



Welcome Voyageur Participant!

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

Where and When

- ✗ Crossroads of America Council Camp Belzer
 - 6102 Boy Scout Road, Indianapolis, IN 46226
 - Park in the parking lot closest to the Ross Voyageur Hut.
- ✗ The course begins on Saturday morning May 4, 2024.
 - **Please plan to arrive between 6:30 am - 7:30 am for registration.**
 - **Camping will be available at Belzer both weekends. Please let us know if you need to stay on either Friday evening.**
- ✗ Weekend 1 – May 4-5, 2024, and Weekend 2 – May 18-19, 2024

What to Bring

- ✗ Clothing
 - Sturdy enclosed shoes that **will** get wet.
 - Running shoes or boots that drain water are recommended.
 - Sandals, crocs, flip-flops, or slides are not appropriate for this course.
 - At least 1 set of clothes for on-water activities that can get wet.
 - Wicking, long sleeve shirt to protect from sun, insects, and scratchy tree limbs.
 - Quick-dry, long pants to protect your legs from bad things like sunburn, nettles, and poison ivy.
 - No jeans or shorts – you will thank us later.
 - Complete change of dry clothes and shoes
 - Comfortable and scout appropriate clothes for in-camp activities.
 - Weekend 2 you will get wet when we practice rescues. All other times we don't intend for you to get soaked, but "Be Prepared."
 - Watch the weather forecast and "Bring the Right Stuff."
- ✗ Camping Gear – if camping at Belzer
 - Bring the same things you would have on a typical campout.
 - Tent and ground cloth
 - Sleeping bag
 - Personal hygiene items
 - Sleeping clothes
- ✗ Canoeing Gear
 - Wide brimmed hat.
 - Sunscreen and lip balm.
 - Insect repellent.
 - Rain pants and jacket recommended – ponchos not so much.
 - Even if no rain is forecast, rain gear can be used to retain body heat and block wind.
 - Sunglasses with glasses strap.
 - Two Nalgene style plastic water bottles 24-32 ounces.
 - 8' section of small diameter rope or paracord for lashing.
 - One 15' piece of 1/4" or 3/8" poly rope that will get wet.
 - A 10L – 20L dry bag for use in the canoe to keep your gear **mostly** dry and secure.
- ✗ Optional Gear
 - Canoeing gloves.
 - Kneeling pad or Knee pads.
 - Notebook and pen for taking notes.
- ✗ Documentation (You must bring all of these to registration or you cannot participate)
 - ISC Waiver (available on the Registration page).
 - Scout Health Form-Minimum Sections A, B1, and B2. Must be current/within the last 12 months.
 - **Documentation of BSA "swimmer" classification** - from camp or your unit. Must be current/within the last 12 months. Please contact us if you are not current.
 - Proof of **current** Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat certifications.

What we Provide

- ✕ Canoes, Paddles, and Life Jackets (PFD).
 - Students **must** wear course provided PFDs for quick identification and safety reasons.
- ✕ Sponge (we will explain what this is used for during the course).
- ✕ All meals
 - Breakfast and Lunch on Saturday and Sunday.
 - Dinner Saturday night.
 - Snacks throughout the weekend.
 - **Please advise us of any food allergies or dietary restrictions as soon as possible**
 - This can be done during the online registration, or you can email us with this information.
- ✕ Some of the finest trainers within the Crossroads of America Council.
- ✕ Plenty of paddling knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm.
- ✕ Lots of “teachable moments” - both wet and dry.

Additional Notes

- ✕ 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 to earn Paddle Craft Safety and their Voyageur patch.
- ✕ Estimated Dismissal Time: Approximately 4:00 PM each Sunday afternoon.
- ✕ Shirts and other Voyageur swag will be available for a reasonable cost during course.

Questions: Contact Mark Janson at 317-847-1231 or voyageurcanoebsa@gmail.com

Bird's eye view of Camp Belzer

