**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

***Q: When should I arrive?***

**A:** Participants should plan to arrive the first day of the session that they have registered for. If taking the shuttle from MSP, your estimated arrival will be around 5:30pm. If arriving via personal vehicle, the earliest you may arrive is 1:00pm. See the Transportation/Shuttle Info section for more details.

***Q: When can I pick up my child?***

**A:** If a participant is being picked up by a parent/legal guardian you may do so during the morning of the last scheduled day of the session. It is recommended to do so no later than 8:00am. Breakfast on base begins at 7:00am.

***Q: When will the crews come off water?***

**A:** Crews will come off water the second to last scheduled day of the session. At the earliest they may head up the landing on Moose Lake up to the canoe yard at 1:00pm and it is recommended to crews to arrive back no later than 3:00pm.

***Q: Will the crew come back to base after the service week?***

**A:** No. Once the crew departs they will not return until the afternoon of the second to last day of the session. This is due in part to how permits for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness work. Once a group exits the Wilderness the permit is void.

***Q: Where will we be working?***

**A:** Each year we consult with USFS personnel to determine how to best assist them in maintaining the many portage trails within the BWCAW. Due to this, work site locations may change from year to year, and there may even be multiple work sites throughout one summer season. In the past few years OAWV crews have worked on the Angleworm Trail, the Snowbank-Parent Portage, the Hustler-Oyster Portage, the Mudro-Fourtown Portage, and surrounding areas.

For the OA Canadian Odyssey, crews will be working on the Canadian portage at Wheelbarrow Falls (on the Basswood River). This portage maintenance project has been in progress since the summer of 2023 and is expected to take 5 or more seasons of work to reach a state that is satisfactory. This portage is mutually beneficial to the US and Canada as it is the safer of the two portages at Wheelbarrow Falls (especially in high water) and making it more durable of a surface for travel benefits recreators and backcountry personnel of both countries.

***Q: What kind of work does the service week consist of?***

**A:** The work completed during the service week may vary based on the needs of the USFS/Quetico Provincial Park. Though historically, the large majority of work completed by OAWV and OACO consists of rock work, such as installing trail features like turnpikes, waterbars, and check dams. OAWV crews have also installed stone staircases, treated timber boardwalks, and have cleared corridor along portage trails. Participants can expect to work an average of 40 hours during the service week.

***Q: Where can I do my laundry after my trip?***

**A:** There are no laundry facilities at Northern Tier, so plan and pack accordingly. There are two laundromat services in downtown Ely. Participants utilizing the shuttle service will not be able to visit town following the trip.

* The Laundry Room of Ely, 428 E Sheridan St
* Ely Speed Wash, 342 E Sheridan St

***Q: Can I send mail to the base?***

**A:** Yes you can, though it would need to be done well in advance. In the two weeks of the experience participants are only on base for the evening that they arrive, the morning before they hit water, the afternoon/evening they return to base, and the morning before they depart. Once a crew has departed from base into the Wilderness there is no way of delivering mail to them. Plan ahead accordingly. Northern Tier’s address is **14790 Moose Lake Road, Ely, Minnesota 55731**. Please include the participants first and last name in addition to their crew number on any mail.

***Q: Do I need to provide my own fishing equipment?***

**A:** Northern Tier has fishing equipment (poles, reels, tackle, nets etc) available to be checked out to participants at no charge at the Baypost (The gear outfitting building) on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you would like to bring your own you are more than welcome to.

Do note that in Quetico Provincial Park all fishing hooks must be barbless and no organic bait (dead or alive) may be used. It is also recommended to use lead-free tackle within the park.

Participants wishing to fish must also possess the required licenses/permits for the respective area that they will be fishing in. OAWV participants will need a Minnesota Fishing License. OACO participants will need an Ontario Fishing License. See the Fishing License section for more details.

***Q: Where can I keep items on base?***

**A:** Each OA crew at Northern Tier will be provided with a locker for personal effects that are not being brought on trail. These lockers are located in the basement of the Baypost (gear outfitting building) and measure 22” x 24” x 45”. Crews will only be provided one locker and locks will be provided for OA crews.

If a participant drove a private vehicle to the base they are able to store items there if desired.

Additionally, there are two safes in the OA office where participants may store small valuables (e.g phone, wallet, car keys).