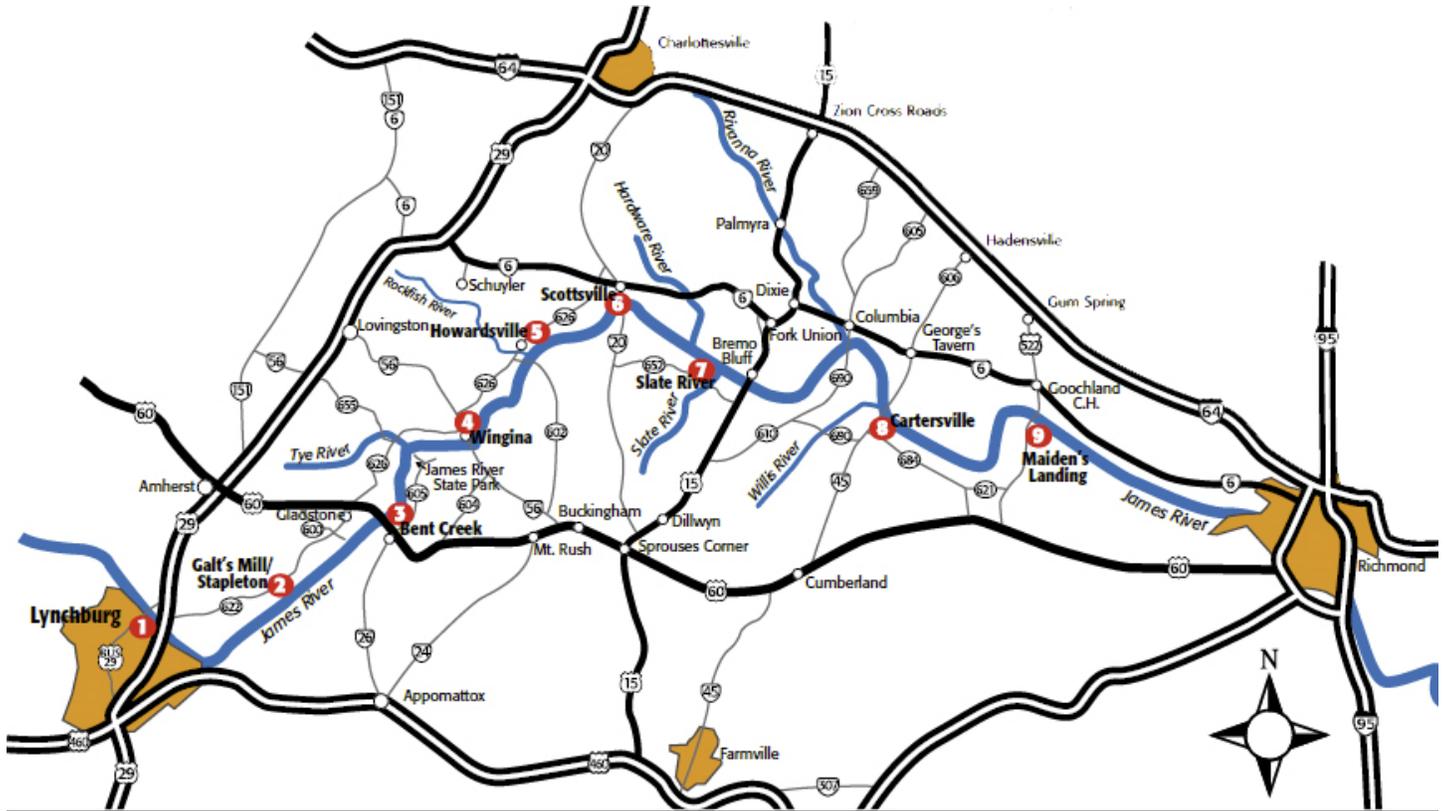


## Canoe Trip with the James River Batteau Festival

The 31<sup>ST</sup> annual Batteau Festival starts in Lynchburg on Saturday June 18, 2016 and ends at Maiden's Landing (down the road from scout camp) on Saturday June 25. The festival provides campsites, security, porto-potties, ice, drinking water, entertainment and suppers at the end of each day. The stops are shown below.



**NOTE: This is all subject to change! Go to [www.vacanals.org/batteau](http://www.vacanals.org/batteau) to see the latest info!!**

### Scouting Opportunities

History: authentic recreation of how folks lived and worked. By the end of this trip our scouts will *know* canoeing. Lots of time in the water (in your PFD). Fifty-miler award. Fishing. Conservation awareness.

### Costs and Food

We budget \$20 per day per person for food to include: Breakfast, on-the-water morning snack, on-the-water lunch, on-the-water afternoon snack, camp arrival bug juice and cold melons. Since we're working all day, the food needs to be plentiful and frequent. Hydration is a major concern. We work hard to keep everyone drinking and eating. As part of this, we budget \$6.50 per day per person to buy suppers from community groups each evening—outstanding BBQ, Brunswick stew, burgers, meatloaf, etc. Scouts usually want to buy a t-shirt (\$15) or other extras. We have a trip banker to hold every Scout's money.

## Keys to Success



Run a support crew (don't carry everything)

Buddy boats—keep folks together. Buddies—keep folks together. Everyone takes care of others.

Drink water all day! Eat (nearly) continuously. Let the Festival feed you supper.

Minimize the number of vehicles you have to shuttle from site to site. Keep track of people

Water fights and squirt guns? Yes, but a boat needs to be able to “opt out”.

Planning Committees: Gear, Food, Money, Waterfront

Crew meeting every evening: Who is coming and going? Who will do support? Who will be on the water? Do we need any supplies! What's the route tomorrow?

Follow the Zen of the River: You are on river time, Paddle your own canoe, Go with the flow.

### Safety

It is not possible to follow the Safe Swim Defense rules but you can (and must) follow Safety Afloat policies.

Stay clear of Batteau—at least 15 ft away while underway. *Never* get between a batteau and a rock.

Drugs, sex and rock and roll: Yes, there are ample opportunities at this public festival. No, we have not found it to be a problem with firm but flexible adult supervision and pervasive youth leadership.

### Other info

Contact Al Best for our info. sheets on (ALBEST@VCU.EDU):

- What gear to bring (and not bring)
- Detailed driving directions to each site, at the opportunities at each site.
- “Issues”: Weather, Safety, Water fights, How to treat a bateau
- Work-crew responsibilities
- Itemized food-buying list



In the morning: Eat breakfast in camp, pick up your foodbag for the day, pack up your gear and stack it near the truck. The support crew—who will be off the water that day—finishes camp clean up.

The boat-master assigns people to canoes and verifies buddy-boats. Each boat gets the day's map. There is a lead patrol—no other patrol may go beyond them—and a sweep patrol—no canoe may lag behind them. Within a patrol there is also a lead and sweep. The sweep canoe has the troop first aid kit and emergency gear.

When all the canoes in a patrol are ready, the patrol leader informs the boat-master that his patrol is ready to go. Upon approval from the boat-master, the patrol leaves. When all the other patrols leave, the boat-master's sweep patrol may leave.

After all canoes leave, the support crew packs up everything in the trucks and takes all the gear to the next campsite. En route, they pick up any needed food or supplies. Upon arrival (before noon) they pick a campsite and set up a tarp area and all tents.

*Saturday June 18* Early departure

7:30am – Arrive at Henry Clay to get everything together. You have already had breakfast.

8:00am – Depart (promptly) and drive to Lynchburg. The canoes will launch at the Amherst County boat ramp on the North side of the river (near 122 Rocky Hill Rd, Madison Heights VA 24572).

11:00am – On the water, in canoes. Eat lunch on the “riva.” while we watch the Batteau Festival begin.

The support truck drives to the campsite (with all our gear except what's in the canoes).

This is about a 20 mile canoe trip on this first day so we'll not want to stay at the festival long.

4:00pm – Arrive at campsite at historic **Galts Mill** in Amherst County. When we arrive, set up camp and then have a Crew meeting. Say hello to your friends; life is good. Dinner served by Amelon United Methodist Church BBQ & hotdogs.

*Sunday*

Up early to eat breakfast and pack lunches for the river. Departure times: We will always be on the water by 8:30 at the latest (and 8:00 would be better). That way we avoid more of the afternoon thunderstorms and also minimize canoeing in the heat of the day.

3:30pm – Arrive at campsite at **Bent Creek** in Appomattox County. Vito's pizza and Water Ice tonight.

*Monday* Early departure

Depart for a shorter day on the water, perhaps 14 miles to the historic tree-lined site of a Monacan Indian camp in Nelson County.

4:00pm – Arrive at campsite at **Wingina**. The support crew will want to arrive here as early as possible and stake out a campsite—there's not much room at this location. Dinner will be hot dogs and Bar-B-Que.

*Tuesday*

On to **Howardsville** campsite. Just past the bridge on the left. Just downriver from where the Rockfish River meets the James. Dinner will be Spaghetti.

### *Wednesday*

Leave early to arrive at **Scottsville**. It's a 12 mile paddle to Scottsville. There are some rapids at Goosby Island. We'll cross under the Rt 627 bridge at Warren and over the Hatton ferry landing. Then you'll pass under the big Route 20 bridge and the landing is just on the left. At Scottsville we'll camp at the old high school, which is a bit of a walk from the boat landing. There are hot showers in the school. Supper will be at the restaurants in town. Scottsville will be the last "civilization."

### *Thursday*

Leave early to arrive **at a different site on the Slate River**. Today is the best white-water! It's a 12 mile paddle. The landing is on the right, well before the Route 15 bridge. The Slate River enters on the right and there is a boat landing. The campsite is upriver from there. Supper by Dillwyn Baptist Church Youth.

### *Friday*

Leave early and arrive at **Cartersville** Only **21** miles today. Just out of the Slate River site, you'll need to get river left to make it thru some pretty challenging rapids. Then, enjoy the Jacuzzi at the hot-water outflow of the coal-fired electric power plant at Bremono. At Cartersville, supper is meatloaf (or BBQ).

### *Saturday 25*

Leave early and arrive at **Maiden's Landing**. 17 miles of big water today. Many of the Batteaus should have arrived by 3:30 pm; By 4pm we should be out of the water and ready for parents to take their wet and (pleasantly) tired crew members home. Tell stories in the car on the way home!

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## **The Zen of Canoeing**

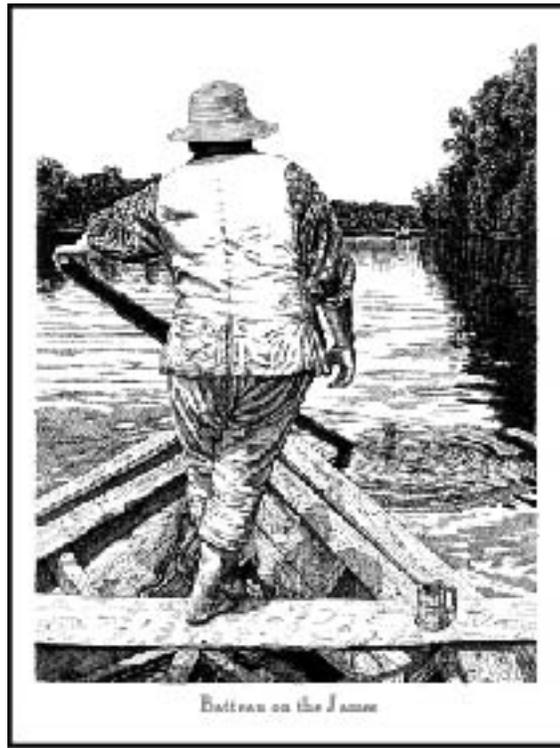
The river teaches those who listen. Here is some of what she says.

"River time" You are on vacation. Listen to the river and you will hear that life is good; your friends are at your side. They are there for you; and you for them. The river is always there.

It usually takes about two days to realize that you are back to being part of the river. It's OK if it takes longer, the river will wait.

"Paddle your own boat" Others depend on you to do your part and it's more pleasant for everyone if you do a bit more. If you keep up with what you need to do in whatever "boat" you are in, you'll be free to relax and have a good time knowing that everyone else is doing the best they can too.

"Go with the flow" Water is one of the most powerful forces in nature yet it moves on without haste and effort. It just moves around all obstacles in its quest of low places. Be with it. Perhaps that feeling of hurry or impatience means that you need to take a little swim.



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## Driving Directions from Richmond

The Batteau Festival starts in Lynchburg and ends at Maiden's Landing (down the road from scout camp).

These are driving directions from Richmond because there is always a chance that: because of high water or other weather conditions the festival is cancelled, because you are injured your parent has to pick you up, or because someone has to leave early or arrive late. **Leave a copy of this with your parents.**

Note to those arriving late: Canoes depart by 8:30 am; if you aren't there by 8 am, we'll leave you.

To **Boatlanding** across from Lynchburg: Saturday **canoe launch** site at Amherst Boat Ramp  
Heading towards Lynchburg, coming South on Highway 29. Get off into Hwy 210 and then Hwy 163 South take the (left) exit off of VA163 (S Amherst Hwy) onto River Rd/Rock Hill Rd



Take the first left onto Rocky Hill Rd. The road ends at the launch.

- To [Galts Mill](#) / [Stapleton](#) (arrive Saturday, depart Sunday) Starting from Lynchburg, go north on Highway 29. Turn right (East) on Rt 622. Go about 8-9 miles and where Rt 648 crosses the railroad off Rt 622 on the right is the field.
- To [Bent Creek](#) from the Galts Mill campsite (arrive Sunday depart Monday): Go East on 622 until you reach Rt 60. Go South (right) on Rt 60 to where it crosses the James. The site is on the southwest side of the bridge.
- To [Wingina](#) site (arrive Monday, depart Tuesday): Where Highway 56 crosses the James. Either take Highway 29 South from Charlottesville and turn SouthEast on Highway 56 at Lovingston. Or take Highway 60 West from Richmond and turn North on highway 56 after Buckingham. Campsite is at the Southwest corner of the bridge.
- To [Howardsville](#) site (arrive Tuesday, depart Wednesday): Just downriver from where the Rockfish river meets the James. Go to Scottsville (see below) but don't go all the way downhill into town. Take Route 6 going West and in less than 3 miles, turn left (South) on Route 626. This is a back road that winds a lot; slow down! When you get to Howardsville (blink and you'll miss it; it's just a country store on the railroad) on Route 626 before you'll cross the Rockfish River. Just before the bridge, turn left (South) onto Howardsville Tpk. Immediately on your left is a big field were we camp.
- To [Scottsville](#) campsite (arrive Wednesday, depart Thursday): we will be camping at the old high school (now a community center). Scottsville is where Route 20 and Route 6 cross, north of the river. If you are on I-64 and take exit 121, Route 20 south, it will take you to Scottsville. There are ways to shorten this route if you are willing to take to back roads. You'll head downhill into Scottsville (check your brakes). At the bottom of the hill (with the bridge over the river in sight), Route 6 comes in from the East (on your left); there is a stoplight there. Turn right (West) on Main and go towards the community center, turning Left on Page St. We'll be camping in the fields.
- To [Slate River](#) camp (arrive Thursday, depart Friday): NOTE: **This is a changed site; we are NOT camping on the Solite Property, as in years past.** generally you are heading for where Hwy 15 crosses the James River at Bremono Bluff. I would head West towards I-64 and exit at Gum Spring Hwy 522 going South (exit 159). Head towards Goochland and turn right on Hwy 6 going West. At Dixie turn left on Hwy 15 going South. (An alternate route from Richmond is to stay on I-64 until exit 136 at Zion X-roads and go south on Hwy 15.) Cross the James. Turn Right on Hwy 652 (Bridgeport Road). **After the road to the Solite Corporation** take the next [Right](#). Follow the signs to the Batteau Festival. Look for us in the large field before the boatlanding.
- To [Cartersville](#) campsite (arrive Friday, depart Saturday): Generally the campsite is where Rt 45 crosses the James, on the southwest side of the bridge, at the boat landing. I'd recommend going to Goochland (see below). When you get to the Goochland high school, then go

West towards Georges Tavern. At the intersection of Route 45 and Route 6, go south on Route 45. On Route 45, cross over the James River and follow the signs to the boat landing, Southeast of the bridge. You'll be turning left off Route 45. Where we will be camping is way to the right of the boat ramp. I would **not** recommend that you drive on the dirt (mud) road to our site. If there has been any rain, the risk is very high that you will get stuck; park on gravel and walk down river until you find us.

To [Maiden's Landing \(Goochland\)](#) pick up point (arrive Saturday). There are two good routes to Goochland: on I-64 and on Route 6.

- If you want to go on I-64 then head West and take exit 159, Route 522 "Gum Spring". At the end of the exit ramp, turn left (South) towards Gum Spring. In less than 10 miles you'll pass the Goochland High School (on your right) and encounter the intersection with Route 6. At the light (route 6) Turn left (going East) still following the signs to stay on Route 522. At the next light (still following 522) turn right and cross the river.

- If you want to go the scenic route, then find your way to Route 6, which is called Patterson Avenue in Richmond, and head West. You'll go thru Manakin-Sabot and then through Crozier. You'll pass the State Prison Farm on your left. A few miles after that you see the light at Route 522. Turn left (heading downhill to the river).

- Cross the James River on Route 522 going south. The parking lot and landing is past the bridge (South of the river) on the right. Turn right on Route 313 and then right again to the landing. Park as far on the left as you can because the huge batteau trailers take up lots of space on the right. The Batteau's should begin arriving by 4:00; Parents should pick up here but be patient: there's lots of crew work to do in taking care of boats and gear.

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### Gear notes

Your gear is in one of three places: On your body, In your boatpack, or In your backpack.

Do not put gear "down"; put it away.

**On your body:** swimming suit, t-shirt, wet shoes that **will** stay on your feet (water shoes, or sneakers; no flip flops), hat with brim, sunglasses tied on, sunscreen slathered on. Paddle. PFD with whistle.

**"On the water gear" in your boatpack** (school book bag or small pack or drybag):

On the water you *MUST* have the following either on your person or packed in your boatpack:

String or rope to tie everything to boat, sunscreen, **full** canteen, bug dope, rain gear (a rainsuit is best; no one can safely paddle with a poncho), long sleeve shirt (or sweat shirt or a light jacket) in a plastic bag, pocket knife, some snack candy to share (something that won't melt). Your lunch (how will you keep this dry?) Do you need (dry) toilet paper?

Optional: tacklebox/fishing pole (you'll also need a fishing license if you are 16 or over), camera.

### **Camping gear in your gymbag** (not a backpack):

Clothing: Do **NOT** bring a lot of stuff! Keep it simple. Bring a couple t-shirts; a couple shorts, belt?, towel, a pair of dry shoes and socks. Flashlight. Sleeping pad. Pack cover. Closeline string.

Toiletries: Toothbrush/paste. Biodegradable soap. Personal first aid kit.

Bedding: 1–2 blankets or a lightweight bad (do **NOT** bring a heavy bag; you don't need it). Pack this so that—no matter what!—it will stay dry for the whole trip. Really; be sure.

Optional: small folding chair. Do **NOT** bring anything electronic, or anything someone will want to steal.

Bring shoes other than those you'll wear in the canoe (Yes, you **must have two pairs of shoes**).

“Double bag”: Pack everything that should not get wet in **2** plastic bags (especially your sleeping bag). Have

*another* plastic bag available to put your wet stuff in. Here is how you should think about packing:

Assume your backpack will sit in an open truck all day and get rained on constantly. Will your stuff stay dry? (PS we hope this won't happen, but if it does you should be prepared.)

You will **NOT** have access to your backpack at all during the day. Stuff you need during the day belongs in your boatpack (see above). All gear **must** fit in your backpack. Every day we pack up and leave for the next site; Tie your sleeping bag to your pack securely (no Bungee!) and plan on the support crew moving your gear around.

How much spending money? You do not *need* to bring *any*. However, most people find that they want to have \$15 for a t-shirt, and perhaps a couple of bucks a day for cokes & etc. Do not bring lots of money. There will be a crew banker to keep your money so you won't lose it. Put your money in an envelope with your name on it and give it to the banker.

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### **Note on weather**

It will rain on you in the boat or you will get wet “by accident.” Then the clouds will cover the sun and the wind will pick up and you will get miserable (or worse). Trust me: even though you may think it is stupid, **bring a light jacket** or a long sleeve shirt or sweat shirt in a plastic bag **in your boatpack**. It must be kept dry.

Rain will not deter us at all; we will be on the water unless there is lightning. Count on it raining on you in the boat. It may even rain an entire day while you are on the water; it *may* rain the entire time (all 8 days). We will still be in the canoes paddling down river every day. **Bring your raingear**.

If the river is too high to be safe we will, of course, make other plans. The [NOAA](#) tracks water levels.

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### **Safety Issues**

If you violate any of the following rules, we will call your parents and you will go home. Period.

We will follow the BSA Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense systems at all times.

If you are in a canoe or batteau you will wear your PFD at all times. This is not optional.

If your body is in the water or you are at risk of being in the water, you will have your “wet” shoes on your feet.

This is not optional. Yes, this includes when you are swimming.

Every boat will have a map. Use it.

Every boat will have a “buddy boat.” Stay in reach of your buddy boat. If you can’t rescue your buddy boat you are too far away. Every person will have a buddy. Stay in reach of your buddy. If you can’t rescue your buddy you are too far away.

There will be a lead boat; do not pass the lead boat. There will be a sweep boat; the sweep boat should not pass any others in the pod. The sweep boat will have the first aid kit, extra paddle, and rescue lines. **Keep the boat behind you in sight at all times.** If you lose sight of them, stop. If, after a while, they still don’t show up, go back to them.

Everyone takes care of everyone else. While on land, everyone will observe the buddy system at all times.

No ramming boats or doing anything else to a boat that may harm it. If you lose or break your paddle you will pay for it.

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### **Water fights**

Each *boat* needs to decide whether the people in the boat (both of them) want to participate in water fights.

Rules: Boats opting not to participate (termed OUT) may not be splashed.

How to decide whether another boat is IN or OUT of water fights:

If a boat splashes another, they are IN.

If it is not clear that a boat is IN, ask “do you want to get wet?” If they say “No”, then they are OUT.

Once a boat is IN, it is IN for the rest of the day unless all of the other IN boats consent to a change of status to OUT.

If you want to be IN, you may want have some of the following equipment: supersoakers, bailers.

Yes, you may tip over another boat. Note however, that this escalation will virtually assure that you will get tipped over yourself. Of course, you must also assure yourself that you will not injure any other person or boat.

Waterfights will be terminated if there are any injuries to people or equipment, or if the weather turns bad.

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### **How to treat a Batteau**

*With immense respect.*

Never step onto a batteau without the permission of the captain or crew. Ever. Ask, “Permission to come aboard?”

While underway, stay at least 15 feet away from them and the long paddles that hang off the front and back. All of these boats weigh more than a ton. Essentially, treat them exactly like a tractor trailer truck with no steering or breaks.

If you get between a batteau and a rock, your boat (and you) are toast. Do not try to zip in front of a batteau to go over some submerged rocks. If you get stuck on the rocks, the batteau can not stop—you will die.

Never park your canoe between two batteau; Your boat may get crushed when they shift around. If you were to get out of your canoe next to a batteau, one or both of the boats could shift and crush your legs or body.

There should be separate canoe parking lots, use them.

**To help a batteau in trouble:**

Non-adults (< 21) should *not* help out at all; period. These boats are huge and you are at tremendous risk. The festival loses about one boat a year. It's just a pile of wood after all; stay cool. If you like, tie up in a safe place and watch.

Adults: Stay calm at all times; do not endanger yourself or your canoe. Do not take your canoe too close to the batteau. You should probably tie up and walk over. Your pod leader should speak with the batteau's captain; everyone else should stay quiet. Remember: the captain is in absolute charge. An appropriate question would be, "may we help in some way?" If the captain says yes, do what you are asked. If no, say "OK" and back off.

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**Responsibilities**

**Breakfast crew:** The night before, know exactly what you need to serve and know precisely where it is. Get up early enough so that folks may begin eating at 7 am. Start the coffee first. Have the breakfast items out and available. Wake up everyone at 7 am. Then your breakfast crew may eat and then attend to your personal gear. Clean up after breakfast. All put away by 8 am.

**Lunch crew:** Get up in enough time to have lunches and snacks available by 7:30. Make sure that there is sufficient, cold bug-juice to fill all canteens. No one on your crew eats any breakfast until lunch is ready. Attend to personal gear and then clean up lunch. All put away by 8:15.

**All:** Get your personal gear packed and at the trailer ASAP. If necessary, help your tent buddy get his personal gear packed, because you can't leave until the tent is packed. Think ahead to setting up camp when you arrive at the downstream side. Know exactly how many tents need to be set up. Upon arrival, set up tarps and the food area first. Set up tents. String clothesline and dry stuff. Have cold melons and snack food available.

**Grub master:** Know food location and amounts. Supervise breakfast and lunch crews. Report any food or other needs to Senior Patrol Leader. Do we need ice?

**Boatmaster:** The evening before: Work with SPL to assign people to boats and assign boat order.

In the morning: Get boats to landing. Insure that every person and boat is properly equipped (including a map). Insure that each boat knows their "buddy boat". Insure that each boat knows the Lead and Sweep boat. Report to the Scoutmaster when *all* boats are ready that you are "ready to launch"; do not launch. When the Scoutmaster says, then you may begin launching.

During the day: Determine stopping places for snacks and lunches. In consultation with SPL, determine other activities such as: swimming, rafting-up, tormenting other canoes.

Upon arrival new site: Get boats into a secure location. Report to the Scoutmaster when “all off the water and in camp”

**Personal responsibilities:** Scout Oath point #2: “To help other people at all times.” Take care of your crew responsibilities before you take care of personal responsibilities. Report any first aid needs to the Scoutmaster of the day.

**PLC:** There will be a PLC meeting every evening sometime after supper to review the day and plan the next. All leaders should attend.