# Vpat1­Welcome Voyageur Participant!

**Our course is fast approaching, and we would like to provide you of some specific points to help insure you a positive experience over the two weekends of the course.**

* Location- Camp Belzer, park in the Camp p­­­arking lot closest to the Ross Voyageur Hut. **Come dressed to canoe.**
* The course begins on Saturday morning May 6, 2023. **Please plan to arrive by (TBD-between 7:00 & 7:30) for registration**. Coffee will be available, but **please eat breakfast before you come**. If you need to camp Friday night, please contact Brent Saucerman at 317-523-8417.
* What to bring:
  + Masks/Face Coverings (optional, but recommended for classroom), and a small hand sanitizer for on-water.
  + Small notebook and pen for classroom work
  + Sturdy enclosed shoes that ***will*** get wet-no sandals/crocs/flip-flops/slides. Old running shoes work great.
  + Complete change of dry clothes and shoes. We don’t intend for you to get soaked THISweekend, but “Be Prepared.”
  + If you are camping at Belzer-Camping gear- a normal weekend camping gear but absolutely:
    - Tent and ground cloth
    - Sleeping bag
    - Personal hygiene items
  + Canoeing gear:
    - Wide brimmed hat (Army surplus boonie hats are cheap and work well)
    - Sunscreen & lip balm
    - Long sleeve shirts (no cotton)-quick dry or fishing shirts work great. You can roll the sleeves up or down
    - Long pants (no jeans or sweats- once wet they will not dry, and you will be uncomfortable or hypothermic). Quick dry recommended
    - Bug dope
    - *RAIN GEAR!!!!!* Trash bags are cute but they last about 15 minutes in canoeing. Rain pants and jacket can help with the cold if it is cool or windy.
    - Sunglasses with glasses strap
    - 2 – 24-32 oz Water bottles-Sport bottles or Nalgene work well.
    - 8’ section of small diameter rope or paracord for lashing.
    - 1- 15’ piece of ¼” or 3/8 line for a canoe painter. Floating line such as Dyneema is great, but poly line that knots well will work just fine. Check your local hardware -you can see if the line on spools works well.
    - Optional-
      * Canoeing gloves (weight lifting or biking gloves work)
      * Kneeling pad (gardening pads work well) or
      * Knee pads
      * Roll top dry bag-can be inexpensively purchased at a local box or sporting goods store
  + Documentation:
    - If you are registered Scouter please bring your registration number with you.
    - Proof of current Youth Protection Training.
    - Current Scout Health Form-Minimum Sections A & B Scout health form.
    - **Documentation of “swimmer” classification-** from camp or you are certified by your unit leader. Must be current/within the last year. Please contact me if you are not current. This is required for participation.
    - ISC Waiver.
    - Proof of Safe Swim Defense and Safety Aloat completion that is current.
* What is provided:
  + Paddles and Life Jackets (PFD). Students **will** wear course PFDs for quick identification and safety reasons.
  + Sponge.
  + All meals.
  + Fun.
  + One of the finest collection of trainers that Crossroads of America can provide.
  + Lots of “teachable moments” both wet and dry.
* Meals Provided:
  + Lunch, supper, and evening cracker barrel each Saturday
  + Breakfast and lunch both Sundays
  + **\*\*Please advise me of any food allergies or dietary restrictions as soon as possible\*\***
* If we have enough interest, we will have a Kayak one-day course the Saturday after the second weekend
* Participants must participate in the entire course in order to complete Paddle Craft Safety and earn their Voyageur patch
* Estimated Dismissal Time: Approximately 4:00 PM each Sunday afternoon

Questions: contact Brent Saucerman 317-523-8417. [voyageurcanoebsa@gmail.com](mailto:voyageurcanoebsa@gmail.com)

In order to keep the course affordable, we will not be including a t-shirt in this year’s fee. Shirts and other Voyageur swag will be available for a reasonable cost during course.

Weekend 1 - May 6-7

Weekend 2 – May 20-21

Additional information will be available on the first Sunday concerning the second weekend.

Kayak will be offered the Saturday after the fall course if there is enough interest.