

Big River Journey 2009

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-theme activities into their classroom. Pre- and post-trip classroom activities are selected by each teacher from among the many activity options presented in advance teacher workshops. Big River Journey addresses state and district learning requirements.

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

Trips are on the Mississippi River, aboard the Anson Northrup riverboat, traveling between Padelford Landing (Harriet Island, St. Paul) and Fort Snelling State Park area.

Field trip dates & times

May 4-7, 11-14, and 18-21, 2009. Boat boards at 9:30 a.m. & 11:45 a.m. Boat trip duration: 1¼ hours.

- **May 4-7 trips** are **round trips** from Harriet Island, St. Paul. Depart at 9:45 (return 11:30) or 12:00 (return 1:45).
- **May 11-14 and 18-21 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. FSSP activities will conclude at 1:00. Your buses will pick up students at the FSSP Visitor Center.

OR...

*** Arrive at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) 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) Big River Teacher Workshop attendance is **required** of all teachers unless previously attended since 2001. A new advanced workshop option is available for experienced BRJ teachers.

Basic Workshop:

At Fort Snelling State Park Visitor Center (enter park from Post Rd west of airport)

- **Thur, Jan 29**, 2009 (9:00-3:00); or
- **Sat, Jan 31**, 2009 (8:30-1:00)

At the basic 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

Advanced Workshop:

At Historic Fort Snelling Chapel (access from Highway 55 or Hwy 5 east of airport)

- **Thur, Feb 19**, 2009 (9:00-3:00)

At the advanced workshop teachers will:

- learn to integrate and conduct meaningful service learning activities
- explore historical & other river activities
- hear from other teachers about their successful extensions of BRJ activities
- share your experience with other teachers
- receive Continuing Education certificate

Workshop registration:

Call Mississippi National River and Recreation Area at 651-290-3030, ext. 303 (Kathy Swenson).

Workshop cost (donation):

\$15/person or \$25/school (non-refundable) is requested to help defray

workshop expenses. Make check out to "Mississippi National River & Recreation Area"; write "BRJ workshop donation" on the memo line. Send to:

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

2) Preparation and follow-up:

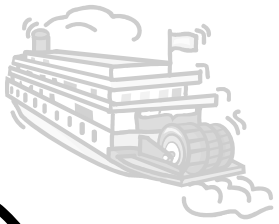
- prepare students for the field trip by conducting science and thematic classroom activities about the Mississippi River (ideas and resource materials provided at workshop)
- organize classes into cooperative groups before trip
- assign groups to a specific learning station rotation (details at workshop)
- 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: \$8.50/student

The *Padelford Packet Boat Co.* handles field trip payments and will contact you for billing if your school is scheduled for a trip.

Scholarship rate: \$3.50/student

Schools with at least 50% participation in free-and-reduced lunch program and/or at least 50% students of color can qualify for scholarships. Confirmation of eligibility must be provided in a written statement from your principal. Schools must pay for their own buses. For further information: call Kathy Swenson at 651-290-3030, x- 303.



Big River Journey 2009

National & State Award-Winning
Mississippi River
field trips
since 1996

grades: 4-6

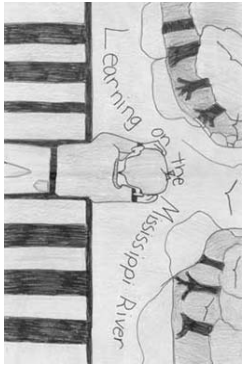
Coordinated by
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
(National Park Service)
in cooperation with the
Padelford Packet Boat Co.

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 2009 RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

Selections for Big River Journey field trips are made through a drawing. To submit your school's request (*one request per school please*) fax or send this completed form so we receive it by **October 15, 2008**:

School _____ **Number of students** (limits: 120/trip, 240/school) _____
School address _____ **City, state, zip code** _____
Contact Person _____ **Contact email** _____
Phone # _____ **Fax #** _____ **Grade(s) (circle):** 4 5 6
Best time to contact _____

Teachers from my school will attend the following Big River Workshop (must fill in teachers' names, or check below):

Thur, Jan 29, 2009 (9:00-3:00) Teachers who will attend: _____
Sat, Jan 31, 2009 (8:30-1:00) Teachers who will attend: _____
Th, Feb 19, 2009 (9:00-3:00) **for experienced BRJ teachers:** _____
I/we have attended workshop previously since 2001: _____

NOTE: All BRJ teachers must attend the workshop. If all have attended previously since 2001, check here: _____

Are you requesting a scholarship (note requirements elsewhere in flyer)? YES / NO

Reservation Scheduling: Schools will be called in the order drawn beginning October 20 for scheduling. If you are not reached, a message will be left (if possible), and the next school will be contacted. Your prompt response will ensure best selection of trip date/time. Please be patient as the process will take some weeks. At the completion of scheduling, non-selected schools will be contacted about other river-based learning opportunities.

Fax or send this form (or a copy) to:
(must be received by Oct 15, 2008)

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 Kathy Swenson at 651-290-3030, ext. 303
or visit our website at www.nps.gov/miss or www.nps.gov/miss/forteachers/bjindex.htm.