Big River Journey Fall 2016

What is Big River Journey?

Big River Journey (BRJ) integrates river and classroom experiences to connect 3rd-5th grade students with the science and heritage of the Mississippi River. BRJ features a riverboat excursion on the Mississippi River with 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 include staffed learning stations with hands-on activities on the following topics:

- Aquatic insects & water quality
- River geology
- River ecosystem
- River birds
- Watershed stewardship
- Riverboats & piloting
- Archaeology*
- Floodplain forest*
- Soldier hike*
- Cultural crossroads*

  * land-based experiences on one-way trips only

Trips are designed for up to 120 3rd-5th 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 20-23, 26-27 and 29-30, 2016

Start times: 9:30 a.m. (at Harriet Island) or 10:00 a.m. (at Fort Snelling State Park). Boat trip duration: 1¾ 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 riverboat at 9:30 at Harriet Island, Saint Paul**. Disembark at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) for a session with staff from FSSP or Historic Fort Snelling. Time for a brown bag lunch will be included. The FSSP session concludes 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 with FSSP or Historic Fort Snelling staff. Time for a brown bag lunch will be included. **Riverboat departure is at 12:00 noon** from FSSP. The trip concludes at 1:45 p.m. at Padelford Landing, Harriet Island, Saint Paul, where your return buses will load.

Participation requirements

1) Attend a Big River Workshop.

Attendance is **required** of all teachers unless previously attended. 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 the State Park from Hwy 5, "Post Road" exit, just southwest of the MSP airport

Workshop date:
Wed., August 17, 2016, 8:30-1:00
Light refreshments provided.

Workshop registration:
Call Mississippi National River and Recreation Area at 651-293-8414 (Brian Goodspeed).

Workshop cost: FREE!

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: $8.93*/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: $3.93*/student

Scholarships and bus stipends to reduce field trip costs are provided by the Mississippi Park Connection "Ticket to Ride" scholarship fund with support from National Park Foundation.

To qualify: Schools with at least 40% participation in the free-and-reduced lunch program and/or at least 40% students of color qualify. Scholarship eligibility must be verified in writing by your principal. Request a scholarship when you make your reservation. Approved schools pay **$3.93/student**.

(* includes port fee)

Bus stipends:

To qualify: Schools with at least 60% participation in the free-and-reduced lunch program may receive bus stipend(s) of up to $200/bus. Must confirm eligibility as above and indicate number of buses needed. Stipend will be sent by Mississippi Park Connection after your trip. FFI: call Brian at 651-293-8414.

Big River Journey

Fall 2016

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

grades: 3-5

Coordinated by
Mississippi National River & 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
Minneapolis Public Schools
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Historical Society
Mississippi Park Connection
Padelford Packet Boat Co.
Saint Paul Audubon Society
Saint Paul Public Schools
Science Museum of Minnesota

www.nps.gov/miss/learn/education

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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 2016

TO RESERVE A BIG RIVER JOURNEY TRIP FOR YOUR SCHOOL:

1) **Contact Brian Goodspeed at 651-293-8414 for a trip/date reservation.** Fall reservations are first-come, first-served, in accordance with guidelines outlined in this flyer (i.e. 120 student maximum/trip; 240 max./school).

2) **Then send or fax or send this form to National Park Service at address below.** We must receive a complete form to reserve your trip, and all teachers must attend (or have previously attended) a Big River Workshop.

Trip Date (as provided by Brian Goodspeed) _____ **Grade(s) (circle):** **3** 4 5

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**)** _____

School address _____ **City, state, zip code**_____

Contact Person _____ **Contact email**_____

Phone # _____ **Fax #** _____

Summer phone # _____ **Summer email** _____

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

Wed, August 17, 2016 (8:30-1:00) Teachers who will attend: _____

_____

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

Are you requesting a scholarship? (see eligibility requirements elsewhere in this flyer): YES NO

Are you requesting bus stipend(s)? (see eligibility requirements elsewhere in this flyer): YES NO # buses:_____

Fax or send this form to:

Big River Journey Reservations
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256
Fax: 651-290-3214
Email: brian_goodspeed@nps.gov

For further information: ***www.nps.gov/miss*** *or* ***www.nps.gov/miss/learn/education/brjindex.htm***