



Outdoor Leader Trainers Of America, LLC

Bob Myron

15 Victory Lane

Durham Maine

04222

Dear Paddling Enthusiast,

Thank you for your interest in our Allagash Waterway Canoe Experience from August 27th to September 1st, 2023. We look forward to helping you bring your canoeing skills to a new level as we share the wonderful experience of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Our goal is to make this the best canoe/camping vacation you have ever had. Please take a few minutes right now and read through this letter. We are requesting a response from you in the near future!

Our company prides itself on offering professional outdoor experiences with a personal touch. Your safety will be our number one priority.

The Allagash Waterway is a wonderful place that consists of more than 100 miles of lakes, streams, ponds, and river. We will only be doing a section of this waterway, and which section we do will depend on water levels. If the river is low, we may opt to spend our time on the lakes or a deeper section of river if water levels allow. This trip is designed for people looking for a canoe/camping vacation. Folks with minimal canoeing experience are welcome on this trip. Moose, deer, loons, and eagles will share the wilderness with you as we paddle along the shores of Maine's most sought-after canoeing destination. To participate in this experience, you must be able to sit in and paddle a canoe for extended periods of time, carry a 35-pound pack over ¼ mile of uneven terrain, and be comfortable in a remote environment. You must also be comfortable swimming while wearing a Personal Floatation Device (PFD).

Your guide will be a skilled and patient instructor who will cook you tasty meals complete with fresh-baked deserts. Meals will be prepared using a camp stove and open fire. The campsites are all equipped with a rustic picnic table, fire ring, and outhouse.

Please find a "To Bring List" below. For the safety of our entire group we ask that you arrive **with everything on this list**. A frequently asked question is: Will I really need everything on this list? The answer: you might, and we would rather you have it and not need it than need it and not

have it! This list is compiled from over 20 years experience of guiding in this region. If we have mild temperatures and sunny days, you may never open your bag with fleece sweaters, rain gear, and wool socks. On the other hand, if we have a few days of rain, wind and falling temperatures, you will be very happy to have this warm clothing handy. Days tend to be from 45 to 70 degrees and nights from 25 to 50°F.

OLTOA will provide you with a group tarp, cooking and eating utensils, group first aid kit, canoe and related equipment, and meals starting with Day 2 lunch through Day 6 lunch.

(Note: Day 1 is the evening we meet at the hotel). OLTOA will cover canoe rental, all fees to enter the Allagash Waterway, and camping and shuttle fees from the takeout (end point) to the starting point.

To better prepare us for any medical emergencies, we ask that you take the time to fill out the enclosed medical form and questionnaire and get it to us as soon as possible. (See on our website under “to register”). Below is a rough itinerary as to what our time together will look like:

Itinerary:

August 27th, 2023: Please meet us at the Hampton Inn at 768 Main Street in Presque Isle, Maine at 5:30 PM for a pre-trip meeting and gear check. Please bring all of your gear to the meeting. You may wish to eat before you come to the meeting. The meeting usually takes a couple of hours. We will discuss water levels, gear, trip details, learn your personal goals, and talk about how we can work together to enhance the safety and enjoyment of everyone on the trip. You can make reservations at the Hampton Inn by calling 1-207-760-9292. If you tell them you are traveling with Outdoor Leader Trainers of America, they should give you the corporate discount rate.

Day 1: Have breakfast as a group at the hotel and then caravan to St Francis, Maine (or TBD location) to meet our shuttle driver. We will then drive our vehicles to the takeout (our ending point on the waterway) and drop them off. From here we will be driven to the starting point of our trip, pack the canoes, do some light stretching, review entering and exiting a canoe, and discuss basic canoe strokes as the group needs. We will then set off on our trip, paddle at a leisurely pace to our campsite, and set up camp.

Day 2-4: These days will include a variety of skills and experiences. Each trip takes on its own shape as some of what happens may be determined by the personal goals of the trip’s guests. On some trips we spend time on learning camp cooking skills, on others we go over map and compass use and even basic river rescue skills if time and conditions allow. Each day we will likely get up and eat, work as a team to break camp and get out on the water so we can enjoy nature at its finest. We may have the good fortune to hear loons or see bald eagles, deer, or moose.

Day 5: We will head for our takeout where we have our cars parked. Due to a variety of water levels, group strengths, and other logistical operations we may get back to the takeout late in the day. We suggest that you plan to spend the night at the hotel, get a good rest after your canoe trip, and then head home in the morning.

This program will challenge each person to their level of comfort and every person should leave with some new tools in their paddler's toolbox. (Individuals who plan to participate in this experience should feel comfortable swimming in a river environment while wearing a Personal Floatation Device. They do not need to have river-canoeing experience, but comfort in a canoe would be a great asset. Please Note: Wearing PFDs is mandatory on the water.

Depending on river levels we may have the opportunity to paddle a river section with up to a Class 2 difficulty. To help maximize the safety and learning experience for every person involved in this program, we ask that you arrive with **all of the required items on the "Bring List"**. If for any reason you or anyone in your party is missing a required piece of equipment, please let me know at least one week in advance and I will do everything I can to try to assist you in obtaining the gear needed. (Yes, we know this is written twice).

For the cost of \$1025.00\* per person (or a \$25 discount if you register by July 1st, 2023), we will provide instruction, knowledge, and do our very best to create a safe, enjoyable, and positive learning experience for all. Meals from Day 2 lunch to Day 6 lunch are also included. Gratuities for exceptional service are not required, but greatly appreciated. (Please See <https://www.outsideonline.com/adventure-travel/advice/tip-adventure-guide/> for details). Also, please note: a minimum of 6 people is needed to run this program.

\*Gratuities are not reflected in course cost

**Full payment is needed to confirm your reservation.** To sign up:

1. Please call or e-mail OLTOA to ensure that there is space in the program.
2. Please go to [www.oltoa.com](http://www.oltoa.com) and click on "How to Register" and fill out the appropriate forms and send us your check.

We reserve the right to cancel this program in an emergency situation.

- If you decide to cancel on or before **45 days prior to course start time** you will receive a 100% refund.
- If you cancel between 30 and 45 days prior to class start time you will receive a 50% refund.
- If you need to cancel after that time no refunds will be given.

\*If you are making flight reservations you may wish to consider purchasing trip insurance.

COVID Clause: For the safety of our customers and staff, OLTOA reserves the right to cancel any guided trip, workshop, or class during the pandemic. If we cancel a class due to the COVID-19 you will have the option of receiving a full refund or crediting your funds toward a future program. We reserve the right to ask you to arrive with a negative covid test less than 48 hours old and/or test on site. Thank you for your understanding.

Yours in adventure,

Bob Myron

ACA Whitewater Canoe Instructor

Master Maine Guide

[Bobmyron@live.com](mailto:Bobmyron@live.com)

[www.oltoa.com](http://www.oltoa.com)

207-720-0257

Please see "Bring list" below:

## Bring List and directions for Allagash Waterway Canoe camping trip

### Required items:

- 3 Pair of wool socks
- Footwear for camp, (Gum Rubber boots (Bean Boots) or light hiking shoes work well)
- Paddling shoes that will stay on if you swim! (These will get wet)
  - Suggestions: Wetsuit booties with sturdy sole or old sneakers with wool socks, Sport Sandals with Neoprene socks work too!
- 2 Pair of non-cotton pants that will dry quickly (Note: Quick Dry Nylon pants with zip off legs work well)
- 1 Pair synthetic long underwear bottoms
- 1 Pair Light weight fleece pants (Not needed in July or August)
- Briefs or underwear
- \*\* 2 Synthetic long underwear tops
- \*\*2 Fleece Sweaters (That can be worn together to form a layer system)
- Rain Gear (This should be of good quality and include a Hooded Rain Jacket and Rain Pants)
  - Be sure the rain gear is large enough to fit over the fleece sweaters and pants
  - A rain hat is highly recommended
- \*\*Warm hat that will cover your ears
- 1 Pair thin synthetic gloves
- 1 pair warm gloves (Non-cotton) (Generally *Not needed in August*)
- Headlamp or small flashlight with spare batteries
- Sun hat, Sunglasses with safety strap & sunscreen
- Swimsuit
- Toilet Paper
- Any Personal Medications you may need (**Note: If you are taking prescription, or life sustaining meds such as epinephrine, asthma inhalers, blood pressure meds, etc., please bring an extra week's supply for your Guide to carry**)
- **Personal Hygiene kit: Toothbrush with trial size toothpaste, small package of baby wipes, bandana, bio-degradable soap, bathroom tissue (TP), Purell, feminine hygiene products and ditty bag**
- **Insect repellent**
- 2 Face masks for each day and hand sanitizer
- **Whistle with lanyard**
- **6 Large Heavy Duty contractor trash bags and 6 Large medium duty trash bags**
- 2- 1-quart water bottles (full of water) at least one should be a wide mouth bottle

- A set of comfortable dry clothing for the ride home (You can keep this in your car)
- \*A 2–4-person tent with rainfly and no-see um netting
- 1 Sleeping pad that folds to smaller than 7” X36”
- 1 Sleeping Bag that will compress to a small size and be capable of keeping you warm in 20-degree F temperatures
  - *This sleeping bag needs to be packed in a super watertight container*
  - *The sleeping bag should take up about ½ the room that the Sleeping pad does, it is ok if it is a little larger in diameter: (8x18 or smaller would be a nice target size)*

\*\*\*2-Dry Gear Bags to carry all of the above items in

- Bag 1: Smaller Bag or day pack to contain: Sunscreen, Rain gear, and other items you will need for the day
- Bag 2 Should seal closed to a size of 35” tall and 15” in Diameter

Optional Items:

- Waterproof camera (carry at your own risk)
- Paddle or \*Personal Floatation Device
- Cash for souvenirs and/ or gratuities

\* Tent and Personal Floatation Device must be inspected and approved by your guide

\*\*\*“Cotton Kills” is a common slogan of the outdoor enthusiast. Cotton, while very comfortable when dry, will get wet and stay wet in a river environment. Wet cotton clothing enhances evaporative cooling and speeds up the process of hypothermia. One cold person with wet cotton clothing can severely alter the experience of the entire group. Please arrive with “Non-Cotton” clothing to paddle in. Thank you

\*\*\* Dry gear bags can range from Professional River Duffle Bags to Old Nylon Gym bags lined with Doubled up Heavy Duty Trash Bags