

# Coureur des Bois Program

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A **Coureur des Bois** (English translation: Runner of the Woods) was an independent entrepreneur who journeyed to the interior of North America at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century to take advantage of the Fur Trade. Eventually these Coureurs would join the licensed company crews of **Voyageurs** who at the time were pushing deeper into the untamed regions of the Northwoods looking for more furs. Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan High Adventure Base invites you to join the ranks of Coureur from history as you journey into the Northwoods of Wisconsin and take an independent look at what the region has to offer. Scouts who sign up as Coureurs will spend each day out on an adventure both in Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation and at locations throughout the Northwoods. Each day bringing a new adventure and new challenges for the Coureur. Participants in the Coureur des Bois Program will be picked up at their sub camp office each morning after breakfast and rejoin their units at dinner. They will be able to take advantage of evening programs throughout camp! The Coureur Program provides Scouts with an introduction to the MSR High Adventure Base opportunities as well as a fun and exciting alternative to the merit badge program.

*Below is a sample of the Coureur des Bois Program Schedule\**

## **Monday**

This day will consist as an introduction to the week with time spent climbing the MSR Tower, biking on MSR trails, and learning backcountry skills. Participants will end the day with Black Powder shooting.

## **Tuesday**

Spend your day at Gardner Dam Scout Reservation learning and participating in the ATV program. Participants must have a signed ATV Hold Harmless Release form to participate in the program and wear ankle high boots, long pants, and a long sleeve shirt. An additional fee may be applied for this program.

## **Wednesday**

Journey into Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and learn the lore and history of the Northwoods. Hiking along sections of the Ice Age Trail. Coureurs will climb to the top of a 100ft Fire Look Out Tower.

## **Thursday**

Strap on your sandals for this crazy day of white water canoeing. Class II and III rapids await as you make your way down the Wolf River trying your best to stay dry.

## **Friday**

Enjoy your final day at Jack Lake riding the endless trails on the mountain bikes and enjoying a lakeside BBQ. \*this schedule is a projected schedule and may be modified. Participants will get the opportunity to participate in these programs throughout the course of the week – it may be on different days or altered for weather/special needs of each group.

## **Adults in the Coureur Program**

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan High Adventure Base is offering the opportunity to select adults to participate as liaisons for the youth as they head out into the backcountry. Adults can fully participate in the programs but we do limit the number of adults. We ask that any adults that would like to participate email Adam Hoeflich (adam.heoflich@scouting.org). Additionally, we ask that adults participating agree to drive youth participants should the need arise (transportation can be personal vehicles or provided by the Reservation).

## **Special Merchandise at the Country Store**

Youth that participate in the program will have access to special patches and merchandise in the Country Store – proudly displaying their completion of the Coureur des Bois Program!