

Mini-Adventure

A Mini-Adventure is a 4-6 day adventure campout for the boys that have made First Class but are not yet 14. The idea is the fun and experience of a High Adventure on a smaller scale.

The target group for this campout are scouts between their first and third summer camp ages 12-13.

The goal of the camp out is to have fun. To enjoy the experience of scouting, learn to work with others and gain self-confidence. This is not a campout for advancement but an opportunity for great personal growth. Any advancement needs to be kept to the bare minimum.

This may be the first time a scout is on a campout without the older boys. This allows for personal growth and self-reliance.

While a great deal of adult planning goes in to the campout before the event; adult leadership during the campout should be left to a minimum to allow the scouts to grow in their leadership skills.

Troop 505 has had Mini-Adventures in 2007, 2009 and 2013; all trips were 5 or 6 days. As with most campouts the first and last day were travel. This allows for 3-4 days of adventure. While it may be tempting to try and squeeze something into that first day it is best to let the boys start to work out the group dynamic and enjoy the freedom of true free time.

The trips have worked well in the second or third week of June. The boys have had at least a week off school and will have one to two weeks after getting back before summer camp. Two trips have been Tuesday to Saturday. Leaving on Tuesday late morning after rush hour and returning in the afternoon Saturday. This allows the adults a day to recover before going back to work. The 2013 trip left on Wed and returned on Sunday. This worked well for some adults while other had a hard time at work Monday.

This is a great opportunity for second year adult leaders to step up and plan a campout for their sons. The planning is straightforward and the troop has a lot of resources to help you. This is something that you can do.

TIME LINE

September

Meeting with parents and scouts of target group to let them know what the trip is all about. Use photos and descriptions from past trips.

- Goals
 - Gauge interest
 - Ask for ideas for locations and activities
 - Recruit leaders and adults

Early October

Adult meeting. Discuss possible locations. Assign leaders to research locations and costs.

Late October

Adult meeting. Discuss information on locations. Decide on 2 to 3 locations for the scouts to vote on.

Early November

Meeting with parents and scouts of target group. Present possible locations and activities. Have the scouts vote on which trip they want. Recruit any adults that are willing to help with the trip. They may not want to go on the trip but may be willing to help with planning.

Secure the campsite and as many of the details of the trip as possible. In an ideal world you would have the dates of the campout firmed by the beginning of December. This allows any parents that are in a union to be able to bid on vacation on those dates. Most union employees have to bid on vacation time in December.

Early December

Hand out flyers and post information to the troop website. Dead line should be end of February but absolutely no later than troop registration in March.

January

Adult meeting, up dates on locations and activities

Assign adults to all major areas

1. Med forms
2. Adult training
3. Tour Permit.
4. Shake down for activities (biking canoeing, etc.)
5. T-shirt
6. Major equipment
7. Information for scouts.

End of March

Meeting with parents and scouts

1. Go over agenda.
2. Plan any shake down for activities (biking canoeing, etc.)
3. If any water sports are planned make sure everyone attends troop swim tests in April
4. Plan menus.
5. Ask for designs for t-shirts.
6. Hand out equipment / clothing list to scouts.
7. Go over all adult training requirements
8. Assign adult responsibilities
 - a. Med forms
 - b. Training records
 - c. Tour permit
 - d. Shake downs
 - e. T-shirts
 - f. Food buying
 - g. Equipment shake down
 - h. Information

April

1. Swim tests
2. Finalize menus
3. Finalize t-shirt design
4. Gather all information for Tour Permit

May

1. First week, send information to Mark Wilson for tour permit.
2. Make copies of all Med forms.
3. Hold any shake downs
4. Complete float plan if needed

End of May

Final parent and scout meeting

1. Answer any questions
2. Finalize all plans
3. Gather any missing materials
4. Update equipment list.

June

1. Buy food and ice
2. Load trailer
3. Give drivers copy of med forms
4. Go have fun
5. Take a group photo before you leave
6. Take lots of photos
7. Send copy of photos to the web master.

After Trip

1. Gather receipts
2. Figure reimbursements
3. Figure any refund for scouts and adults
4. Have one person contact treasurer
 - a. Get checks
 - b. Give list of names for refunds
5. Get photos to webmaster
6. Give final report to Troop Committee

**Shelbyville Dam / Pontoon Boat Trip
2007- Six day trip @\$250**

| | | |
|-------|------------------|---|
| Day 1 | Travel | Load up @ 9:00 a.m. -- Drop off Scouts at the Mid America Bank lot. Please be prompt. Departure @ 9:30 a.m. -- Drive from Naperville to Wolf Creek State Park near Shelbyville, IL. Scouts will be given \$5 for lunch on the way. Arrive approx. 1 p.m. Set up camp. |
| Day 2 | Boating | Leave from Lithia Springs Marina -- Full day pontoon rental 8am - 7pm. |
| Day 3 | Archery Trail | Meet in parking lot at 10 a.m. for Hidden Springs Archery Trail Kent and/or Todd will be in charge of our training. They will provide all equipment, train us in how to use it, and take us along the course. 3D Archery Range |
| | Dam Tour | 3 p.m. -- Free private tour, includes going on catwalk & in control room. Meet in the Visitor's Center, approx. 40-45 minutes long. |
| Day 4 | Horseback Riding | Meet at WC Riding Stables for 1 hr. rides. 3 1-hour rides scheduled (6 people max per ride) -- 9am, 10am, 11am |
| Day 5 | Hiking | Time, place and duration to be determined. Swimming/Fishing/Hanging Out for balance of the day. |
| Day 6 | Travel | Break camp. Drive from Wolf Creek State Park to Naperville. Leave around 10 a.m. Scouts will be given \$5 for lunch on the way. Arrive Mid America Bank lot around 2 p.m. |

**Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail, Canoeing the Kickapoo, Fishing & Archery
2009- 5 Day Trip @\$200 final cost \$156**

| | | |
|-------|---------------------|---|
| Day 1 | Travel | Load up @ 9:00 a.m. -- Drop off Scouts at the PNC Bank Travel to Tunnel Trail Campground, 26983 State Hwy. 71, Wilton, WI 54670 (Lunch on road) |
| Day 2 | Biking | Bike the Elroy-Sparta State Trail (Lunch on trail) Relax in pool |
| Day 3 | Canoeing | Canoe Kickapoo River (Lunch on river) Relax in pool |
| Day 4 | Fishing/ Archery | Fishing at Wildcat Mountain state park: (rented canoes) Archery in Portage, WI: Badgerland Archery Buy pies!! |
| Day 5 | Travel | Arrive PNC Bank lot around 4 p.m. (Lunch on road) |

Photos at <http://www.troop505.org/Photos/2009/Mindadventure/index.html>

Mini- Adventure 2009

| Item | 2009 Planned Cost | 2009 Actual Cost | 2009 Per person | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|
| Gas | 300 | 300 | 26 | Five vehicles, 1.5 tanks of gas, \$40/tank |
| Toles | | | 2 | |
| Bike Permits | 170 | 40 | 2 | \$10 x 18 bikes adults only |
| Canoe Rental | 204 | 215 | 12 | \$11 or 12/person at Drifty's (608) 337-4288 (Chris or Colin), seat cushions avail |
| Camp Site Fees | 408 | 408 | 28 | \$7/night per person, Egan holding w/ credit card |
| Food | 884 | 600 | 55 | \$5/meal, 11 meals |
| Meals on Road | | | 14 | 2 x \$7 |
| Fishing Permits | 120 | 50.88 | | \$24/non-res adult, kids < 16 yrs old free, at Lake Delton Watersports, Hwy 12, open at 8 am |
| Trailer Rental | 0 | 0 | 0 | Use troop trailer |
| Ice, Propane, wood | 80 | 60 | 5 | |
| Fishing Canoes | 180 | 80 | | 9 @ \$20 (canoe & bait), rental opens at 10 am |
| Mirror Lake State Park Fee | 30 | 30 | | 5 vehicles @ \$10 ea |
| T-shirt | 10 | 10 | 10 | |
| | 2386 | 1793.88 | 154 | |

Websites for the 2009 mini-adventure:

Bike trail:

<http://www.elroy-sparta-trail.com/>

Campground:

<http://www.tunneltrail.com/>

The campground is right on the bike trail, so we rode from the campground to Tunnel 3 (see the trail map link in upper left of first website). Round trip = 20 miles. A bit of a challenge for some of the boys, but they all made it.

Kickapoo River canoe rental:

<http://www.driftyscanoerental.net/>

We put in the Kickapoo River at Drifty's property and canoed a few miles downstream along the western boundary of the state park. Drifty picked us up at the take out point.

Archery

Archery in Portage, WI: Badgerland Archery, [608-745-1108](tel:608-745-1108). Does not have a website. Does have a listing on Yahoo. This place is about an hour drive from the campground - a bit far, suggest stopping on the way home, as it's right off the interstate.

<http://local.yahoo.com/info-16801791-badgerland-archery-incorporated-portage>

Wildcat Mountain state park:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/wildcat/>

We went fishing in a Wisconsin state park near the Dells, but didn't catch anything. The Wilton Rod and Gun club has a fishing pond close to the campground that they may let the troop use for a donation. Their website is:

<http://www.wiltonrg.com/index.html>

There is a store at the campground. It is probably fair to let the parents know, if they want to send some money along, like Ransburg.

**Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail, Canoeing the Kickapoo, Fishing & Hiking
2013- 5 Day Trip @\$175 final cost \$145**

| | | |
|-------|-----------------|---|
| Day 1 | Travel | Load up @ 9:00 a.m. -- Drop off Scouts at the PNC Bank Travel to Tunnel Trail Campground, 26983 State Hwy. 71, Wilton, WI 54670 (Lunch on road) |
| Day 2 | Canoeing | Canoe Kickapoo River (Lunch on river) Titanic Canoe rental. Relax in pool |
| Day 3 | Biking | Bike the Elroy-Sparta State Trail (Lunch on trail) Relax in pool |
| Day 4 | Fishing/ Hiking | Fishing at the Wilton Rod and Gun Club right across the street from the campsite. Hike the Elroy-Sparta trail. |
| Day 5 | Travel | Arrive PNC Bank lot around 4 p.m. (Lunch on road) |

There is a store at the campground. It is probably fair to let the parents know, if they want to send some money along, like Ransburg.

Websites for the 2013 mini-adventure

Bike trail:

<http://www.elroy-sparta-trail.com/>

Campground:

<http://www.tunneltrail.com/>

The campground is right on the bike trail, so we rode from the campground to Tunnel 3 (see the trail map link in upper left of first website). Round trip = 20 miles. A bit of a challenge for some of the boys, but they all made it.

Titanic Canoe rental.

<http://www.titaniccanoerental.com/>

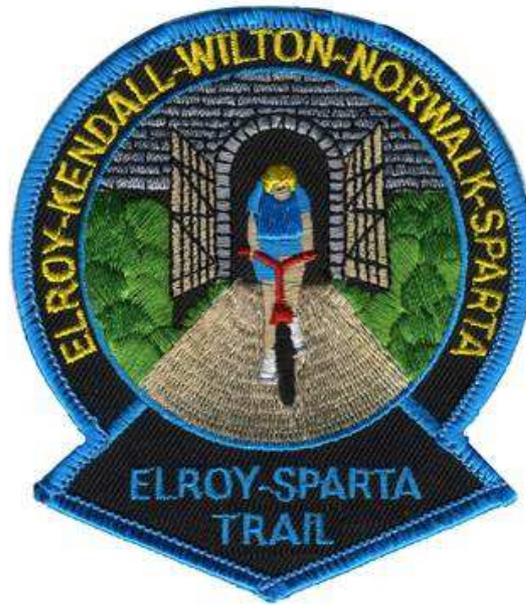
They were prompt with emails and very professional when we were there. They picked us up at the campsite and brought us back. The camp told us that they are the preferred outfitter.

2013
505 Troop 505 Mini-Adventure
Agenda Items

Daily Activity Plan:

- June 12 – Wed Departure from rear church parking lot (near trailer)
- Show 10:00am to load equipment
 - Depart at 11:00am
 - Enroute Time 4 hrs. 30 min
 - Lunch stop 45 min
 - Arrive Campground at 5:15pm
 - Tunnel Trail Campground
26983 Wisconsin 71
Wilton, WI 54670
(608) 435-6829
- June 13 – Thu Canoeing Day
- Departure from campground to Canoe Outfitter 9:30am
 - 9:45am arrive canoe outfitter
 - Titanic Canoe Rental
300 State Highway 131
Wilton, WI
- June 14 – Fri Biking Day
- Departure from campground 9:30am
 - Bike trail connects to campground
- June 15 – Sat Hiking, Fishing, and Swimming (Pool) Day
- Departure from campground 9:30am
- June 16 – Sun Return to Naperville
- Depart at 9:00am
 - Enroute Time 4 hrs. 30 min
 - Lunch stop 45 min
- Arrive church at 3:30pm

T-shirt 2013



Front



2013 TROOP 505



MINI - ADVENTURE



Elroy-Sparta Trail



Kickapoo River



Wildcat Mountain State Park

[Back](#)

2013 Mini-Adventure

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| Cost | | |
| Food | \$857.10 | |
| Gas | \$513.40 | |
| Campground Fees | \$300.00 | |
| Bike Trail | \$0.00 | |
| Canoe Rental | \$269.00 | |
| Meals on Road | \$280.00 | |
| T-shirt | \$505.92 | |
| toles | \$33.00 | |
| | | |
| Total | \$2,758.42 | \$175 / Person |
| Money Collected | \$3,325.00 | |
| Refund | \$566.58 | |
| | | |
| Final Cost per person | \$145.18 | |

ESTIMATING COSTS

1. Find where you want to camp and the cost of camping for 4-5 nights for 20 -25 people 4-5 cars.
2. Travel costs. For gas, figure the average vehicle at 20 MPG and 5 seats per vehicle. Take total mileage, divided by 20 MPG, multiply by current cost of gas, and then divide by 5 for cost per person. For 560 mile trip one way at \$4 per gal
 $1120/20 = 56 * \$4 = 224 / 5 = \$45 / \text{person gas money}$
Use the excel file at <http://www.troop505.org/documents/Gas-cost%20camping.xls>
3. Do not forget to add the cost of tolls
4. Calculate food at \$7 per meal in camp and \$8 for lunch on the road.
5. Need to talk to all major outfitters to get the cost of your outings
6. Wisconsin State parks all cost money for day passes.
7. If you fish you will need money for bait and adult fishing licenses.
8. There are a lot of little things you may need to pick up on the road ice, fire wood, milk, etc.
9. T-shirts \$10 - \$15 per person
10. Patches \$5-\$10
11. Figure what you need and add 10% and round up to an even number.
12. Everybody likes getting money back but it is very hard to get more money after the fact.

Payment Schedule.

1. Split the cost into 3 payments
2. \$50 and Sign up by Feb 1
3. Half of remainder End of March
4. Paid in full May 1

There are some troop funds if there are families with financial problems.

KEEPING TRACK OF MONEY.

1. Deposit checks and escrow forms with the treasurer in as large a group as possible.
 - a. This does not mean hanging on to the checks for weeks at a time.
 - b. Checks need to be deposited in a timely manor.
 - c. In an ideal world there would be 2 deposits.
 - i. Deposits (down payment).
 - ii. Final payment.
2. Keep track of everything in a spreadsheet.
 - a. Keep it simple.
 - b. One tab for income.
 - c. One tab for expenses.
 - d. One tab for each adult to be reimbursed.
 - e. One tab as a summary page.
3. Meet with the treasurer to get a check to cover expenses on the road.
 - a. Money for meals on the road and \$100 to cover emergencies.
 - b. Convert the check to cash.
 - c. Meals on the road
 - i. Have an envelope ready with cash for each driver to give to his scouts.
 - ii. Money should be paper clipped in the proper amount for each scout.
 - iii. This means having a lot of 5s and 1s.
 - iv. Do not forget to feed the driver.
 - v. Hold the money for the return trip until you break camp.
 - d. If you have scouts buying food for the trip take out enough money in cash to cover the expense.
 - i. Deal with reimbursing the scouts directly.
 - ii. Do not have the scout and parents contacting the treasurer.
4. After the trip
 - a. Settle accounts in a timely manor.
 - b. Gather receipts.
 - c. Meet with adults and document expenses.
 - d. Finalize expenses with each adult.
 - e. Finalize reimbursements to scout escrow accounts.
5. Meet with treasurer
 - a. Present the spread sheet of expenses and receipts for each adult
 - b. Treasurer will write a check for each adult
 - c. Present the treasurer with a list of names and amounts of reimbursements to the scout's escrow accounts.
 - d. Disperse checks to the adults.
6. Reporting.
 - a. Publish your final standings to the group.
 - i. Income.
 - ii. Expenses.
 - iii. Reimbursements to scout escrow accounts.
 - b. Final expense Report to the Troop Committee.

MED FORMS / MEDICAL OFFICER

Everyone (scouts and adults) must have a complete and current BSA medical form.

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/whole.pdf>

1. Medical Officer is responsible for all med forms and scout medication
See New Parent Handbook page 9
<http://www.troop505.org/documents/505%20NPHB%202-22-13.pdf>
2. Med forms
 - a. Parts A, B and C must be completed.
 - b. Part C is the physical exam and must be current
 - i. Physical exam is current for 365 days
 - ii. Physical exam must be current through the end of the campout
 - iii. If the last day of the camp out was June 20, 2014 the physical exam can be no old that June 21, 2013.
 - iv. Copy of both sides of your medical insurance card must be included with the form
 - c. At least 2 copies of the med forms should be taken on the trip in separate cars.
 - d. Ideally each car would have a complete set of med forms

ADULT TRAINING

1. At least one adult must be a fully trained Assistant Scout Mast
2. Every adult must have attended at least 1 Troop Campout
3. Required training
 - a. Youth Protection (must be updated every 2 years) - available on-line
 - b. Fast Start - available on-line
 - c. 1st Aid/ CPR - Troop will provide this class
 - d. Weather Preparedness - available on-line
 - e. Safety Afloat - available on-line
 - f. Safe Swim - available on-line
4. Recommended additional training
 - a. ASM Specific - available at Roundtable
 - b. Outdoor Leader Training

TOUR PERMITS

Tour Permits are required for almost every outside activity that we do. We will need the vehicle information, insurance information, driver's information and scout training for every possible vehicle and driver for the trip. It is much easier to have 7 cars listed on the permit and only take 4 than to come back and try and add new cars later. We also need all the information on the camp sites were you will be staying. Email the information to Camping committee chair (Mark Wilson mwils_99@yahoo.com at least one month before the trip.

T-SHIRTS

Troop 505 has a tradition of making special t-shirts for high adventure outing. We highly recommended having a t-shirt made for the mini adventure. The cost is minimal @ \$10 - \$12. A simple design on the front and something like "2012 Troop 505 Mini- Adventure" and list what you did on the back. Contact Brian May, brian@print1step.com about having the t-shirts made.

PATCHES

While having a patch made for the trip is still cost prohibitive. You need to leave room in the budget to pick up patches at locations near you campsite. Having a cool patch for a memorable camp out is something that will stay with you and your son for a lifetime.

SHAKE DOWNS

If you are planning a bike, hike or canoe trip you will need a shake down to evaluate equipment and skill levels.

1. Bike hike
 - a. Rick Warren, warrenr1@bcbsil.com or Jay Lybik froglogic@wideopenwest.com, can help with this.
 - b. Need to evaluate the scout's and adult's bikes for safety and proper fit.
 - c. Helmets need to be evaluated for proper fit.
 - d. Some boys may have drastically out grown their bikes
 - e. Some bikes are not properly adjusted for the rider
 - f. Some scouts may need to borrow the proper size bike for the trip
 - g. Need to go over proper riding style and safety for the trail
 - h. Review basic tools needed
 - i. Everyone should have a replacement inner tube for their bike
2. Canoe
 - a. Blackwell and Herrick Woods Forest Preserves have canoes to rent by the hour
 - b. Rick Warren, warrenr1@bcbsil.com is an expert canoeist if you need help
 - c. Work out skill levels and pairings.
 - d. Practice canoeing as a group

EMERGENCY PLAN

1. Most campsites have an emergency shelter or gathering point in case of severe weather or tornado. Find out the camps procedure and how the alarm is sounded.
2. Go over the severe weather procedures with all scouts and adults.
3. We are all too dependent on our cell phones. Many campsites have very limited or no cell service. Take a weather radio with you.
4. Find out the setting for a local radio station or weather station and add it as a preset to your car radio.
5. Check the map and find out what county the campsite is in and what the surrounding counties are. Weather warnings are given by county.
6. Set up a calling tree to get the word to parents of your status after a severe weather event.

FUN

This adventure is meant to be fun. Keep the timing loose. If you get back from the bike hike and everyone is beat there is no reason dinner has to be at 5. Go for a swim and have a late dinner. Buy some wood and have a campfire or 2 or 3. Cook some deserts in the Dutch ovens. Make some mores (this should be mandatory). If there is a local place that makes great pies pick some up. We used pie irons to make pizza and fruit pies on the last night. It was a big hit.

SCOUT FEED BACK

The 2007 group enjoyed the trip, liked the tour of the dam but the best time was just messing around on the houseboat. Six years later they see this as a campout that gave them a taste for high adventure. They enjoyed the freedom

The 2009 group liked being on their own without the older scouts. It felt like we did not have much of a schedule and that we were in charge. Everything got done without a lot of help from the adults. We had free time and it was a lot of fun. The pool was great. After 4 years they look back and see that a campout could be fun with out all the advancement.

2013 enjoyed the bike ride and the canoeing. They found the cooking challenging. They enjoyed being on their own. About a third of the boys say they were burned out with merit badges by the end of summer camp and would like a fun campout.