

# OUTDOORS

## TV show “Rock the Park: Voyageurs National Park” will air Saturday

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A television show that explores America’s national parks and the love affair people have with them will feature Voyageurs National Park in an episode set to air Saturday.

“Rock the Park: Voyageurs National Park,” is scheduled to premier on CW 23 at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Minnesota natives Jack Steward joins Colton Smith, hosts of the show, travel to Voyageurs National Park and spotlight the park’s features, beauty and wildlife. The show also reminds Americans to hit the road and visit the sites for themselves.

The Journal recently posed questions to Colleen Needles Steward, founder and president of Tremendous! Entertainment, and Jane Durkee, the COO and vice president of the company.

In its first season, Rock the Park is produced by Tremendous!, which will premiere five new series in 2014 with at least three more scheduled to premiere in early 2015. The company has dozens of new shows currently in development and owes its prolific growth to its award-winning staff, keen eye for talent and state



Minnesota natives Jack Steward and Colton Smith, hosts of the show.

of the art production and post-facilities in Minneapolis, MN and Los Angeles, according to a fact sheet. For more information, visit <http://tremendousinc.com/>.

**Why and how was Voyageurs National Park selected for this episode?**

Rock the Park hosts Jack Steward and Colton Smith are Minnesotans. Both were born and raised here in the state, so there was no doubt they would explore Voyageurs National Park as part of their first season of the series.

**The hosts are from Minnesota. Did this make this episode special for them? How so?**

Being able to film an episode of Rock the Park in Jack and Colton’s home state of Minnesota is extremely special for them. As Min-

nesotans, they are proud of the state they call home and when you have hidden gems like Voyageurs National Park in your own backyard, well, they could not wait to share that with their viewers across the country.

**What aspects of VNP are highlighted in this episode?**

Jack and Colton really tried to take in as much of this epic park as they could in the three days they filmed there. During that time, they spent time on three major lakes. They hiked the cliffs at Anderson Bay on Rainy Lake, boated around Namakan Lake and spent time house-boating and kayaking on Kabetogama Lake.

Their big adventure was to try to live the way the Voyageurs once did while



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Jack Steward and Colton Smith canoe this past summer in Voyageurs National Park for an episode that will appear Saturday.

**More information**

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spending a day and a night in the Voyageurs backcountry on the chain of lakes. They set out to hike to Locator Lake and then canoe to Quill Lake to camp. That involved a 150-yard canoe portage, which is something they’ve never done before. Oh, and they didn’t bring any modern food with them for their stay in the backcountry. If they didn’t catch it or gather it... they didn’t eat.

**Did the remote area of the park make filming difficult? If so, how were the challenges met?**

Jack and Colton are no strangers to grueling hikes and crazy weather, but even

growing up in Minnesota couldn’t quite prepare them for the Minnesota Mosquitoes they encountered while visiting the Voyageurs backcountry. The nasty insects made quite a meal of the guys.

Filming on the chain lakes was quite challenging as well, both for Jack and Colton experiencing the adventure and for the crew trying to film their experience. Imagine trying to film footage and capture audio all while canoeing across two lakes. Some of the challenges they experience are mentioned above, but you’ll have to tune in to the episode to find out how those challenges were met.

**Including our big mosquitoes, were there other surprises experienced during filming?**

The actual size and number of mosquitoes is hard to beat, but Jack and Colton learned a bit about themselves during their visit. They learned portaging a

canoe with all your camping gear is no easy task. They also learned that sometimes what looks like the easiest route can end up being the most difficult. Finally, they learned that a national park that’s full of water can lead to some truly awesome Northern Minnesota experiences.

**What do you hope viewers take away from the episode?**

First, we want people to know that Minnesota has a national park, and it’s a park unlike any other in the National Park Service. It’s rugged and raw and at the same time serenely beautiful. Second, we want to show people that you don’t have to be an expert to get out and experience a national park. Sometimes it pays to get out of the car, or in the case of Voyageurs, the boat and get off the beaten path. Together we own the most beautiful places on earth, so get out there start exploring them.

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*I look forward to continuing to serve District 4 as your Commissioner. I am thankful for all of your support.*

– Rob Ecklund



Paid for by the Committee to elect Rob Ecklund for County Commissioner, Dave Peterson, Treasurer, International Falls, MN.



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