

Big River Journey Fall 2008

What is Big River Journey?

Big River Journey (BRJ) is an integration of river and classroom experiences that connect 4th-6th grade students with the science and heritage of the Mississippi River. BRJ culminates with a riverboat excursion on the Mississippi River featuring hands-on learning stations.

Teachers who sign up for Big River Journey incorporate river-themed activities into their classroom. Pre- and post-trip classroom activities are selected by each teacher from many activity options presented in advance teacher workshops. Big River Journey is aligned with Minnesota Academic Standards.

Field trip description

Big River Journey field trips feature staffed learning stations with hands-on activities on the following topics (subject to change):

- Aquatic insects & water quality
- River geology
- River ecosystems
- River birds
- Watershed stewardship
- Riverboats & piloting
- Confluence archaeology*
- Floodplain forest*
- Dakota culture*
- Soldier hike*

* land-based experiences on one-way trips only

Trips are designed for up to 120 4th-6th grade students.

Field trip location

Mississippi River, aboard the *Anson Northrup* riverboat and at Fort Snelling State Park

Riverboat travel is between Padelford Landing (Harriet Island, Saint Paul) and Fort Snelling State Park.

Field trip dates & times

September 22, 23, 25 and 26, 2008

Start times: 9:30 a.m. (at Harriet Island) or 10:00 a.m. (at Fort Snelling State Park).
Boat trip duration: 1¼ hours; total field trip duration: 3½ hours.

All trips are **one-way trips** that incorporate a learning experience at Fort Snelling State Park (not "Historic Fort Snelling") as follows:

- **Board paddleboat at 9:30 at Harriet Island**, St. Paul, for a 9:45 departure. Disembark at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) for a session with staff from FSSP or other BRJ partner. Time for a brown bag lunch will be included. The FSSP session will conclude at 1:00 p.m. Your buses will pick up students at the FSSP Visitor Center.

OR...

- **Arrive at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) Visitor Center at 10:00** for a land-based session at 10:15 a.m. with state park or other partner staff and time for a brown bag lunch. **Paddleboat departure is at 12:00 noon** from FSSP. The trip concludes at 1:45 p.m. at Padelford Landing, Harriet Island, St. Paul, where your return buses will load.

Participation requirements

1) Attend a Big River Workshop.

Attendance is **required** of all teachers unless previously attended since 2000. At the "Big River Workshop" teachers will:

- participate in demonstrations of supporting classroom activities
- receive Teacher's Guide of thematic Mississippi River resource materials
- get oriented to Big River Journey field trip logistics, and introduced to other river-related learning opportunities
- receive Continuing Education certificate

Workshop location:

Fort Snelling State Park Visitor Center (not Historic Fort Snelling) - enter State Park from Post Rd west of MSP airport

Workshop date:

Wed., August 27, 2008, 8:00-12:30

Workshop registration:

Call Mississippi National River and Recreation Area at 651-290-3030, ext. 297 (Brian Goodspeed).

Workshop cost (donation):

\$15/person or \$25/school (non-refundable) is requested to help defray workshop expenses. Make out a check to "Mississippi National River & Recreation Area" and write "BRJ workshop donation" on the memo line. Send to:

*Attn: Brian Goodspeed
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256*

2) Preparation & follow-up:

- prepare students for the field trip by conducting science and thematic classroom activities about the Mississippi River (ideas and resource materials provided at workshop)
- organize classes into cooperative groups before trip
- assign groups to a specific learning station rotation (information provided at workshop)
- complete follow-up activities such as writing, art, and service learning to reinforce and extend field trip learning
- complete and return evaluations

Field trip fee: \$7.50/student

Field trip billing and payments are handled by the *Padelford Packet Boat Co. Inc.*,
ph: 651-227-1100.

Scholarships

Scholarships to reduce field trip cost, provided by the Mississippi River Fund, are available for qualifying schools. Schools with at least 50% participation in the free-and-reduced lunch program and/or at least 50% students of color qualify. The field trip fee for approved scholarship schools will be **\$2.50/student**. Scholarship eligibility must be verified in writing by your principal; written confirmation will be sent. Schools arrange and pay for their own buses. To request a scholarship **contact Brian Goodspeed** at 651-290-3030, ext. 297.



Big River Journey Fall, 2008

National & state award-winning
**Mississippi River
field trips**
since 1996

grades: 4-6

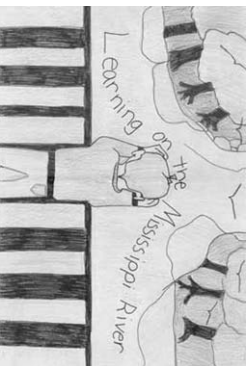
Coordinated by
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
(National Park Service)
in cooperation with the
Padelford Packet Boat Co.

Program partners
Center for Global Environmental Education
Friends of the Mississippi River
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Historical Society
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
Mississippi River Fund
Padelford Packet Boat Co.
St. Paul Public Schools
Science Museum of Minnesota
Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Community



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
111 East Kellogg Boulevard
Suite 105
Saint Paul MN 55101-1256

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BIG RIVER JOURNEY RESERVATIONS – FALL 2008

TO RESERVE A BIG RIVER JOURNEY TRIP (Fall, '08):

- 1) **Contact Brian Goodspeed at 651-290-3030, ext. 297 for a trip/date reservation.** Reservations are *first-come, first-served*, in accordance with limits (i.e. 120 student maximum/trip; 240 max./school) and guidelines outlined in this flyer.
- 2) **Then send or fax this form to National Park Service at address below. We must receive a complete form to reserve your trip, and you must attend or have attended a workshop.**

Trip Date (as provided by Brian Goodspeed) _____ Grade(s) (circle): 4 5 6

Trip arrival time (circle): 9:30 (at Harriet Island, St. Paul) 10:00 (at Fort Snelling State Park)

School _____ Number of students (limits: 120/trip, 240/school) _____

Contact Person _____ Contact email _____

School address _____ City, state, zip code _____

Summer address _____ City, state, zip code _____

School phone # _____ Summer phone # _____ School fax # _____

Teachers from my school will attend the following Big River Workshop (must check at least one, and fill in below):

- Wed, Aug 27, 2008 (8:00-12:30) Teachers who will attend: _____
- I/we have attended workshop previously, since 2000: _____
- All teachers participating in BRJ from our school have attended the workshop previously (since 2000).

Fax or send this form (or a copy) to:

Big River Journey Reservations
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256
Fax: 651-290-3815

For further information: Call Brian Goodspeed at 651-290-3030, ext. 297, or visit our website at <http://www.nps.gov/miss> or www.nps.gov/miss/forteachers/brjindex.htm