 4: CATHEDRAL PINES

Afternoon / Evening activities TBD

Saturday, July 27

7AM – Wakeup

Breakfast / Morning activities TBD

8AM – Begin morning paddle

11AM – Outfitter Pickup at McKINLEY BRIDGE

Return to Outfitter

12:30PM – Lunch (TBD)

Travel to Livonia

3PM (estimated) – Arrive at Ward Building – we will notify parents of an accurate eta once we are on the road

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Meal Plan:

- Breakfasts and dinners are to be planned by quorum. Lunches will be done as a group. There are a few exceptions:
- Tuesday lunch is planned to be a sack lunch packed and brought by everyone
- Thursday is a group dinner coming from a pizza place in Mio
- Equipment for meals (stoves, pots, utensils) are to be acquired by quorum – be sure to coordinate with the equipment committee for any needed gear from the ward equipment so we make sure that it is not already spoken for or being used by the young women
- All food is to be purchased and stored by quorum

Group Gear:

- Group gear Includes food bins, cooking equipment, water jugs, group tents, etc.
- This gear is planned to be transported to camp each day by the chase vehicle
- There will be limited space, so we should plan to minimize this to the necessities

Personal Gear:

- Personal gear is going to be transport via canoe
- Individuals should pack considering that they will have limited space to carry their equipment
- Items can be packed in dry bags; however, we will provide contractor grade, oversized garbage bags to store equipment which will be securely zip-tied at the start of each day
- An equipment list will be provided to help you know what to bring
- Any individual who does not have the essential items, should contact their adult advisors for assistance – we do not expect individuals to be required to purchase essential gear to be able to attend the camp
- Cell phone use – Phone use is recommended to be limited to take the opportunity to unplug and be present with the experience; however, we encourage picture and video capture throughout the trip that we will have the opportunity to share with each other afterwards

Chase Vehicle:

- We plan to have a vehicle meet us at each lunch spot and campsite.
- This vehicle will carry our group gear and be used as a resource for emergencies
- Additionally, if needed, we may be able to utilize the vehicle to retrieve ice for food storage
- Unless we have a dedicated driver volunteer, the plan is to have each adult take a half-day turn driving the vehicle. This way, no one misses out on more than 4 hours of the experience
- We will need to identify an individual who will volunteer their vehicle (preferably a truck or large SUV)
- The trailer may be utilized if the chase vehicle is capable of towing, but it may not be necessary, and we should consider the challenges that towing may present on in backcountry locations

Canoe Partner Considerations:

- The river is narrow and fast moving in parts.
- Because of this, those that have limited or no canoe experience should try to stick to the front of the canoe to start, and those who have experience can steer from the back
- As the trip progresses, there will be opportunities to switch around seats and canoe partners to learn new canoe skills and have experiences with other participants

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Campsites:

- Campsites are first come, first served and cannot be reserved until the day of the stay
- We will have the chase vehicle drive in advance of the group to reserve the needed sites at the next camp
- Campsites may be limited to 8 people. Therefore, we will plan to camp by quorum and potentially split up quorums into 2 campsites as needed. If possible, we can try to squeeze into a single campsite by quorum, but plan to pay for a site that we leave open.

Activities:

- There will be some time in the morning, late afternoon and evenings for quorum and group activities. Group activities will be planned by the activities committee.
- As an added adventure, the Priest quorum is planning to do an overnight backpacking hike on Wednesday evening where they will navigate on a trail from the river campground and backcountry camp overnight in the national forest

Have more questions? After reading this guide and the other materials on the website, if you still have questions or would like additional information, please ask an adult leader or you can also post it on the slack channel for the group to see and respond.