



REV: 03/93

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND THEIR ANSWERS

WHERE CAN WE CAMP? The National Park Service maintains small and private campsites along the Riverway. These sites are not suitable for groups of more than 10 people, and also have length-of-stay limits. They are not set up to accommodate anything but tent camping, and are accessed mainly by water. Pickup and RV campers can find sites in any of the 7 state parks, 3 state forests, or private campgrounds along the Riverway. Contact any of 4 National Park Service Visitor Centers for specific information.

CAN ORGANIZED GROUPS CAMP ALONG THE RIVERWAY? Yes, however, we ask that group size be limited to 15. Too many campers have a damaging effect on the campsite soils and vegetation. Many areas along the Riverway are equipped with multiple campsites where bigger groups can spread out. For information on these areas, contact any of the NPS Visitor Centers. Or refer to one of the Riverway's section maps for the area you intend to camp in.

ARE CAMPFIRES PERMITTED? Yes, but keep the fire small and put it out before you leave camp. *We strongly suggest use of a gas cookstove.* Firewood is hard to find and is often wet. Use **ONLY DEAD AND DOWN WOOD** in fire rings if provided. During dry conditions, campfires may be prohibited.

ARE PERMITS REQUIRED? There are no special use, camping, or fire permits required for use of the *Federal portion of the riverway*. Upon entering any State areas, entrance and camping fees may be required.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH LITTER? Carry it out. Either take it home or deposit it in a trash can at a landing. Attempts are being made to recycle on the Riverway, however, special receptacles may not be available at all landings. Please take these items home and recycle them. Everybody can take part in trying to help Mother Earth!

WHERE CAN WE RENT A CANOE? A listing of canoe outfitters is available at all NPS Visitor Centers. There are many to choose from. (Also printed in the Park's newspaper, the Two Rivers Journal)

WHAT EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES DO THE OUTFITTERS PROVIDE? Canoe, paddles, life vests and trip planning assistance. You may provide your own transportation or arrange with the operator to be picked up or transported to the river at a prearranged time and location.



HOW MUCH ARE CANOE RENTAL RATES? Between \$17.00 and \$21.00 per canoe per day, plus charges for transportation, if required. Outfitters offer many different trip packages also. Rent by the hour, day, or take a one, two, or three day trip. Packages vary among the different outfitters.

WHAT ABOUT LOW WATER CONDITIONS? During much of the canoeing season, the Namekagon River above Hayward (WI) and the St. Croix River above "CCC" Bridge Landing are too low for quality canoeing. This condition changes only for short intervals following heavy rains. The best time of year to do these sections would be in the Spring.

WHAT ABOUT HIGH WATER CONDITIONS? Stay off the river unless you are experienced and certain of your canoeing skills. This is especially true during floods or periods of high water. Also watch for dangers such as hypothermia in the spring when water temperature is near freezing. Contact any of the NPS Visitor Centers for current conditions.

WHAT ABOUT RAPIDS, DAMS, AND OTHER HAZARDS? Portages (land detours) are provided around most of the hazardous rapids and dams. Use them. Some of these portages require maps, these are available at NPS Visitor Centers. Steer wide around fallen trees (strainers) to avoid being caught in limbs or roots. Rapids on the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers are generally rated Class I (beginner). However, during spring runoff and high water periods, they become Class II and III. Check with NPS Visitor Centers for current ratings.

AND IF I CAPSIZE? Place yourself upstream from your canoe; don't get caught between a swamped canoe and a rock or log. Float downstream feet first and don't try to walk through rapids. Always wear your life vest if you can't swim or waters are cold and icy.

WHAT BACKPACKING AND HIKING TRAILS ARE AVAILABLE? Most of the hiking opportunities on the Riverway consist of day hikes of varying length. Many of these trails are found within the boundaries of 7 state parks and 3 forests which fall inside the National Park boundary. They are not very long and would not be trails one would plan to backpack on. Specific information on these trails can be obtained by calling or stopping at the state park or forest you are interested in. They are all labeled on the St. Croix Riverway Official Map and Guide. There are two longer trails that would be more appropriate for backpacking and camping. The Willard Munger State Trail runs through St. Croix State Forest out of Hinkley, MN. For information, write to the MN DNR, Trails and Waterways, Box 52, Centennial Building, St. Paul, MN 55155. Or inside Governor Knowles State Forest, Grantsburg, WI there are 5 trails that link together, contact Governor Knowles State Forest, P.O. Box 367, Grantsburg, WI. 54840. The National Park Service has several day hike trails including the Indianhead Trail out of St. Croix Falls, WI and the Sand Rock Cliffs trail outside of Grantsburg, WI. Check with the NPS Visitor Center in the area you wish to hike for trail maps, etc.

WHAT ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AVAILABLE? Most small towns along the riverway have at least one motel, larger towns have more. Many have Bed and Breakfast Inns. The National Park Service does not operate any sort of lodge or motel within the park such as other National Parks like Yellowstone or the Grand Canyon.

ARE FISHING LICENSES REQUIRED? Yes, either a Wisconsin or Minnesota fishing license is necessary where the St. Croix River borders both states. A Wisconsin license is required where the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers are within the State of Wisconsin. Because the St. Croix is considered a boundary river and as long as you are on the water, either state's license is acceptable. Fishing from shore into the St. Croix is a different story--check the regulation booklet for the state you are fishing in. Licenses can be picked up at local bait shops and gas stations when you arrive in the area. These licenses and regulations are the responsibilities of the MN and WI Depts. of Natural Resources. Any questions or concerns should be directed to them.

WHERE CAN I GET INFORMATION? The Visitor Centers at Highway 70 and Trego are open on weekends in May and September. During June, July, and August, they are open 7 days a week from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. The Headquarters Visitor Center at St. Croix Falls is open year-round but closed on weekends from late October through May 1. The Stillwater Visitor Center is open year-round. Mid-May through Labor Day weekend it is open 7 days a week. October to May open on weekends, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

Namekagon District Visitor Center (Trego, WI)	715-635-8346
Marshland District Visitor Center (Hwy 70, MN)	612-629-2148
Headquarters District V.C. (St. Croix Falls, WI)	715-483-3284
Stillwater Visitor Center (Dwntwn Stillwater, MN)	612-430-1938

WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY? National Park Service Rangers who patrol the river, landings, campsites can handle most problems. They are equipped for search/rescue, fire, law enforcement, etc. Otherwise, contact one of the Visitor Centers listed above or the county sheriff.