



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

LOCATION

Explorer Backpack Trips may hike in locations such as the rugged and inspiring Wind River Mountains in Wyoming and the Beartooth Mountains in Montana. **Explorer Canoe Trips** will travel in the remote and pristine wilderness of Superior-Quetico as well as in areas to the north and east in Ontario. Explorer groups average 21 days on trail. **Explorer Canoe campers should plan to bring a passport and Explorer Backpack campers should plan to bring a valid form of identification such as a passport, driver's license or state issue id.**

TRIP LEADERSHIP

Trip leaders are chosen from among Widji's most experienced and advanced staff. All Widji Trail Staff are certified as Wilderness First Responders and hold current Lifeguarding certifications. In addition, Explorer leaders have demonstrated excellent judgement, leadership and interpersonal skills.

REGISTRATION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Registration is available on our website www.widji.org. Please contact the Customer Service Center at (612) 230-9622 for help with online registration, particularly if you have forgotten your username password or both. Explorer trips require a \$50 non-refundable deposit at the time of registration. The remaining balance for the trip is due in four installments. Other payment plans can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Center. Families are welcome to cancel their registration for a full refund with the exception of their deposit before May 15. We do not grant refunds after May 15. Exceptions may be made in the case of documented illness, injury or family emergency and for campers who opt to withdraw because their scholarship award doesn't meet their financial needs.

Scholarships are available for qualified campers and can be applied for by following these steps.

1) Review Widjiwagan's Scholarship page: https://www.ymcamn.org/camps/camp_widjiwagan/about/scholarships.

This page contains a link to the YMCA Scholarship Application and information on volunteer credit opportunities.

Advanced campers are invited to participate in our volunteer credit program to earn a discount on their session.

2) Complete the Initial YMCA Scholarship Application online or by paper form: <https://www.ymcamn.org/scholarships>.

The initial application considers your annual income and the number of adults and dependents in your household.

Scholarships are awarded to align with your individual circumstances. This initial application applies to all YMCA programming including Camps. You will receive an email notification from the YMCA Customer Service Center indicating the initial scholarship amount available to you.

3) If the initial scholarship award does not meet your family needs, we encourage you to reply to that email with a request for an "exception" and indicate Camp Widjiwagan as your program of interest. You will receive a follow up email asking for a narrative that explains your need for additional assistance. You will be asked to respond to the following questions:

- Are there any additional circumstances that we should be aware of and take into consideration? Please include unusual expenses or debts that affect your monthly budget as well as any financial changes that may have happened over the last two years.
- If applicable; please have your camper share why they want to attend camp this summer.

Widjiwagan's Camper Services Committee will receive and review these requests in an anonymous format and consider additional scholarship awards. Please note, committee review can take up to 14 business days. You will be notified of the outcome via email. We recognize that advanced trips stretch the financial resources of many families. The Widji Administrative Team and Board raise funds annually to ensure that these capstone experiences are accessible. We encourage enthusiastic, committed campers to register and apply for a scholarship. The majority of families who apply for a scholarship receive some assistance.

RISK MANAGEMENT

As with all other Widji trips, there are inherent risks associated with travel in remote and, at times, unpredictable environments. Risks include but are not limited to: cold water temperatures, river currents and isolated travel. Widjiwagan Trail Counselors are certified Wilderness First Responders, which includes extensive training to mitigate risks in the backcountry as well as respond to incidents appropriately. However, we cannot guarantee that your camper's trip will be accident free. In addition to experience and training, all groups are equipped with communication devices. These include a satellite phone along with a contact list of emergency resources specific to the area of travel. We ask that Explorer campers will help mitigate potential risks by arriving at Camp mentally and physically prepared for a trip that will be challenging at times. The Widji administration will provide guidance about trip preparation during the planning process this winter and spring

CAMP WIDJIWAGAN

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WIDJIWAGAN
YMCA WILDERNESS ADVENTURES