



Hiking, Rappelling, Orienteering, Canoeing

Have you **Been There** and **Done That?**

Have you done it in the **dead of night** by the dim light of whatever stars are out between midnight and dawn? **Not afraid of the dark are you?**

Come to the Venture District Perseverance Ecco Challenge starting at midnight April 20, at the John Zink Gate. The test of your stamina starts off with a ten mile hike. Interspersed along the way are challenges such as telling directions by the stars, finding a lost child ½ mile off the road, and crossing gulleys on three, two and one rope bridges.

At the end of the *first* ten miles is a 3 mile canoe trip in the dead of night. You don't know how alone or how beautiful nature can be until you are out on a deep lake with just the stars to guide you.

When you get to the island, there is a steep trail to the top where those who still have the gumption can rappel over 50 foot cliffs in the dark.

At the end is a light breakfast and a sunrise service then set up camp on the island and rest as long as you want.

Saturday there are optional compass courses on land and/or in the canoes and possibly a mountain bike course. And climbing and rappelling for those who want. People who bring their own gear can fish. There will be a group dinner and then return to the mainland and home.

FAQ's

BACKPACKING – Although you need to be able to pack your stuff a hundred yards from the beach to the camps, backpacking the ten miles is optional. Your gear can be trucked to the launch site if you choose to hike unencumbered. Meals are provided as are plates and cups so pack light, appropriate for the possible weather.

FOOD – Food is included in your \$10 fee payable upon arrival. Of course you are welcome to bring snacks. Water on the island is strictly up to you so each crew should bring 2 quarts per person at a minimum.

SAFETY – Again, your fee includes an emergency chem light and a whistle per person. There will be lifeguards in a power boat on the water. Every crew must certify in writing to the Camp Director that their members have met the guide to safe scouting rules for use of canoes. If a night water trip is more than you want your crew to attempt, you can camp on the near shore and canoe out the next morning and still do all the activities. There will be qualified Climb On Safely leaders at the cliff with gear.

SHUTTLING – Vehicles and camp gear can be shuttled from the ZINK gate to the launch site either by your crew or a limited number of shuttle trucks and drivers will be available. It is a 45 minute round trip from the gate to the shore and back so your shuttle drivers will cut 2 or 3 miles off the distance they have to hike if they join up with their crew along the return trip.

COST - \$10 per participant payable at the start. Make checks payable to B.S.A.

REGISTRATION – Please register at the Scout Office by April 15 or e-mail BLWALT6884@cox.net to give us a hint as to how much food to provide. Each Crew must file your own Tour Permit.

SCHEDULE – Although we encourage starting at midnight, your crew can start any time after 6 pm Friday and stay past the scheduled 4:30 Saturday Afternoon end time. All food and water after 4:30 pm Saturday is not included in your \$10 fee. Canoes must be back on the trailers by noon Sunday.

UNREGISTERED or NON-VENTURE SCOUTS – All Venture Crews, Explorer Posts and established Venture Patrols from Troops are welcome from any BSA Council. Visitors of Venture Age are encouraged to attend with an established Crew, Ship or Post. Use the e-mail above if you need to contact an established Crew. Boy Scout Troops are welcome but will camp after hike and canoe after daylight. Please, no Boy Scouts below Venture age in canoes after dark unless presently active in a Troop Venture Patrol.

SANITARY FACILITIES – Please use Leave no Trace procedures. There is no running water or established latrines on the island. There will be a **last chance for indoor plumbing** along the ten mile hike route and there will be latrine screens for the privacy of female leaders and Venturers. This is a CO-ED activity so observe the proper proprieties.

WEATHER – Come prepared for weather. But if conditions dictate, the canoeing will be postponed until daylight or cancelled.