

AuSable Relay Challenge

September 27 – 28, 2008

Grayling to Oscoda, Michigan

AuSable Relay Challenge

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One River - One Boat - 120 Miles

Michigan's earliest explorers used the AuSable River as their super highway from Grayling to Oscoda. They would paddle in groups up and down stream trapping and trading their way through the AuSable River valley. Today, the AuSable is known as one of the finest canoeing venues in North America.

Designed as a unique fundraiser for the AuSable River Canoe Marathon, the AuSable Relay Challenge provides the opportunity for six to ten paddlers to experience the challenge of a non-stop river assault from Grayling to Oscoda in relay fashion. Each team of two will paddle separate river stages out of a total of nine - handing their canoe off to fellow team members.

The total distance is 120 miles, with stages from 8 to 18 miles long. The total trip time to Oscoda is eighteen to twenty-two hours. This is truly an opportunity to participate in northern Michigan adventure of a magnitude that few will ever experience in a lifetime.

People watch reality shows - The AuSable Relay Challenge is the real deal. Call five friends and tell them to turn off the TV. Let's go paddling.

This is not your Saturday family canoe trip!

The race will begin beside the Grayling Post Office in a LeMan's style start at 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 27th. Six to ten paddlers per team will run with their canoe to the river where two paddlers will depart in stage one. Canoes will be of standard design, and provided by the Relay Challenge committee.

Paddlers will then trade off at each stage. All teams will travel together, and assist at portages, serve as feeders for their paddlers and safety support. Lettering for the sides of the canoes will be provided by the Relay Challenge committee to reflect the name of the team's sponsor, city or team name.

Estimated paddle time

Stage 1 Grayling to Wakeley Bridge 18 miles 2 hours, 50 minutes

Stage 2 Wakeley Bridge to Parmalee Bridge 18 miles 2 hours, 50 minutes

Stage 3 Parmalee Bridge to Mio Dam (portage) 13 miles 2 hours, 30 minutes

Stage 4 Mio Dam to McKinley Bridge 16 miles 2 hours, 40 minutes

Stage 5 McKinley Bridge to Alcona Dam (portage) 11 miles 2 hours, 30 minutes

Stage 6 Alcona Dam to Loud Dam (portage) 14 miles 2 hours, 35 minutes

Stage 7 Loud Dam to Cooke Dam (portage) 10 miles 2 hours, 25 minutes

Stage 8 Cooke Dam to Foote Dam (portage) 8 miles 2 hours, 15 minutes

Stage 9 Foote Dam to Oscoda 12 miles 2 hours, 30 minutes

Let's race!

How do the AuSable Relay Challenge work? At 12:00 noon on September 27th, all six to ten members of the team will run with their canoe to the river where only two of them will paddle the first stage.

At Wakeley Bridge, they will hand the boat off to another two members of their team for the second stage. At the beginning of each stage, fresh paddlers will take the boat towards Oscoda.

Teams are self supporting and serve as their own canoe's safety support team.

How much is the entry fee? As a fundraising event for the AuSable River Canoe Marathon, the entry fee per boat is \$500. A \$250 down payment per team is due with the application, with the balance due by September 15th. Entry fees may be paid by the paddlers themselves, or raised by taking pledges or seeking sponsorships. This entry fee is a minimum, and if your team has the highest amount of pledges or sponsorships raised, there will be special recognition for each member of the top fundraising team.

What will the Relay Challenge committee provide? Each team will be provided a typical livery-type canoe and paddles. The committee will also provide custom lettering for your canoe to provide recognition for your paddlers and sponsors. We intend to make the event known to the press and make at least one press release to the print media after the event has concluded.

What will the competitors provide? Paddlers will be responsible to provide their own personal flotation device, transportation, food and lighting system for night paddling. After securing a starting position with the \$250 down payment (balance due September 15th), the Relay Challenge committee will provide each team a list of equipment requirements, pledge sheets, and good ideas of things to bring along. Team members will then be able to start studying the course and the stages that they will be paddling. It will be a good idea to study and paddle your assigned stages at the time of day that you will be paddling prior to the event.

Can we use Global Positioning System (GPS)? Absolutely! A GPS is a great aid to river navigation, and is able to tell you exactly where you are on Mio Pond prior to your first portage at 8:00 pm. What GPS does not provide is information such as where the

stumps are in Mio Pond. That is why teams need to study the different stages of the river before paddling it for real.

Why livery canoes, not racing canoes? The goal is to provide a consistent standard to be judged by without the expense of purchasing a race canoe. After all, anyone can go fast in a racing canoe; real paddlers get their canoes at liveries... and paddle from Grayling to Oscoda.

Why paddle at night? It's impossible to paddle from Grayling to Oscoda without doing part of it at night. The start and finish times will work well for leaving Grayling and arriving in Oscoda.

Do we need a team captain? Yes. You will need one team captain that never paddles, but runs the team, or you may have two paddling captains as long as they are never on the river paddling at the same time. Your captain(s) will have overall responsibility for the safety of your team. Your paddlers will be very alone on the river except for other paddling teams on their way to Oscoda. Team captains will need to know which direction to go for assistance if needed. It is imperative that you KNOW when and where each stage swap is to be made.

Team Captain #1 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____, Zip _____ Phone _____
Email Address _____
Birthday _____ Male ___ Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Captain #2 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____, Zip _____ Phone _____
Email Address _____
Birthday _____ Male ___ Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #1 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____, Zip _____ Phone _____
Email Address _____
Birthday _____ Male ___ Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #2 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____, Zip _____ Phone _____
Email Address _____
Birthday _____ Male ___ Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #3 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____, Zip _____ Phone _____
Email Address _____
Birthday _____ Male ___ Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #4 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____, Zip _____ Phone _____
Email Address _____
Birthday _____ Male ___ Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #5 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____, Zip _____ Phone _____
Email Address _____
Birthday _____ Male ___ Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #6 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____, Zip _____ Phone _____
Email Address _____
Birthday _____ Male ___ Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #7 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____, Zip _____ Phone _____
Email Address _____
Birthday _____ Male ___ Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #8 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____, Zip _____ Phone _____
Email Address _____
Birthday _____ Male ___ Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #9 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____, Zip _____ Phone _____
Email Address _____
Birthday _____ Male ___ Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #10 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____, Zip _____ Phone _____
Email Address _____
Birthday _____ Male ___ Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Please make checks payable to:

**ARICM,
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www.ausablecanoemarathon.org

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