

2025 - 2026  
Northwest Passage  
Expedition Catalog



Rekindling Our Hope  
Exploring Our World  
Seeking Our Path  
While Building Our  
Community



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# Expeditions at Northwest Passage

At Northwest Passage, we believe every student deserves the chance to experience the world beyond the classroom. Our expeditions are extended learning journeys designed to spark curiosity, build teamwork, and open doors to new cultures, environments, and ways of life. Each expedition is an opportunity to step into the unknown, challenge yourself, and grow in different ways. To make sure every student has this experience, the school is committed to fully funding at least one expedition for each student before graduation.

Expeditions are built around the idea of learning through progress. They are offered at different levels, each one preparing you for the next. A Level 1 expedition introduces you to the adventure; after completing it, you can move on to Level 2, and then to the advanced opportunities of Level 3. If you're not ready to move up right away, you still have the chance to continue exploring at your current level until the time is right.

Every expedition is a chance to discover not only the world around you—but also your own strengths, passions, and potential.

**Level I:** 1-3 Nights, up to 2.5 hours from school, 0.25 credits  
Examples: Leadership Camp, Service Learning Trip, Short Camping Trip

**Level II:** 2-4 Nights, up to 1-day drive from school, 0.375 credits  
Examples: Midwest Backpacking, Midwestern City, Academic Competition

**Level III:** 4+ Nights, up to 2-day drive from school, 0.5 credits  
Examples: Extended Wilderness, East Coast City, International Trip

**\*\*Dates and times could change, or the expedition could be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. We will make every effort to hold to this schedule.\*\***

To apply for expeditions, please use the [Northwest Passage 2025-26 Expedition Application](#). Please fill out a new application for each expedition you are applying for.



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Oct. 9 - 10	<a href="#">MAAP Leadership Conference</a>	Level I	Thu. Sep. 11
Oct. 9 - 11	<a href="#">Camping: Father Hennepin State Park</a>	Level I	Thu. Sep. 11
Oct. 9 - 12	<a href="#">Kansas City</a>	Level II	Thu. Sep. 11
Oct. 22 - 26	<a href="#">Backpack Garden of the Gods</a>	Level II	Thu. Sep. 18
Oct. 23 - 24	<a href="#">Ghost Tour Lock-in</a>	Level I	Thu. Sep. 18
Oct. 23 - 25	<a href="#">Wellness @ Philadelphia Community Farm.</a>	Level I	Thu. Sep. 18
Nov. 7 - 9	<a href="#">Whitewater State Park</a>	Level I	Thu. Oct. 2
Nov. 13 - 15	<a href="#">Stillwater Ghost Tour</a>	Level I	Thu. Oct. 2
Dec. 10 - 12	<a href="#">College Road Trip: Rochester</a>	Level I	Thu. Oct. 30
Jan. 15 - 16	<a href="#">DND Lock-in</a>	Level I	Tue. Nov. 25
Feb. 14 - 16	<a href="#">Winter Camping</a>	Level II	Thu. Dec. 11
Feb. 26 - 28	<a href="#">Gamefest</a>	Level I	Thu. Jan. 15
Mar. 7 - 15	<a href="#">Music Triangle</a>	Level III	Thu. Jan 22
Mar. 12 - 15	<a href="#">Animal Biology</a>	Level II	Thu. Jan 22
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Apr. 9 - 11	<a href="#">Model United Nations</a>	Level II	Thu. Dec. 11
Apr. 11 - 18	<a href="#">Explore the District: Washington, DC</a>	Level III	Thu. Feb. 19
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May 14 - 16	<a href="#">Mille Lacs: Ojibwe History</a>	Level I	Thu. Mar. 26
May 14 - 17	<a href="#">Plein Air Art</a>	Level II	Thu. Mar. 26
May 29 - June 4	<a href="#">May Term: Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness</a>	Level III	

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## Oddities of the Midwest

Dates: Sep. 26 - 28

### Level I

Join Jason and Katie (both oddities themselves) on a tour of the weird and wild. Visit the Austin, MN's SPAM Museum to learn how salted pork defeated the Nazis. Explore the whims of an eccentric at the House on the Rock in southern Wisconsin. Camp along the way.



Leaders: Jason & Katie

*Requirements: Early Expedition, this will be a quick application and acceptance.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025

Family Meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 18 @ 7:00 pm

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## MAAP Leadership Conference

Dates: Oct. 9 - 10

### Level I

This is an invite-only 2-day fall leadership conference. The Fall Leadership Conference offers a diverse range of activities designed to enhance your leadership skills and foster meaningful connections. If learning more and getting involved in MAAP STARS is something you are interested in, let Katie know.



<https://www.maapmn.org/maap-stars/fall-leadership-conference>

Leaders: Katie

*Requirements: Students will be selected for this expedition based on interest in MAAP STARS and Level of Independence. Medical Forms on file.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025

Family Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 25 @ 7:00 pm

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# Camping: Father Hennepin State Park

Dates: Oct. 9 - 11

## Level I

Join us for a weekend of camping that will be “in tents”, but not “intense” as we explore the area around Mille Lacs. We have a host of activities we can do on land to enjoy being in nature, and hope to get out on the lake in canoes as well. No outdoorsy experience required!

Leaders: Cooper & Vashti

*Requirements: Medical forms on file*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025

Family Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 30 @ 5pm



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# Kansas City

Dates: Oct. 9 - 12

## Level II

Head south on I-35 to visit the “Paris of the Plains”. We will experience BBQ, the start of the Oregon Trail, visit the WWI Museum, The Negro Baseball League & Jazz Museums, as well as KC architecture and other attractions.

Leaders: Brandi & Erin

*Requirements: Medical Forms on file.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025

Family Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 30 @ 6:00 pm



## Backpack: Garden of the Gods

Dates: Oct. 22 - 26

### Level II

A day's drive brings us to the Garden of the Gods, the most photographed landscape in the state of Illinois. We'll hoist our packs for 3 days and 2 nights on trail, hiking past amazing rock formations and hidden caves. Millions of years ago, this area was covered by a giant inland sea where rivers deposited sand and mud. This sediment eventually hardened into

sandstone layers. A later uplift raised the land above sea level, and subsequent erosion by wind, rain, and freezing/thawing cycles sculpted the unique rock formations we see today. Northwest Passage can provide all the camping gear to outfit you for your needs in the forest.



Leaders: Jeff & Vashti

*Requirements: Medical forms on file. Participation in Expedition Workshop.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025

Family Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 7 @ 7:00 pm

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## Ghost Tour, Haunted Stroll & Lock-in

Dates: Oct. 23 - 24

### Level I

Students will stay after school, and we will have dinner & participate in the Anoka Historical Society ghost tour. Maybe stop by the Anoka Asylum for a ghost or two. . . We'll spend some time defining folklore, learning about the origins of ghost stories, and telling local and indigenous lore and stories. Students who are able to will stay the night can, and those who are not ready do not have to. But in order to be recommended for the next level of expedition you must stay the night successfully. In the morning, we will have breakfast and students will be ready for pickup.

Leaders: Anna, Eujeana, & Nick

Application Deadline: Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025

Family Meeting: Wednesday, Oct. 15 @ 5:30 pm

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## Wellness @ Philadelphia Community Farm

Dates: Oct. 23 - 25

### Level I

The wonderful community at Philadelphia Community Farm across the border in Wisconsin will host us and provide activities while participants let go of stress and let the calm in. While on the expedition students will participate in various activities, learning different relaxation techniques that they can use in their everyday lives.

Leaders: Brittany & Sara

*Requirements: Medical forms on file*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025

Family Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 7 @ 5:30pm



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## Whitewater State Park

Dates: Nov. 7 - 11

### Level I

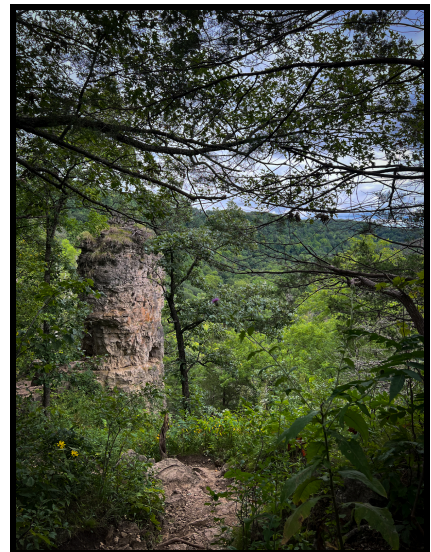
Join Katie and Nick for a state park retreat. Sleep in rustic cabins and explore the rushing waters and limestone ledges of southeastern Minnesota. Discover the beauty of southeastern Minnesota's bluff lands, with its absence of mosquitoes. This park features six scenic overlooks and the spring-fed Whitewater River.

Leaders: Katie & Nick

*Requirements: Medical forms on file*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025

Family Meeting: Wednesday, Oct. 29th @ 7:30pm





## Stillwater: Ghost Tour and Haunted Happenings - Part Two

Dates: Nov. 13 - 15

### Level I

Stillwater, Minnesota, is a historic town known for being the "Birthplace of Minnesota". Also famous for its ghost stories and haunted places. Stillwater's ghostly folklore stems from its long and rich history. Many of these tales are rooted in local legends, historical accounts, and even Native American legends. We will look at some of the lore and visit haunted locations including the Warden's house. The Warden's house is considered one of Minnesota's most haunted locations. We will be staying in yurts at Afton State Park for both nights, ghost stories around the fire! Dress warm and get ready for some spooky historical fun!



Leaders: Anna & Eujeana

*Requirements: Medical forms on file. Participation in Expedition Workshop.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025

Family Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 5 @

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## College Road Trip: Rochester

Dates: Dec. 10 - 12

### Level II

Come check out different colleges around the Rochester area. Students will visit & tour the University of Minnesota, Rochester; Rochester Community and Technical College, and St. Mary's University. When not touring colleges, students will have the opportunity to explore and experience the city of Rochester.



Leaders: Drew & Sara

*Requirements: Medical form on file*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025

Family Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 19 @ 6:00 pm



## DND Lock-in

Dates: Jan. 15 - 16

### Level I

Lock yourself in with other DND players! We will campaign! Dungeon Masters from Bad Wolf will lead campaigns. Have pizza and other snacks. We will play till late with the help of Bad Wolf as our DM. Eventually, we will sleep on mats and inflatable mattresses in the barn.

Leaders: Anna and Drew

*Requirements: If you have a character GREAT! If not you will be handed a character.*

Application Deadline: Dec. 1st 2025

Family Meeting: Wednesday, Jan. 7 @ 5:30 pm

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## Winter Camping

Dates: Feb. 14 - 16

### Level II

Camping in the winter? You must be crazy! Nope. Winter is the best time to camp - very few people and even fewer mosquitos! On this trip, you will learn to beat the elements and live the philosophy that there is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing. Our adventure will start at YMCA Camp Icaghowan in Wisconsin - from there we will snowshoe from the main camp to our remote site where we will build snow shelters to sleep in, gather and chop wood to build a campfire, explore the beauty of the North woods and maybe even do some ice fishing. On Sunday we will return to main camp, jump in the lake for a polar plunge, warm up in the sauna and have a hearty meal in the camp dining hall before heading back to school. If you are up for an adventure apply before November 11th.



Leaders: Brooke & Peter

*Requirements: Medical forms on file. Participation in Expedition Workshop.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025

Family Meeting:

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## Gamefest

Dates: Feb. 26 - 28

### Level I

Join us for a weekend of games and team building. You will have the opportunity to bring your favorite board or card game and teach a friend how to play! We will also enjoy cooking our own meals and designing our own game. Experience what expeditions are like at Northwest Passage, earn credit, and play games.

Leaders: Drew & Erin

*Requirements: Medical Forms on file.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026

Family Meeting: Wednesday, February 18 @ 5:30pm

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## Music Triangle: Memphis, Nashville, Mussel Shoals

Dates: Mar. 7 -15

### Level III

On this expedition, students will be learning about the 9 different genres of American Music that have come from a geographic area of the US referred to as the Triangle of Americana Music and their ties to history, civil rights, and social movements. We will travel to Memphis, Nashville, and Muscle Shoals, AL to experience the history, musical roots, culture, and food..

Leaders: Brandi & Steph

*Requirements: Previous Level 1 & 2 trip, participation in the Expedition Workshop, medical form on file.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026

Family Meeting: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 @ 6:00

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## Animal Biology

Dates: Mar. 12 - 15

### Level II

Join us for an unforgettable 3-day learning adventure in the heart of Minnesota's Northwoods! This immersive expedition to the International Wolf Center in Ely will give students a rare opportunity to study wolves up close, explore their vital role in ecosystems, and engage with leading wolf biologists and educators. Through hands-on workshops, wilderness hikes, and behind-the-scenes experiences, students will deepen their understanding of predator-prey dynamics, wildlife conservation, and the science behind wolf behavior — all while connecting with nature and building lasting memories with peers.



Leaders: Cooper & Katie

*Requirements: Medical forms on file. Participation in Cooper's Wolf Studies seminar.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026

Family Meeting:

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## New Mexico: Desert Geology

Dates: Mar. 20 - 28

### Level III

"Go west, young person, go west, and grow up with the country!" Hop in the covered wagon (aka "van") and head along the overland trails ("highways") toward the Chihuahuan Desert of New Mexico. We'll visit ancient lava flows, cactus and sagebrush plains, rock-strewn mountains, the gypsum dunes of White Sands National Park, and the vast underground rooms of Carlsbad Caverns National Park.



Leaders: Jason & Jeff

*Requirements: Successful completion of Level 2 expedition. Participation in Expedition Workshop. Medical Forms on file.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026

Family Meeting: Tuesday, Mar. 3 @ 7:00 pm

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## Model United Nations

Dates: Apr. 9 - 11

### Level II

Represent a country of your choice while working with other students from around the state of Minnesota to tackle international topics while modeling the workings of the United Nations. Past topics have included issues such as refugees, climate change, arctic waterways, slums and urban crowding, international electronic currency, rights and safety of journalists, sustainability of international sporting events.

Leaders: Jason & Sara

*Requirements: Medical forms on file. Participation in Expedition Workshop.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025

Family Meeting: Tuesday, March 24th @ 6:00 pm

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## Explore the District: Washington DC

Dates: Apr. 11 - 18

### Level III



Road trip eastward! We'll set our sights on Washington, DC for 4 days exploring our nation's capital city. We will be looking at the historical and political aspects of DC as well as exploring national monuments. Student interest will design the schedule of what we do. We will primarily be walking around the District with some additional travel by bike and public transportation. Students should



be prepared to **walk a lot** each day.

Leaders: Brittany & Megan

*Requirements: Successful Level 2 trip, Medical forms on file. Participation in Expedition Workshop.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026

Family Meeting: Tuesday, Mar. 4 @

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To apply, complete the [Northwest Passage 2025-26 Expedition Application](#).



## Milwaukee

Dates: Apr. 23 - 26

### Level II

Milwaukee is a manufacturing city. Explore some iconic symbols of America by immersing yourself in the story of Harley Davidson, see the largest machines in the world being built at Komatsu, and explore a great place on a Great Lake! This expedition is an opportunity to explore how globalization has forced manufacturers to adapt over time. Milwaukee is a city with a lot of hidden gems waiting to be discovered.



Leaders: Jason & Megan

*Requirements: Medical Forms on file.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026

Family Meeting: Tuesday, March 4th @ 6PM

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## Mankato Art Tour

Dates: April 24 - 25

### Level I

Join us as we road trip south to Blue Earth County. We will explore the city of Mankato, which is a hub for arts in the region. We will take some time strolling through town to check out sculptures, traffic box murals, and more from the CityArt installations. Students may also visit a historical site or theater in the area. When we are not out-and-about we will be lodging at a nearby rental home.

Note: we will be leaving Friday morning, which is *not* a school day and returning Saturday evening.

Leaders: Brooke and Vashti

Application Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026

Family Meeting: Tuesday, Apr. 7 @

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## Icaghowan Service

Dates: Apr. 24 - 26

### Level I

We will be spending 2 nights at YMCA Camp Icaghowan performing various activities and service projects as needed by the camp. We will also be able to take advantage of the camp's facilities.

Leaders: Peter & Val

*Requirements: Medical Forms on file.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026

Family Meeting:



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## MAAP Stars

Dates: May 7 - 9

### Level II

This 2-day competition is open to students who have participated in the MAAP STARS seminar during session 4 or in previous years. Students who take the seminar will prepare for the competition during the seminar, workshop, and during independent PBL time.

<https://www.maapmn.org/stars>

Leaders: Katie & Steph

*Requirements: Students may qualify for expedition based on participation in MAAP STARS seminar during session 4 or previous years. Medical Forms on file.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026

Family Meeting:

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## Black Hills

Dates: May 13 - 17

### Level II

We will leave mid-week and head west! We will stay in comfort in an Airbnb and explore all the many wonderful things, from an archaeological dig site, through massive mountain carvings, to the sacred scenery of the Black Hills and Badlands!

Leaders: Cooper & Megan

*Requirements: Medical forms on file. Successful Level 1.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Mar. 26, 2026

Family Meeting: Wednesday, April 29th, 2026

To apply, complete the [Northwest Passage 2025-26 Expedition Application](#).

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## Mille Lacs: Ojibwe History

Dates: May 14 - 16

### Level I

Explore the story of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe through exhibits, demonstrations, and a tour of the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post. We will also explore Mille Lacs-Kathio State Park, hiking its trails, climbing its fire tower, and exploring an archaeological dig. Its 9,000 years of human history and archaeological significance have made it a National Historic Landmark. We'll stay overnight in the rustic Camper Cabins in the state park.



Leaders: Jeff & Erin

*Requirements: Medical forms on file. Participation in Expedition Workshop.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Mar. 26, 2026

Family Meeting: Tuesday, Apr. 28 @ 7:00 pm

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## Plein Air Art

Dates: May 14 - 17

### Level II

Ever see those folks with an easel and palette along a trail or on a lake shore? That's Plein Air. Get out of the studio and into inspiration! Explore how to incorporate the resources around you into your art.

Leaders: Brandi & Brittany

*Requirements: Medical forms on file. Participation in Expedition Workshop.*

Application Deadline: Thursday, Mar. 26, 2026

Family Meeting:

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# May/J-Term: Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

Dates: May 29 - June 4

## Level III

Ready to unplug, explore, and push your limits? Join us for an unforgettable week-long adventure in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness – one of the most beautiful and untouched natural areas in the United States. Over 1 million acres of lakes, rivers, and forests await as we paddle, portage, and camp our way through this wild and scenic region. Whether you're an experienced outdoorsperson or new to the wilderness, this trip is your chance to step away from screens and step into nature.



Leaders: Brooke & Cooper

*Requirements: Medical Forms on file. Enrollment in May/J Term BWCA course.*

Family Meeting

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## 2025-26 Expeditions by Level

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