

Superior National Forest

Outfitting and Guiding on National Forest Lands

DO I NEED A PERMIT?

- I am an individual who occasionally takes trips into the Boundary Waters of other parts of the National Forest with other individuals. Because I drive and own canoes and some equipment, the others usually buy the food and bait and give me some gas money. Do I need a permit?

No. You do not even have to apply

- I am an individual or a profit making organization and I take individuals or groups of individuals on guided trips into the Superior National Forest, utilizing National Forest lands (campgrounds, portages, trails, etc.) Do I need a permit?

Do you charge them a fee? If not, then no permit is required. If yes – then you need to apply for a permit.

An application must be made so that the Forest Service can make the determination.

- If I need a permit as a result of the answer to Number 2 above, then what will the fee be?

The minimum special use fee, (currently \$95.00 effective January 1, 2008, fees are subject to change 2011) would be required in advance against a total of 3% of the gross revenue from charges to clients for guiding. Trip leaders or counselors are considered guides. (The total fee will be 3% of the gross revenue from guiding. If it is more than the current minimum fee for special uses, a bill for the balance will be sent at the end of the season. If it is less, the minimum will apply, and no refund will be provided, nor will credit be given for the following year.)

- I am an individual or a profit making organization and I rent equipment and sell supplies to clients and then deliver them to National Forest landings, or landings under National Forest administrative jurisdiction. Do I need a permit?

Yes, an Outfitting and Guiding permit covers this activity that is classed as a “livery” operation. A flat fee equal to the minimum fee for special uses, (currently \$95.00 effective January 1, 2008, fees are subject to change 2011) will be assessed for this type of activity, with no refunds or credits for non-use.

Note: If you also offer guiding services separate from the livery operation, an additional fee for the guiding services will be charged in accordance with Number 3 above.

- We are a non-profit organization that sponsors guided trips in the Boundary Waters or on other National Forest land. Do we need a permit?

Generally, two questions must be answered in the affirmative to trigger the requirement for a permit in this case. Is anyone getting paid to lead or guide the trip? (If the leader is on salary from the organization applying but the trip is absolutely voluntary for the leader, then they are not getting paid.) If they are getting paid, then the next question is: Are the clients being charged more than that necessary to cover the cost of the wear and tear of equipment provided by the organization and the cost of food and transportation.

If yes, then a permit is required.

If no, then no permit is required. A permit waiver may be granted, and the organization must carry the waiver card with them on all trips.

An exception to the above will be made when the organization in question exists primarily to promote outdoor activities or advertises the trips outside of its organization. In those cases, a permit will be required regardless of payments to leaders or charges for the trip.

An application must be made so that the Forest Service can make the determination.

- If a permit is required as a result of the answer to Number 5 above, then what is the fee structure?

The fee would be the minimum special use fee (currently \$95.00 effective January 1, 2008, fees are subject to change 2011.) in advance of 3% of the payment made to the guide/leader for the trip, or that portion of the client charge attributable to the guiding service (the charges for leading/guiding.)