

Hope everyone finds it helpful and entertaining to read! :)

CAMPING FOR THE “LESS-THEN-EXPERIENCED“.....

The sixth annual river and camping trip is right around the corner and should be another great time as we continue to go for bigger and better every year!. Along with returning attendees and seasoned campers, I am sure there will be a fair number of members, family, and friends new to the idea of spending a night or two out under the stars. We are staying at Landers River Trip, 5961 Route 97, Narrowsburg, NY 12764 this year. The following is a loose guideline of things you may want to bring along and what to expect, and not to worry, if your still not sure, just ask, since similar to skiing, if you go in ready it makes for a much more enjoyable time and we enjoy sharing with newbees!

Basic Camping Supplies:

Tent with a rain fly (yeah sometimes it rains on our fun too, we have had some wet set-ups and brake-downs, but knock on wood, it's been sunny and nice on the water!)

In lieu of a rain flay, a tarp over the tent will work also, but its best to support it, up, and away, off the tent itself to keep the run-off from becoming run-in.

An air mattress or foam pad, the ground is fairly cleared and level at the camp site but it's still GROUND and it's always nicer to get up on something soft to sleep on. How big you go here all depends on how comfy you want to get (ya gotta check out Sue and Larry's camping castle!). As a test, lay your mattress out in your driveway and see how it feels. This will also give your neighbors something to wonder about.

The nights in NY can get a little chilly, but in the past years, a normal weight sleeping bag or a couple of blankets should be enough. Don't forget your pillow.

As dark closes in around the camp, a flash light or head lamp is always helpful. Makes finding your cooler or the bathroom (depending what point of the night you're at!) easier, without tripping. The newer L.E.D. ones are great. They are light weight, inexpensive, and bright enough for most occasions.

There is a shower / bathroom walking distance along a dirt road from our camp sites for obvious needs.

I'll be bringing another trailer full of wood for the bon-fire Friday and Saturday night but bring your own camp chairs (or use the milk crate you brought your camping stuff in!) and smores!

Clothing:

The evenings and mornings can be a bit brisk (jeans and maybe a sweatshirt), but the days generally warm up nicely to wear shorts or bathing suits are perfect. Checking the weather for zip code 12764 a few days ahead is a good idea.

Water shoes of some sort (an old pair of sneakers can make a good substitute) are a good idea for Saturday on the water, the day shouldn't end like a cruise on the titanic, but you may have to get your feet a little wet.

As I mentioned earlier, we've gotten some rain during the trip in past years. Bring rain gear. At Craigmour, we can have fun through anything, but even more so when we are dry(ish)!

We don't have to hike into the camp site and you'll be able to park pretty close to your tent so wear whatever shoes are comfortable, I recommend closed front shoes though for walking around at night to avoid getting little sticks and rocks that might be laying around caught in your toes. Also the floor in the pole barn where the band will be is wood chips.

On the water:

We'll be in the boats for a few hours floating down the river, bring whatever drinks, snacks, or lunch that you would like to have out with you in the morning.

It is requested that you do not bring anything in glass containers out on the river.

A foam drink koozie is a wonderful thing to bring along for obvious reasons.

Landers supplies paddles and life jackets with the boat rental, but if you have your own that you would rather use, feel free to bring it.

Expect anything you have in the boat to get wet unless you have it in a water proof container of sorts.

Most camp stores sell small dry boxes for under \$10.00 for the essentials that you want to keep protected (i.e.

camera, wallet, etc.). ziplock bags work well too, and can be nestled inside a knapsack. On a more grand scale, I've known people to use old spackle buckets (with a lid) to keep their bigger stuff dry (tee shirts, towel, lunch, etc.) and on a smaller note a plastic peanut butter or mayo container (cleaned out of course!) should fit most things.

Coolers with an attached lid tend to be easier than ones that have separate lids that can slide off as things slush around in the bottom of a boat that might have some water in it (who brought the water gun?). A bungee cord across the top can help keep things in place (or in the boat as the case may be).

We have had very nice sunny days for the past trips and are hoping for the same this year. If you tend to burn, bring sunscreen! There isn't any shade on the water, plan accordingly.

Tissues or napkins in a zip-lock bag (just in case!). Some of the shore line along the river is private property, so please use good judgment when going ashore.

Food:

We will be enjoying Oliver's cooking again for more than half the meals, he will have plastic ware and paper plates for these meals. You are on your own for Saturday breakfast (if any) and Saturday lunch and / or snacks on the water. Bring any after dinner snacks and munchies for Friday and Saturday night around the fire. Don't forget the smores!

Finally, you are on your own for beverages, bring anything you are planning to drink during the weekend.

Extras:

Bug spray. Pretty much self explanatory. A fabric softener sheet works also (I don't know how someone figured this little trick out but, it does actually help)

Citronella candles are nice to have around the tables, don't forget a lighter or matches.

Towel for the showers. If you do want to bring it with you on the boats, make sure put it into something to keep it dry since they tend to work better that way.

A camping lantern is nice addition for lighting up tables or near tents but not an essential for this trip as there should be a couple floating around.

you shouldn't need a camp stove unless you wanted to cook something for breakfast on Saturday morning (keep in mind we'll be heading to the boats around 9:30am).

A hammer for staking down the tent pegs (again, there will be a couple of these around too if you don't have one)

String / light rope (clothes lines for drying wet stuff from boat or hanging stuff on the cars works too)

Pocket knife (making marshmallow sticks)

Duct tape (need I say more?)

Zip ties (really only if you are trying for the complete-ready-for-anything bag of tricks!)

A bungee cord or two can make holding your cooler or nap sack in place in the boats easier.

Ground cover tarp (depending on the type of tent you are using, some don't need it)

Camp chairs (folding ones are easier)

A plastic box with lid to keep any dry food you bring in (keeps any little critters from getting into it while you sleep) locking the dry food in your car is a good idea also.

Frisbee, hacky sack, basketball, soccer ball, deck of cards, right-left-center dice, etc. (we'll be camped next to a field, plenty of room to mess around after the day trippers cars leave)

There is a small store at the campground that has some of the basics if you forget something, but it is limited so making a checklist is always a good idea as your packing up the car. They also sell ice.

Some veteran campers have acquired extra stuff over the years and have offered to loan them to people that might need to borrow something for the weekend rather than going on a shopping spree at the local camp store. If you do need to borrow something, check around at the meetings to see if you can get matched up.

As I mentioned earlier, if you haven't answered all of your questions, please call, text, email me, or send some smoke signals. I'll try to be a helpful as possible.

Thanks,

Lee