

LOCALNEWS

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

Teen ambassadors return to Voyageurs National Park

BY ERIC MATHEWS
Staff Intern

After returning from a hike on the Ash River Trail last, teen ambassadors from the International Falls and the Twin Cities areas sat down in front of the Ash River Visitor Center to hear about issues park staff face in their day-to-day operations.

William Carlson, facility manager at Voyageurs National Park, spoke about the every day maintenance and recent flood issues within the park.

The teens participating were members of the National Park Teen Ambassador program, which gives high school students the opportunity to visit the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area and Voyageurs National Park to go camping, hiking, canoeing, and exploring. The program gives them the chance to be in and learn about these areas, and in return park



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC MATHEWS

Teen ambassadors meet with VNP facility manager William Carlson in front of the Ash River Visitor Center to discuss maintenance and recent flooding within the park last week.

rangers get feedback from the teens on how they can better educate and reach out to people their age.

“It’s good to get away from all the city life, technology, and just get time to hang out with friends,” teen ambassador Alyssa Wallace of St. Paul said of being in the

program.

Even though the majority of the students in the program were from around the Twin Cities area, there were a few teens who represented the Falls.

“It’s a different experience seeing people from different places, seeing new

things, and maybe teaching them different things,” said Falls native Ryan Rygh of his experience of being an ambassador. “(I joined the program to) see things from a different point of view.”

The teen ambassador program also allows teens who are thinking of a career

with the park service or the outdoors a chance to get a look at every day work in the park. While at the Ash River Visitor Center, the teens spoke with Carlson about what it’s like to keep up maintenance in the park. During the chat, Kain Medeiros of the Falls mentioned his aspirations to work with law enforcement within the park.

In the discussion, Carlson also explained how the ice road operates to some of the teen ambassadors who needed clarification. In the discussion, Carlson explained to the ambassadors things like how the ice road is “made” by plowing sections of the frozen lake, maintained, and how slippery it can get when there isn’t enough snow.

While in VNP over the weekend, the teens were also asked about how they thought the park could better handle floods and deal with issues the high water creates, such as beavers

chewing down trees along roads, and the inaccessibility of the park’s campsites.

The teens not only talked about recent flooding, but got an opportunity to help out. During sandbagging efforts, the ambassadors helped fill the sandbags for those in need.

“I liked getting out there and doing things I wouldn’t usually do,” said Rygh when asked about what he liked the most about being an ambassador.

“I could have done without waking up at 6:30 in the morning,” added Medeiros.

To make the teen ambassador program possible, the park service has partnered with the Wilderness Inquiry, the mission of which is to “connect people of all walks of life to the natural world through shared outdoor adventures,” said its website. Wilderness Inquiry staff work with the teen ambassadors directly to make sure their time in the program is worth while.

JULY CHIEFS REPORTS

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Reports of the International Falls police and fire chiefs were presented Monday to the Falls City Council.

Police Chief Mike Musich reported the department has begun an official Facebook page, which will be dedicated to crime preven-

tion and official business. He told the council July was very busy.

Later in the meeting, city Attorney Steve Shermoen said he’d been busy with a number of trials that have led to convictions and he credited police officers and department leaders with doing a great job.

Musich reported the July

3-5 activities kept officers busy at Smokey Bear Park, Riverfest, and fireworks.

He said the shift log activity shows: 469 general calls; 87 traffic stops; 32 medical assists; and 149 activities that generated incident complaint reports.

Fire Chief Adam Mannausau presented his department’s July activity report in

a brief to the council.

The report shows five fire calls, attendance at the Fourth of July activities and handling fireworks at the city and for Camp Kooch-ing.

Mannausau also serves as the ambulance chief, and reported the following activities in July: response to 68 calls via 911 and 51 transfers.

Mannausau handles blight ordinance violations and housing issues and his reported showed in July: six “tags” (notices to correct) for junk; six for autos; and 12 for long grass.

Ten properties were cleaned by the city in July, he said, and six letters were sent to property owners regarding blight and grass issues.



Mike Musich



Adam Mannausau

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Formerly Fairview HealthLine Home Care & North Star Hospice

Loss Support Group
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Sept. 2, 9, 16
From 6p.m. - 7:30p.m.
Every Tuesday

Bring a friend!

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Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

OUTDOOR SERVICES

Rainy Lake
Voyageurs Visitor Center Picnic Area
10:00 a.m.

July 13th & 27th
August 10th

Free rides from church at 9:15 am

If raining service at Church
820 4th Street, Int’l Falls

2014 International Falls Bass Championship

10 YEAR Anniversary

RAFFLE

GRAND PRIZE

2014 10th Anniversary Edition Arctic Cat 500 XT 4x4

- **3 - Night Master Jacuzzi Suite Stay on Beautiful Pelican Bay, Orr, MN**
(\$600 VALUE)
Donated by Oveson’s Pelican Bay Resort.
- **\$500 SHOPPING SPREE**
Donated by Stewart’s Super One.
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Drawing will be held Saturday, August 23, 2014 at 10:00 p.m.
Smokey Bear Park, International Falls, Minnesota

\$10 per ticket

Tickets available where posted and through board members of the International Falls Bass Championship.

www.ifallsbass.com

Need not be present to win. Must be 18 or older. Prizes not redeemable for cash. Sales tax may apply. LOTTERY LICENSE NO. X-92429-14-005

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It’s also a great time to schedule your well child exam. Give your child a healthy start this school year!

Ask about the Minnesota Vaccines for Children (MnVFC) Program, which helps to make vaccines accessible and affordable for all children.

Rainy Lake RURAL HEALTH CLINIC

Located in the Hospital | 1400 Highway 71 | Int’l Falls, MN | www.rainylakemedical.com