

# **Avanti Challenge**

## **Adventure Trip Extension of Camp Avanti**

### **2026 Avanti Challenge Age Range:**

- Campers who will be 14 years of age at the time of camp **and have participated in an Avanti overnight camp week in the past.**

### **Tentative Week for Avanti Challenge:**

- Sunday July 26 - Thursday July 30, 2026
- This is dependent on Avanti's ability to obtain a permit for these dates (and our preferred location). Permits open January 28th and so final determination on dates will be made following January 28th.

### **Location:**

- Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in Northern MN.
- Proposed entrance and exit location will be on Farm Lake, Ely MN.
- Proposed route in the BWCAW is the Kawishiwi triangle.
- Final determination on entrance/exit location and route will be made once a permit is obtained.

### **Camper drop-off and pick-up location:**

- Ely, MN - exact location will be available once permit has been obtained.

### **Staffing and staff to camper ratio:**

- Staff to camper ratio will be 1 staff to 2 campers
- Staff will have a range of skills including Avanti OT experience, experience with camping and canoeing, and experience with youth trips in the outdoors.

### **What is the BWCAW?**

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) is a vast, federally protected wilderness in northeastern Minnesota within the Superior National Forest. It is known for its interconnected lakes, streams, boreal forests, and historic canoe routes (over 1,200 miles) along the Canadian border. Accessible primarily by canoe and portage, it offers pristine wilderness, solitude, fishing, camping, and wildlife viewing. There are strict "leave no trace" practices to preserve its fragile ecosystem.

For more information (including a virtual tour of the boundary waters) check out these links:

<https://boundarywaters360.com/>

<https://www.savetheboundarywaters.org/what-boundary-waters>

## **Factors to consider when thinking about applying for the Avanti Challenge:**

The Avanti Challenge is a program with very specific goals and intentions for campers. It is a highly organized experience with a therapeutic emphasis. We want campers to be as successful as possible within the program so please keep these considerations in mind.

- Has your camper participated in Avanti overnight camp in the past? This is a requirement.
- Endurance: this trip involves paddling in a canoe, portaging (carrying gear) from lake to lake, many hours a day outdoors, and sleeping in tents. Does your camper have the stamina for a trip like this?
- Bugs: Bugs (i.e. mosquitos, flies, and ticks) are a guarantee; the intensity of them is unpredictable as that is climate and location dependent. The main reprieve from bugs on this trip will be when tents are set-up and with appropriate clothing like long pants & sleeves or mosquito nets, etc.
- Even though our adult to camper ratio is high, this trip is not appropriate for anyone who needs a high level of supervision or support.
- Safety: If your camper's only or primary coping mechanism is eloping or fleeing then this trip is not appropriate for them.
- Ability to remain with a group: can your camper remain with a group for the duration of a non-preferred activity? Can your camper follow a group itinerary/schedule for the day? There will be periods on this trip where individual choice will not be available secondary to the task at hand like needing to move campsites or due to the weather. Your camper will be happiest and most successful if they can go along with the plan for the group.
- Electronic devices are not allowed on this trip. If your camper relies on electronics for entertainment and/or regulation and you want to consider the Avanti Challenge then you will be expected to work on a plan to decrease their

reliance on these devices prior to the trip in order to facilitate a successful experience.

- Communication with parents/guardians: You and your camper should not expect daily communication with each other. The staff on the trip will have the ability to call if an emergency arises; otherwise, the goal of this trip is to expand your child's autonomy, sense of belonging within the group, and appreciation for the outdoors.

### **Application Process & Cost:**

Submission of an application does not guarantee a spot. Applications are reviewed to ensure this experience will be a good fit for all who are accepted. The application form is available on our website.

As part of the application process, you will be asked to indicate if you think your camper may need a camper scholarship or if you intend to utilize county waiver funding to cover the cost of camp. This information is collected for planning purposes and will not affect eligibility.

You will not be expected to make a payment until your camper has been accepted. Once accepted, you will use the payment link on our website to make your payment.

### **Cost: \$2100**

The camper review committee will start processing applications in February. Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received and on a rolling basis until slots are filled. We will utilize a waiting list after slots are filled.