

# Big River Journey 2008

## What is Big River Journey?

Big River Journey (BRJ) is an integration of river and classroom experiences that connect 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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

April 29-May 2, May 5-8, and 12-15, 2008.  
Boat boards at 9:30 a.m. & 11:45 a.m.  
Boat trip duration: 1¼ hours.

- **April 29-May 2 trips** are **round trips** from Harriet Island, St. Paul. Depart at 9:45 (return 11:30) or 12:00 (return 1:45).
- **May 5-8 and 12-15 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 in past five years. 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, Feb 7, 2008** (9:00-3:00); or
- **Sat, Feb 9, 2008** (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 (access from Highway 55 or Hwy 5 east of airport)

- **Thur, Feb 21, 2008** (9:00-2:00)

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. 297 (Brian Goodspeed).

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

### 2) **Preparation and follow-up:**

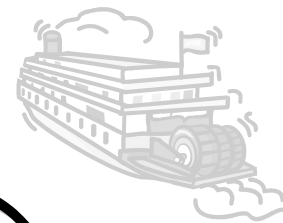
- prepare students for the field trip by conducting science and thematic classroom activities about the Mississippi River (ideas and resource materials provided at workshop)
- organize classes into cooperative groups before trip
- assign groups to a specific learning station rotation (details at workshop)
- 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: \$7.50/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: \$2.50/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 Brian Goodspeed at 651-290-3030, ext. 297.



# Big River Journey 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