



RIVERS
ARE **ALIVE**

WILD RIVER JOURNEY ADVENTURE GUIDE

Wild River Journey Riverboat Adventure

The Wild River Journey is a National Park fieldtrip that takes students on a riverboat adventure on the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, so that they might experience its wild and scenic qualities and be inspired to love and care for rivers.

Partners in this Wild and Scenic Adventure include:

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

St. Croix River Association

St. Paul Audubon



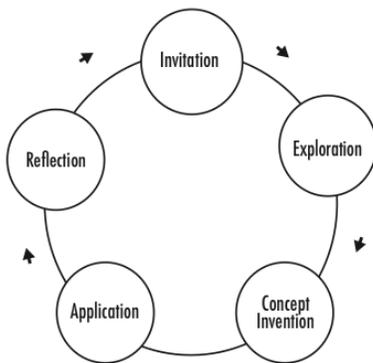
Dear Educator,

We are thrilled that your group is participating in the Wild River Journey Riverboat Adventure as part of the K-12 Rivers Are Alive education program. This program is a partnership between the St. Croix River Association and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, a unit of the National Park Service. We also collaborate with St. Paul Audubon for this field trip.

We can't make this riverboat field trip successful without your help! Please review this field trip guide carefully, so you and your students have an amazing adventure together on the St. Croix River.

The Wild River Journey Riverboat Adventure is an opportunity for your students to experience the wonder of this incredible National Park on the water. Your students will actively engaged in learning stations during this experience to provide a safe and structured learning environment.

The Learning Cycle



All learning station activities on the riverboat will be designed using the learning cycle (see diagram) to involve students in their learning.

We strongly recommend completing a relevant pre activity before your trip and a post activity after, which we have available. These activities will deepen the connection students during their riverboat journey. We may be available to lead a pre or post activity in your classroom – just ask!

This field trip guide will share what to bring, expect, and share with your students before the big day!

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact us at:

St. Croix River Association: 715-483-3300

Education and Outreach Coordinator, Jaime Souza – jaimes@scramail.com

Thank you again for taking part in the Rivers Are Alive K-12 environmental education program. We look forward to working with you and your students!

Checklist for Rivers Are Alive Field Trip

Please print this checklist and use it while planning your program. More details about some items can be found later on in the field trip packet.

1 week before your field trip:

- Check the field trip schedule to make sure the arrival and departure times are accurate. Make sure we have enough time for lunch.
- Conduct some type of pre field trip activity if you haven't already.
- Organize your students into cooperative learning groups (we will tell you how many).
- Get excited! Yes, the planning can be a lot of work, but the students will love their field trip.

3 days before your field trip:

- Print directions to St. Croix Boat & Packet in Stillwater, MN for each bus driver (525 Main St)
- Print the one page "Chaperone Guide to Wild River Journey" for each chaperone.
- If your students are split up into learning groups they're not used to, make sure they know they name of their group.
- Inform students of the rules for a safe and respectful riverboat experience.
- Go over the packing list for the trip, including lunches, with your students.
- Check the weather forecast. If the weather seems unbearable, call to reschedule your program. (It is the school's decision whether to cancel a field trip due to inclement weather).
- Communicate with students and chaperones about weather-appropriate clothing. It's better to be prepared with extra jackets, layers, and raingear if there is a chance of cold weather or rain. Good shoes are essential to staying warm.
- Contact the Education and Outreach Coordinator at the St. Croix River Association with any questions you have. 715-483-3300**

On the day of the field trip:

- Print out the nametags provided in this packet to students and chaperones. Have students put their nametags on the layer of clothing that's likely to be on the outside.
 - Give driving directions to the bus or car drivers.
 - Give out the one page "Chaperone Guide to the Wild River Journey" to each chaperone.
 - Keep students seated when the buses arrive at St. Croix Boat & Packet. Have the lead teacher briefly check in with our staff before unloading the buses.
 - Label and organize lunches. Lunches should be organized by the learning group students will be in for the day.
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Chaperone Guide to Wild River Journey

Thanks a million for taking the time to come on this field trip. We know you've likely made sacrifices to attend, and we want to make the most of your time. *Please read this short guide carefully, and have it in your pocket during the field trip.*

We see you as a partner in education. The best way you can support student learning is through genuine curiosity, engagement, and enthusiasm. If students see that you're interested, they will be more involved. If possible, please turn your cell phone to airplane mode during the field trip.

Help to support and refocus students. We recognize that different students need different types of support. It's hard for one or two educators to provide that support to all students, and that's where you come in. If a student is withdrawn, see if you can find a gentle way to engage them in the activities. "Whoa, did you see that? What do you think it is? Can you believe we are on a riverboat?"

If you notice a student who keeps talking to the person next to them when they should be listening, quietly stand by them.

Be a co-explorer and ask questions to students. During our riverboat learning stations students may be working alone or in small groups. You can go near them and listen in on what they're working on and saying. If they're having trouble getting started, help them out. But instead of telling them what you know, do the opposite. Focus on things you don't know, and try to figure them out *with* students. Ask them questions instead of telling them the answers. And then ask them more questions.

Mystery facilitates science learning. Our teaching style may be a bit different than what you've experienced. Our goals are for students are to make observations, be curious, come up with questions, figure things out, and discuss ideas. We try not to "tell them the answer" when they're exploring. Instead, we help them ask questions to widen their thinking process. Below are some of the questions we use to help students discover on their own. Try out some of these when you're co-exploring with students on the field trip.

Questions to support exploration:	Follow-up questions:
What do you notice? What patterns can you see? What do you wonder about it? What does it remind you of? How does it compare to _____?	How might you explain that? What's your evidence for that? How could you be more certain?

Thanks again for being here and for supporting student learning!

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The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

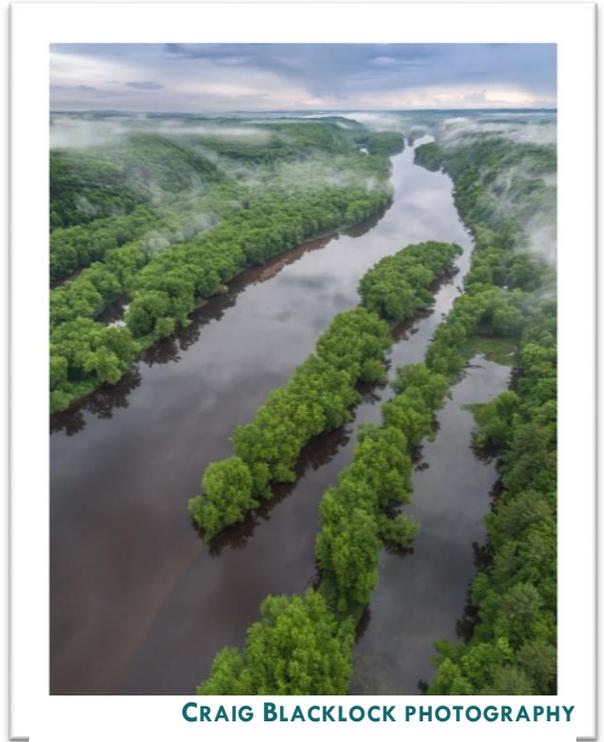
The (NPS) is charged with the management and preservation of the nation's most precious natural and cultural resources. These resources are woven into our heritage, and they provide opportunities for recreation, appreciation of beauty, historical reflection, cultural enrichment, and environmental education.

The future vision of the NPS includes protection of park resources; access and enjoyment for all people; education and interpretation to convey contributions of each park unit and the National Park system to the nation's values, character, and experience; continuing science, research and resource management to manage and protect Park resources.

ST. CROIX NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY

The Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway, a unit of the National Park System, is a federally protected system of rivers located in eastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin. It protects 252 miles (406 km) of river, including the St. Croix River (on the Wisconsin/Minnesota border), and the Namekagon River (in Wisconsin), as well as adjacent land along the rivers. The Riverway is one of the original eight National Wild and Scenic Rivers, largely as a result of legislation by senators Walter Mondale of Minnesota and Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. The largest scenic Riverway east of the Mississippi River, it lies within parts of nine counties in Wisconsin: Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix, Sawyer, and Washburn; and six in Minnesota: Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, and Washington.

The Upper St. Croix from Gordon Dam to the Boomsite above Stillwater, MN and the Namekagon River is managed by the National Park Service. The Riverway headquarters and main visitor's center are located in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, with an additional visitor's center in Trego, Wisconsin operated during the summer. Large areas along both sides of the river are also managed by state agencies and include state parks and state forests.



CRAIG BLACKLOCK PHOTOGRAPHY

Steamboats on the St. Croix River

Every spring, townspeople of St. Croix River communities looked forward to it. "Steamboat's a-comin!" was the call to teachers to close school early, for merchants to close their shops and for everyone to gather at the levee. The sound of steam driven calliopes and dark smoke billowing on the horizon was a sign that the isolation of winter was over! The ice had melted and riverboats could travel once more.

The first steamboat to travel the St. Croix River was the Palmyra in 1838. St. Croix Falls was as far upriver as the boats could go because of the falls or rapids that existed there. Hundreds of steamboats traveled annually on the St. Croix, peaking between 1860-90. Steamboats with paddlewheels were useful for river travel because they could carry large amounts of cargo in shallow water. A 200-ton steamboat extended only 18 inches underwater. However, during low water steamboats could get stuck on sandbars for several days. During one summer of low water, a steamboat pilot suggested that the Minnesota legislature prohibit river catfish from using what little water was left. Logjams also affected steamboat travel. The 1883 logjam prevented travel for more than two months.

Steamboat travel became such an important industry that nearly every town along the St. Croix had a boat-manufacturing yard. From the beginning, steamboats were decorated with elegance in mind. Many had brass bands on board and large staterooms for dining and dancing. Early residents described these vessels as "floating wedding cakes", because they were usually white and multi-storied. Despite their luxury, steamboat travel was inexpensive. The cost to travel from Prescott, WI to the Dalles of the St. Croix was 25 cents. However, it was also common for passengers to share deck space with livestock. As the name implies, steamboats were powered by steam. Wood was used as fuel for the giant boilers that created the steam to power the paddlewheels. Several steamboats sank when their boilers exploded and the boat caught fire.

Before the railroads came to the St. Croix valley in 1870 and good roads were built, steamboats were the only connection river towns had with the outside world. Today paddleboats travel the St. Croix River for fun not need. What do you think it would have been like to work or travel on a paddleboat?

Cited from St. Croix National Scenic Riverway website

Image from St. Croix Scenic Byway website



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Your Field Trip

LOGISTICS

The education staff who will be leading your group will be waiting for your bus to arrive at the St. Croix Boat and Packet parking lot in Stillwater, MN at 525 Main Street. When you arrive, please have the lead teacher step off the bus and we will tell that person where we want the students to gather. Once the students are off the bus, there may be a little wait before boarding the riverboat. Students should be in a calm line as they board the boat. Staff and volunteers will help students to find seats.

Once everyone is board, we will provide a brief orientation to the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, review the schedule, the learning group rotation and set program expectations. We will also provide instruction on where to stash lunches.

SCHEDULE

The schedules below represents a typical activity rotation for a two-hour riverboat field trip. In most situations, students will rotate through 3 of 4 activity stations, so they will not all be able to participate in all four stations because of limited time on the boat. The start and end time is somewhat flexible depending on what time your school is able to arrive and what time you have to depart. We need a minimum of 100 students for a Wild River Journey field trip program to run, so sometimes two small schools or one larger school and one small school will be paired together.

STUDENT SCHEDULE	Captains	Fur Traders	Lumberjacks	River Pigs
9:30 – 9:55am	Arrive, board riverboat, welcome / orientation			
10:00 – 10:25am	Station 1 Birds and Binoculars	Station 2 Nature Journaling	Station 3 This River Rocks!	Station 4 Log Jam!
10:30 – 10:55am	Station 4 Log Jam!	Station 1 Birds and Binoculars	Station 2 Nature Journaling	Station 3 This River Rocks!
11:00 – 11:25am	Station 3 This River Rocks!	Station 4 Log Jam!	Station 1 Birds and Binoculars	Station 2 Nature Journaling
11:30 - Noon	Closing and lunch on the boat			

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Preparing For Your Field Trip

LEARNING GROUPS

We will need you to divide your students into learning groups ahead of the field trip and make sure students know which group they are in. We will communicate to the number of learning groups you will need to divide the students into.

LEARNING STATIONS

Each cooperative group will visit three on-board learning stations in a particular order. Please use the Learning Station Assignment Template in this packet to assign students to a learning station rotation schedule. We will communicate which learning groups your school is assigned to (Captains, Fur Traders, Lumberjacks, and River Pigs). Students will proceed through learning stations in an organized sequence. It is the lead teacher's responsibility to assign students to learning groups and to make and distribute nametags (see template provided).

NAMETAGS

For safety and courtesy, we prefer to address students and adults by name. Please use the provided nametags in this packet, and make sure your students arrive with their nametags on. If it's cold, put the nametags on their jackets. Their nametags indicate their learning group and activity rotation.

LUNCH

School lunches or bag lunches with disposable items are best. Before leaving school, please label and organize the lunches by learning group to save time. Having lunches marked and organized for easy distribution will decrease the time spent passing them out and increase field trip time. Coolers for cold drinks are permitted. As a reminder, food and drinks to purchase are not available. We will supply garbage bags and recycling bags and appreciate your help in making sure students *Leave No Trace*. No lunch trash should make its way into the river. St. Croix Boat & Packet staff appreciate our help in keeping their boats clean.

Safety: We will need all adults to help keep an eye on students. There is always a risk of someone going overboard while on a boat. This should not happen if students are walking, staying with their learning groups, following instructions and guidelines, and not being out of control. If someone does go over, St. Croix Boat & Packet staff are trained in Coast Guard protocols for a water rescue. They will take over at that point. It is the adults' job to keep everyone calm and busy while the rescue takes place.

ACCESSIBILITY

St. Croix Boat and Packets boats are wheelchair accessible to the lower deck where all students board. Please inform us in advance of accessibility needs or other special needs that we should be aware of. We are committed to making these trips as accessible and appropriate as possible for all students. Accommodations may be available that can help provide for special needs.

***INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If rain or cold weather is in the forecast, please communicate with parents that students should come properly dressed to be outside. Layers work best and can always be left on the bus. The great thing about a riverboat is that there is shelter and activities can take place inside.

** The window for completing these programs is limited due to the high demand of Rivers Are Alive programs. Therefore, whenever it is safe to do so, it is preferable to go ahead with the program on the planned day, even if the forecast is less than ideal.*

TRANSPORTATION

The schools will arrange for the bus transportation of the students. When possible, to maximize the time that students have to participate in this program, it is ideal to schedule buses which do not have to travel to additional schools before dismissal time. Whenever possible buses should remain at the field trip site for the duration of the program.

CHAPERONES

Chaperones are an integral part of the field trip experience. They provide support to the Rivers Are Alive education staff, as well as guidance for the students. All adults are part of our final count and it is \$7/ person whether you are a student, teacher, or chaperone. We have included a one page "Chaperone Guide to the Wild River Journey" in this packet for you to give out to chaperones. This guide gives chaperones tools they can use to assist with student learning.

Please encourage chaperones to assist in maintaining discipline and to be on the lookout for potential safety hazards. We ask that adults refrain from smoking in front of the students. Chaperones should be reminded to be active participants in all program activities and keep cell phones turned off or have the ringer turned down. It is disruptive and potentially unsafe if a chaperone is on their cell phone during the middle of an activity. When the adults are actively engaged and modeling attentive behavior, the students will follow. There should be a 1:8 student ratio within each learning group.

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Preparing Students for your Field Trip

DIY Pre and Post Activities

The Rivers Are Alive program wholeheartedly believes in complementing field trips with introductory and place-based pre-activities, along with reflective post-activities. We can provide the following easy to lead pre and post activities for your school's Wild River Journey experience.

PRE ACTIVITY: Mapping My National Park (All grade levels)

Essential Understanding

Provide your students with a sense of place before their Rivers Are Alive experience. We will send you a grade level appropriate mapping activity so they are familiar with the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and its watershed.

POST ACTIVITY: River Research (Grades 3 – 12)

Essential Understanding

Grades 3 – 5: The River Wild – Research a wild animal that lives in the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, and why it is an important member of the river ecosystem.

Grades 6 – 8: Plant Power - Research a tree that lives along the banks of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, and why it is an important member of the river ecosystem.

Grades 9 – 12: Wild and Scenic Forever - Research environmental threats to the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and its watershed and work in teams to engineer possible solutions.

POST ACTIVITY: Where the Wild Things Art (Grades K – 3)

Essential Understanding

Just like we have a home that provides shelter, space, food and water, there are many creatures who make their home in a stream or river and this habitat provides everything they need to survive. Students will recreate one river or woodland animal's habitat through art.

POST ACTIVITY: The Written River (Grades K – 12)

Essential Understanding

From children's literature (K – 3) to poetry (4 – 6) to conservationist writing to protect rivers (7 – 12), the words written about rivers live on in articles, books, and in the hearts and minds of people who love rivers. Give your students the opportunity to reflect upon their Rivers Are Alive experience through writing a simple St. Croix Haiku, exploring river literature and other forms of writing.

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Evaluation, Safety, Rules, Emergencies



PROTECT OUR NATIONAL PARK

Remind your students and chaperones that this Riverway is a National Park and we all have to take care of it.

WILDLIFE

Feeding or harassing animals in the park is illegal. Remember that these are wild animals. In addition to protecting ourselves, this also protects the wild nature of the animals.

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS

On the boat, we need to keep the volume down so every student is able to hear and learn during each activity station.

STAY TOGETHER

Remind students to always stay with their group and to keep all limbs inside the boat.

BE AWARE

Since we will be traveling on a moving boat, safety is paramount. Students should keep their hands to themselves and not push and shove, especially on the stairs and upper deck of the boat.

LEAVE NO TRACE

We hope to inspire students to practice leaving no trace. This helps keep wild places, wild. Likewise, after lunch, your group is responsible for picking up all pieces of trash and crumbs.

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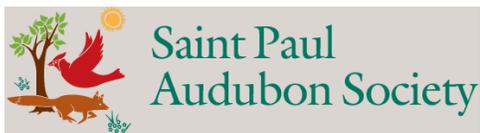
Wild River Journey Partners



The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, a unit of the National Park Service is a 255-mile protected Wild and Scenic River National Park. The Riverway is comprised of the St. Croix River and its largest tributary, the Namekagon River. In 2018, the Riverway celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2018 and was one of the first eight rivers protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968.



The St. Croix River Association (SCRA) serves as the official nonprofit partner of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway with a mission to protect, restore and celebrate the Riverway and its greater watershed. SCRA coordinates the Riverway's Rivers Are Alive K-12 environmental education program.



The Saint Paul Audubon Society's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. If you want to know what Saint Paul Audubon is all about, birds are a good place to start. Their members care passionately about birds and the places they need to thrive. St. Paul Auduboners, very simply, want to make the world a better place for birds, and by doing so, they hope to improve the world for all living things.

Nametag Template

All students must wear a nametag indicating station rotations when boarding boat.

Learning Group: Captains	Learning Group: Captains
<hr/> Name	<hr/> Name
Station Rotation: 1, 4, 3	Station Rotation: 1, 4, 3
Learning Group: Fur Traders	Learning Group: Fur Traders
<hr/> Name	<hr/> Name
Station Rotation: 2, 1, 4	Station Rotation: 2, 1, 4
Learning Group: Lumberjacks	Learning Group: Lumberjacks
<hr/> Name	<hr/> Name
Station Rotation: 3, 2, 1	Station Rotation: 3, 2, 1
Learning Group: River Pigs	Learning Group: River Pigs
<hr/> Name	<hr/> Name
Station Rotation: 4, 3, 2	Station Rotation: 4, 3, 2
