



WAYPOST WILDERNESS BACKPACKING TRIP

July 16-21, 2023 - 6th-12th Grade

What is Backpacking?

Backpacking is a combination of hiking and camping. Campers will hike during the day to a different campsite each evening. Backpacking is truly a wilderness experience. With no restrooms, running water, or electricity, campers will enjoy the simplicity of living off of only what they can carry on their back.

Where are you going?

For this trip, we are going to [Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park](#) in Ontonagon, Michigan. It is Michigan's largest state park and one of the few remaining large wilderness areas in the Midwest. It's home to a 35,000-acre old-growth forest, roaring waterfalls, miles of rivers and streams, more than 90 miles of hiking trails, backcountry camping, the Lake Superior shoreline and unrivaled vistas.

The Porkies are just a 3-hour drive from Waypost. Campers will spend their first and last night at Waypost. All other nights, campers will be out on the trail.



How will this be different from Crossways' regular programs?

The wilderness backpacking trip is a unique experience, different from many of our other Crossways programs. This will be a small group trip, limited to nine campers and three staff. Campers won't do many of the activities typically offered at camp like crafts, canoeing, and bread baking. Instead, they will spend most of their time hiking and exploring nature. Campers will still have a faith-filled experience with daily bible studies and evening campfires.



Register at CrosswaysCamps.org

What will you eat?

Campers will learn to cook all of their meals out on the trail. To keep kids fueled up, we will pack lightweight, calorie-dense foods that can be prepared over a propane stove or a campfire.

We try to plan tasty menus that everyone will enjoy, however, picky eaters will not have as many options as they do at our regular programs. We will still work to make sure that all dietary restrictions and allergies are met.



What do campers need to bring?

Packing for a backpacking trip is a little different than packing for a regular summer camp. Remember that everything campers bring with them they will need to carry on their back! Campers can bring extra items to leave at Waypost while we are out on the trail. Most equipment will be provided, but there are a few things that campers will need to bring with them.

- Campers will only need two outfits to wear while on the trail. We recommend a comfy pair of shorts and shirt made of synthetic/technical materials. They will also need either a poncho and a sweatshirt or a raincoat in case it rains and to stay warm in the evenings. Bring a swimsuit if you want a chance to swim in Lake Superior. Also, bring additional clothes to wear while we are staying at Waypost.
- A comfortable pair of hiking boots or running shoes. We will be walking 8-10 miles each day. You can also bring a lightweight pair of sandals to wear around camp in the evenings.
- Containers to hold 2 liters of water. This can be reusable water bottles, disposable 1L bottles, or a hydration reservoir.
- Flashlight or headlamp with fresh batteries
- Lightweight sleeping bag that is compressible to a small size for backpacking. A standard sleeping bag is too bulky and heavy. Look for something under 3 lbs. Fleece sleeping bags are a cheap, lightweight option for warm sleepers.

Pack what you have. Don't feel like you need to go out and buy a bunch of new equipment. If you need suggestions on what to pack, contact us at andrew@crosswayscamps.org.

