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Sylvania Wilderness Area Kayak Trip

August 1-6, 2020

6 Days – 5 Nights

The Sylvania Wilderness Area in Michigan's Upper Peninsula encompasses over 18,000 acres of the Ottawa National Forest near Watersmeet, MI. The wilderness has 34 named lakes and a large natural area of old growth forest providing habitat for a wide range of living things like rare orchids, bald eagles, loons, and osprey. The forests consist of mostly virgin northern hardwoods mixed with patches of ancient white pines. The rolling hills and deep clear lakes were formed by glaciers thousands of years ago. Wildlife in the area includes white-tailed deer, black bear, raccoon, skunk, beaver, otter, fisher, porcupine, fox, squirrels and other small mammals plus a variety of waterfowl and woodland birds. There are 84 campsites in 29 locations throughout the wilderness bordering many of the larger lakes.

We will depart for this wilderness experience on Saturday, August 1 at 6:00 am from DeGraaf Nature Center and arrive at the entrance station around 4:00 pm. We will paddle in about an hour to our first night's campsite. The next four days will be spent on day trips exploring the lakes and islands, as well as the many trails in search of wild things. In the evenings we will return to the campsite for a wilderness dinner. Meals while in the Sylvania Wilderness will consist of fresh and/or backpacking style meals prepared at camp on the fire or camp stove. Meal choices and dietary restrictions will be discussed at the pre-trip meeting. There will also be time for fishing or just relaxing in a hammock (Michigan fishing regulations apply). Kayaking on this trip will generally be easy and relaxing as it is open water with no current and will likely be limited to around 4 hours per day. There will be portages involved in most of our day paddles which are generally short, but you will need to carry your gear. On Thursday morning August 6, we will break camp and paddle back to the vehicle to return to Holland. We should be back to the nature center around 7:00 pm.

This is a kayak camping trip, therefore appropriate camping gear is required. We will be parking the vehicle at the access point and paddling in with all of our food and gear. You will need a small backpacking style tent, compressible sleeping bag and pillow, sleeping pad, etc. You will also need to bring your own eating utensils including a plate. If you have questions or concerns about gear,

we can advise you on what to take. There is also an outfitter in the area that can help with gear rentals if needed. There will be a pre-trip meeting to discuss the daily float plan.

Pricing: \$1,200.00 per person

Payment: \$250.00 deposit due at the time of booking and required to hold a place on the trip; Final balance due by June 15, 2020. All payments may be made at one time if desired. Check or Cash preferred.

Cancellations: Full refunds will be made until June 15, 2020. No refunds will be given for cancellation after June 15, 2020.

Included: 5 nights camping and park fees; all transportation to and from DeGraaf Nature Center; kayak equipment (kayak, paddle, PFD); naturalist guide(s) fees; wilderness use fees; food while in Sylvania Wilderness area.

Not included: Meals during travel days; personal supplies or purchases

Please contact trip leader Mike Graves to learn more or to make a payment: 616.355.1057 or mikeg@outdoordiscovery.org.

