



“PADDLE THE PEARLS” FRESHWATER ESTUARY ED-VENTURES

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

We are excited that you will joining us for an educational, fun ed-venture into one of freshwater estuaries that dot Lake Superior’s shore like a “string of pearls”. To make the most out of your experience, please review this information carefully and call us if you have any questions.

PLEASE NOTE: All paddlers must wear closed toed water shoes or old tennis shoes. Open-toed sandals are not acceptable since they will not protect your feet from sharp debris that may be in the water or exposed on the shore. Please...**NO FLIP-FLOPS!**

MAKING A RESERVATION: Paddle the Pearls programs are open to anyone age 12 and above. After making your reservation, we will send or email confirmation and trip planning packet with additional information and waiver forms. The cost is \$15 per person for a 2.5 hr. program which includes boats, paddles, pfd’s, and instruction. **PLEASE: checks only accepted on the day of your trip, payable to UW-Extension. We cannot accept purchase orders, cash or credit cards.**

WHERE TO GO

We will meet your group at the **Long Bridge boat landing**, at the departure time noted on the program reservation form included in your trip planning packet, unless we have made other arrangements with you which will be noted on the reservation form. A map showing the location of the Long Bridge boat landing will be enclosed in your trip planning packet for groups meeting there.

WHAT TO BRING

Every participant must have a signed waiver and completed health form. These are provided in your trip planning packet. If you have not returned your participant waiver and health form to us before the day of your trip, please bring them with you. Please let us know prior to your trip departure if you or any member of your group needs any special accommodation or has health needs we should be aware of.

Other things to bring: a hat for protection from the sun, sunscreen, bug repellent, raingear, and water are recommended. Other optional items: sunglasses, camera, binoculars, field guides. Placing your gear in a waterproof bag will protect it from damage.

WHAT TO EXPECT

We will provide paddles, life jackets, and kayaks and teach you how to safely use them. You will be paddling a safe, stable double seater kayak with another person. No experience is necessary!

Your ed-venture will primarily be conducted within the Fish Creek Estuary. We will explore the ecology and history of this freshwater estuary and its slow water sloughs, then paddle to the mouth of Fish Creek to Lake Superior. Weather, wind, and water conditions permitting, we will paddle Lake Superior's shoreline as far as the Whittlesey Creek Estuary and Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge. The water in the Fish Creek Estuary normally quite shallow, but with a moderate, but gentle current.

WHAT TO WEAR

Lake Superior weather conditions are very changeable. Come prepared for paddling in either rain or shine conditions. Water and wind temperatures on Lake Superior can be cold, but within the sheltered Fish Creek Estuary temperatures can be much warmer. We recommend layering your clothing so you can shed clothes if temperatures are warm or add layers if needed. You can expect to get wet up to mid-thigh level. **Closed toed water shoes or old tennis shoes are required for foot protection! No open toed sandals or flip-flops please!!**

WHAT ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER

We will conduct your trip rain or shine, unless threatened by excessive wind, lightening or other unsafe conditions. If we must cancel the trip, we will offer you an opportunity to reschedule, a refund, or a optional free indoor program. If you have concerns about weather conditions on the day of your trip or while en route, please call us. We can advise you on the probability of a trip departure.

CONTACT US

If you have any question, or last minute trip changes, please call us as soon as possible at the UW-Extension-Environmental Outreach Office, Courthouse, Hurley, WI 54534 phone: 715.561.2695 or email cathy.techtmann@wisc.edu.



***A Paddle the Pearls Estuary Ed-Venture
in the Fish Creek Estuary***

**Paddle the Pearls is a UW-Extension Environmental Outreach Program conducted in partnership
with the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center**

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