

NFCT Waterway Work Trip Frequently Asked Questions



Will I need to bring a canoe or kayak with me if I want to go out on the water during the WWT? Yes. We may or may not have extra canoes available for use. If you need a canoe or kayak to use and you contact us before hand, we may be able to bring an extra, depending on how much space we have. We can also help get you in touch with a local outfitter from whom you can rent one from.

Do I need to have prior experience doing trail work? No. There is no need to have previous trail work experience. We have a very high Stewardship Intern to Volunteer ratio to assure that you will have adequate support to properly learn how to perform whichever trail stewardship operation we will be performing on the WWT. There is always time made to make sure everyone is comfortable with the tasks at hand and all are able to share ideas and help each other learn.

Do I need basic canoe skills to go paddling during the WWT? Yes. There is not time built in to teach volunteers how to paddle a canoe. There are always opportunities to learn from others and become better paddlers on WWTs, but having a basic understanding and previous experience paddling will assure that you will be able to meet the various conditions that can arise when on the water such as wind.

Will I have to paddle on the WWT? Most of our WWTs require paddling. All paddling is on flatwater and requires basic skills unless otherwise noted. If you do not want to paddle please let us know. We usually have non-paddling opportunities built into the WWTs.

What are the paddling opportunities like that are built into the WWT? The Stewardship Interns are not trained to be guides and will not be able to create trips and guide the group on them. They will however be able to suggest a variety of trips in the area to match varied abilities. Because Stewardship Interns are trained in Wilderness First Responder or Wilderness First Aid and water rescue techniques, they will be more than happy to take part in any trip on the water during the WWTs. They will also receive training on paddling techniques so don't hesitate to pick their brains about proper form and technique. These types of paddling opportunities are referred to as "common adventures".

What will the meals be like? Meals will be planned and prepared by the Stewardship Interns. All meals will be prepared using backcountry cooking methods ranging from fire and Dutch oven, to Coleman double burner stoves and skillets, to whisper light ultra-light stoves and

gallon pots. The Stewardship Interns pride themselves in backcountry cooking and we have a variety of unique and enticing recipes that we draw on. You are more than welcome to help prepare the meals and learn their techniques or kick back, relax, and tell stories around the fire.

What will sleeping accommodations be like? All WWTs have primitive camping accommodations. You can expect a level surface to pitch a tent. If you do not have a tent to use please contact the NFCT Trail Director as we may have tents, sleeping pads, and other camping equipment that we will be able to lend out for use. Some sites may have the availability of lean-tos, but this is not a definite. Some WWT locations are very close to Bed and Breakfasts or other similar accommodations. In location where the main camp and projects are easily accessible by vehicle staying at local accommodations is an option. Let us know if we can help direct you to local accommodations if this option is appealing.

Camps will usually have the ability to have camp fires which make for great story telling locations and spots to dry off, keep warm, or to generate smoke to keep bugs away. We will also have a designated cooking area where we will have a table, stoves, and a tarp set up. All WWTs will have a privy, some will be outhouses, and others will be small box “Wet Willie” privies.

What else should I bring? There is a list of suggested items to bring on the WWT description. A portable and light weight camp chair is a good item to bring as well.

Do I need to be there precisely at the Friday start time? We understand that for many WWT attendees there is a degree of drive time and the specified Friday start time may not work. If this is the case it is imperative that you contact the NFCT Trail Director to create arrangements allowing the crew to know when to expect you. Occasionally we have a WWT where the campsite is not near a road access point and involves paddling or hiking. For these WWT it is easier to meet as a group or arrange a time to meet a member of the crew to be guided to the campsite location. Meeting at the specified Friday start time usually allows the crew to give volunteers a tour of the work location and explanation of the project before dinner. We will do everything we can to accommodate your schedule, just let us know as soon as you can if you can't make the established meeting time.

How will I know if any of the plans have changed before the WWT? The NFCT Trail Director will inform you of any changes via the contact email used to sign up for the WWT. Feel free to call or send an email with any questions prior to the WWT: (802)496-2285 x2 walter@northernforestcanoetrail.org

Thanks, and look forward to seeing you at the WWT!