

# Skull Island  Canoe-o-Ree

**A High Adventure Activity brought to you by the
Daniel Webster Council Aquatics Committee**

# May 30 - June 1, 2025

# Wellington State Park, Bristol, NH

Come to a unique camping adventure on an island in crystal-clear Newfound Lake. Canoe with your gear to “Skull Island”, and learn and practice backcountry camping skills while spending two nights in the woods.

Location Address: [Wellington State Park, 614 W Shore Road, Bristol, NH](https://maps.app.goo.gl/giyAxMJCW8m1fjcHA)
We will be camping on Cliff Island, which will become “Skull Island” for the weekend.

## Registration and Payment

In order to plan staffing levels and supplies, WE NEED UNITS TO REGISTER using this link: <https://nhscouting.org/event/skull-island-canoe-o-ree/>. **NO WALK-INS!** Give us your best estimate of the number of Scouts that are coming. Online registration is now open. Registration will close May 26, but space is limited. Register early so you don’t miss out!

**PLEASE DO NOT REGISTER INDIVIDUALLY!** Each unit (troop / crew) should have ONE registration to cover all their attendees. Reach out to Michael Rounds for help if needed! (roundsscout@aol.com)

All participants must show evidence they have passed the BSA Swimmer test. (For limited exceptions, see later under Safety.) [There may be swim checks during the Canoe Skills Day on May 17 at Camp Carpenter – more information later.] If you can schedule time at a local pool, contact the Aquatics Committee through Michael Rounds (above) to see if we can come do swim checks for you.

Please do not bring turkey burners, large propane tanks, patrol boxes, or other heavy or bulky items to the Island.

## Costs – Skull Island Canoe-o-Ree

* Scouts $25 each
* First two Adults FREE
* Additional Adults $20 each

## Event Schedule

### Friday, May 30

| 4:00 PM til6:00 PM | **Check in** at beach, load canoes, **launch,** and canoe to the island.Set up at assigned campsite and make dinner. |
| --- | --- |
| 8:00 PM  | Friendship Fires at various campsites. Meet Scouts from other troops! |
| 8:20 PM | Sunset |
| 8:30 PM | Cracker Barrel at Island HQ |
| 10:00 PM | Taps |

### Saturday, May 31

| 5:08 AM | Sunrise |
| --- | --- |
| 6:00 AM | Reveille & Breakfast |
| 8:30 AM | Opening Flags at Island HQ |
| 9:00 AM | Learning Stations OpenCanoe Orienteering Course first slots open |
| 4:30 PM | Activities close, downtime until dinner |
| 5:30 PM | Dinner |
| 8:21 PM | Sunset |
| 8:30 PM | Camporee Campfire at Island HQ |
| 9:30 PM | Return to campsites |
| 10:00 PM | Taps |

### Sunday, June 1

| 5:08 AM | Sunrise |
| --- | --- |
| 6:00 AM | Reveille & Breakfast |
| 9:00 AM  | Interfaith Service |
| 9:30 AM | Closing Ceremony |
| 10:00 AM | **Check out** with Island leadership, pack canoes, and return to mainland. |

## Activities

This is primarily a non-competitive “Teach-In” event where you can learn and practice canoeing and backcountry camping skills. On Saturday you will have the chance to visit a number of learning stations at various locations on the island. Skills that may be offered include:

* knots and lashings
* shelter building
* woods tools
* fire building
* first aid
* nature
* water purification
* navigation
* obstacle course
* cheer
* backcountry hygiene
* swim area setup

In order to offer the widest variety of skills, we’re asking each unit to volunteer some adults to run a learning station – one listed above or one of your own design. We’ll have syllabus / scripts for many of these, and can provide supplies. Let us know early what you’d like to teach so we can share these materials ahead of the event.

There will also be a competitive Canoe Orienteering course set up, with time allotted on Saturday.

**Camping and Facilities**

This is a remote, unimproved “campground”. Bring small, 2-person tents to fit between the trees. You may wish to raise a tarp / dining fly strung between trees, but please avoid pop-up shelters or the like.

Each campsite will have picnic tables to accommodate the number of registered campers. Near each campsite is a fire ring, likely shared with neighboring units. Fires, including charcoal, are allowed only in these fire rings. You may burn dead downed wood you find on the island (almost exclusively pine), and we may be able to provide you a small amount of hardwood to burn. Plan to cook on stoves rather than on the fire. Backpacking stoves or small 2-burner Coleman-style stoves are appropriate – please don’t bring anything larger.

Near each camping area is a latrine – use it! There is no running water on the island. Bring water for cooking and cleaning, or plan to purify lake water. If needed, we can refill troop/patrol water jugs (not personal water bottles) during the day Saturday – make sure they’re clearly labeled with your unit number.

We don’t expect bears on the island, but there are other small animals that will chew through packs to get to food or garbage. Please secure all these items overnight in hard-sided containers or by hanging them.

**Saturday Campfire**

Bring a song to perform or teach at Saturday’s campfire. If you tell us the song by May 17, we’ll try to include it in the *Skull Island Songbook.*

**What to Bring**

Pack as if for a backpacking trip. Avoid heavy or bulky items such as family-size tents, patrol boxes, Dutch ovens, pop-up shelters, or turkey blasters. Coleman-style two-burner stoves are OK.

**INDIVIDUAL**

See Scout Handbook 14th Ed.
pp. 238-9, 268, 108

Pack your gear to be waterproof: in dry-bags or heavy (contractor) trash bags.

* Tent, ground cloth, stakes, poles (shared with a buddy)
* Sleeping bag & sleeping pad
* Complete change of dry clothes
* Closed-toe footwear
* Water shoes or old sneakers
(will get wet)
* 1-liter water bottle, full
* Snacks (secured overnight w/ patrol food)
* Rain gear
* Headlamp & extra batteries
* Warm clothing layers, hat, gloves
* Personal first-aid kit
* Sunscreen & insect repellent
* Compass
* Folding pocketknife
* Matches
* Mess kit
* Hygiene items: toothbrush/paste, soap, washcloth, etc.
* Small trash bag
* Swimsuit & towel

Optional:

* Inhaler or EpiPen
* Other meds (held by adult leader)
* Pillow
* Watch (if waterproof)
* Compact fishing gear
* Small musical instrument
* Sunglasses
* Sun hat

**PATROL / TROOP**

See Scout Handbook 14th Ed.
pp. 269, 109

* Stove(s) & fuel
* Lighter
* Food (Fri/Sat dinner, Sat/Sun breakfast, Sat lunch)
* Pots & pans
* Cooking & serving utensils
* Dishwashing supplies
* Trash bags
* Water in Jerry cans, 1 gallon per person, labeled w/ troop number
* Hard-sided container or rope & bear bag to contain all food & garbage
* Patrol/troop first aid kit
* Repair kit
* Roster
* Med forms
* Notebook & pen/pencil
* Leader cell phones & backup battery

Optional:

* Water filter / SteriPen
* Dining fly
* Menu plan
* Duty roster
* Advancement chart
* Patrol flag

**CANOEING GEAR**

* Canoe (16-18 feet) for each 2 people
(no kayaks)
* Paddles & lifejackets to fit participants

Optional:

* Kneeling pads
* Bailer / sponge

If you can’t find canoes or lifejackets locally, we may be able to offer some for rent. Let us know early what you need.

**Safety – On the Water**

All participants are expected to follow BSA’s Safety Afloat Standards, as described below.

**Qualified Supervision** – The primary leader for each Unit (Troop or Crew) is 21 or older, certified in BSA Safety Afloat, and proficient in canoeing. This leader accepts responsibility for the safety of his Unit.

**Personal Health Review** – Each participant turns in a BSA Annual Health and Medical Record form, at least Parts A & B, and a copy of his/her health insurance card. Specific limitations, special needs, or life-threatening conditions are described to staff at check-in.

**Swimming Ability** – Everyone in a canoe has completed the BSA Swimmer test within the last 12 months. Note the possibility to complete swim checks on May 17, as shown on the front page of this packet. LIMITED EXCEPTION: Someone who has not qualified as a Swimmer may ride in a canoe with an Adult Swimmer who is proficient in canoeing, or may be ferried to and from the Island in a rowboat by event staff.

**Life Jackets** – Properly fitted U. S. Coast Guard approved life jackets (Type III recommended) must be worn while in canoes and while near the water (e.g. loading or unloading canoes). Swimming off Skull Island is only permitted at the designated swimming area.

**Buddy System** – Each canoe is paired with a buddy boat. Buddy boats stay within 100 feet (6 boat lengths) of each other. A canoe should have two paddlers – solo paddlers with appropriate skill and experience are allowed, but must still stay with a buddy boat.

**Skill Proficiency** – Each canoe should have a proficient paddler in the back during the trip to the Island. There may be significant wind and waves to deal with. Less-experienced paddlers should start in the front for this part of the event; they will have a chance to try paddling in the back at learning sessions during the weekend.

**Planning** – Check out with a staff member when you get into your canoe, and check back in when you are back on land. This applies to the trip to and from the Island, to the Canoe Orienteering course, and to any instructional or recreational paddling. You will receive a map at event check-in; keep it with you when you’re on the water.

**Equipment** – Canoes, paddles, life jackets, and related equipment must be in good repair and properly sized for their users. Carrying a spare paddle is recommended. Camping equipment must be packed to be waterproof. Loose items like cell phones and wallets should be stowed; items like glasses should be secured with straps such as Croakies.

**Discipline** – All participants must understand and follow these rules. Failure to do so may result in participants being asked to leave the event.

**IF YOU CAPSIZE – Stay with your boat.**First priority is safety of the occupants. If possible, swim the canoe to the nearest shore to empty it and reenter. The buddy boat and any available staff boat should come help you. Watch for signs of hypothermia.

**Safety – On Land**

**Fires** are permitted only in existing fire rings. A 5-gallon bucket is provided – keep it filled with lake water while your fire is burning. In case of forest fire, alert everyone in the vicinity, and move together to a safe location. Notify HQ. Perform a head count.

The **Cliff** near the northern end of the island will be marked off with caution tape. Nobody should be climbing it, nor approaching the upper edge of the cliff.

**Minor Injuries** (scrapes, bruises, minor burns, etc.) – Use the Troop’s First Aid kit to treat the injury as needed. Notify the Camp Health Officer when convenient.

**Major Injuries** (lacerations, fractures, major burns, etc.) – Bring the victim to HQ, or send a pair of Scouts to HQ to fetch the Camp Health Officer.
If evacuation is needed, expect to use the rowboat.
In some cases, call 911 for professional help with treatment or with moving the victim. Your location is “Cliff Island, Wellington State Park, Bristol, NH”.

In case of **Weather** severe enough to make camping unsafe, troops will be given directions to evacuate.

## Getting There

Check-in and canoe loading is at the beach at Wellington State Park, 614 W Shore Road, Bristol, NH. You must arrive at check-in with all your participants by 6:00 PM, to make sure you can safely canoe to the island before dark.

**When You Arrive**

When all your participants are present, bring completed roster (at the back of this packet) and med forms to the check-in pavilion. Outstanding payments will be taken at this time – please just **ONE CHECK PER UNIT** made out to “Daniel Webster Council”. You will be given a map showing where to land your canoes and where to camp.

Unload gear and canoes from your vehicles, then move vehicles to long-term parking. Vehicles with canoe trailers can park in the boat launch lot; all others must park in the back half of the large lot near the beach.

Staff will help ensure your canoes are safely loaded and lifejackets properly fit. Any gear that is too large or heavy to go in your canoe will be transported separately, but please pack light to avoid needing this service!

**PLEASE REMEMBER: Med Forms for ALL attendees! Scouts and Adults all require a Part A&B + insurance card or will be sent home. Do NOT turn in your entire med form pack at HQ—only those attending.** These forms will be returned to you along with your patch at check-out.

## Unit Roster

For each person, please indicate the date of their swim check if a BSA “Swimmer”, or write “NS”’ Also indicate canoeing proficiency: “Proficient”, “Some experience”, or “Novice”

(Please turn in completed roster at check-in)

| Unit Type & Num (“Troop 15”, “Crew 25”) |  |
| --- | --- |

|  | Name | Swimmer?Date | CanoeingP / S / N |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Primary Leader |  |  |  |
| Cell # |  |
| Secondary Leader |  |  |  |
| Cell # |  |

## Additional Adults (use the back for more entries)

Each adult must be a registered leader, agree to the [Scouter Code of Conduct](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/Scouter_Code_of_Conduct.pdf), and turn in a completed BSA Health Form (Parts A&B + ins card)

| # | Name | Swimmer?Date | CanoeingP / S / N |
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What skill(s) would you like to teach? Do you need more helpers?

What song(s) do you plan to share? (Feel free to send us a link to words and/or music.)

## Scouts (use the back for more entries)

Each Scout requires a completed BSA Health Form (Parts A&B + ins card)

| # | Name | Swimmer?Date | CanoeingP / S / N |
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Do you have a Scout who is a bugler? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chaplain Aide? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_