

# From the desk of Gus Denzik

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Canadian Outbacker,

Every year I make it a point to get this to you long before today but again it is almost here! We have three staff beside myself: Hannum Taylor, Noah Scott, Grace Larrick and Annemarie Laws. The 5 of us together have more than 35 years experience on this trip.

We leave at 9 AM on Saturday so be here at 8:30 to get checked in and ready. We will be back on the following Saturday and will call in route so that we can assure pick up just after we get into the driveway. Normally since we are traveling back we get in about 3:00PM but have had traffic issues as well as a breakdown a few years back and it put us back late.

**Check your paperwork! We need either of these options: a passport or a passport card, or a state issued Id and a birth certificate (both). Call the camp if you are having any issues ASAP!**

This will be my 18<sup>th</sup> year as a Canadian Outbacker. I have seen record highs, record lows and everything in between. We have had people who have never been out of the country and world travelers. We have had experienced campers and first timers to sleeping in a tent. In all, I have yet to hear anyone say that this was a not one of the greatest experiences of their lives. It has been for me something that I look forward to all year as the highlight of my ministry here at Butler Springs. I am glad that you are going to be a part of it! Please ask if you do not find the answer to any question that you have. Read the attached materials and even if it seems odd just follow the plan. Above all else pray, pray and the pray some more! Know that you are being prayed for as well. I am so excited!

In Christ,

*Gus Denzik*

Warrior Servant

Theme: Back to the Future... Philippians 4: 4-9 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Read, memorize and be ready...there will be a test!

**Fishing this year: You will need to ready to buy a license on the way up once we get into Canada if you are 18 or older! I am not sure what the cost is about \$50.**

## **Outback List of Important Things!**

***1. Passport or the new passport card or an original copy of your birth certificate and a state issued photo id- you need to get it now or contact me!!!***

2. Backpack – Shoulder Straps and a Waist belt adjusted to fit comfortably. (Must hold all of your gear for the trail and your share of group gear and food) Camp has some packs that are reserved on a first come first serve basis. We have also used water tight buckets. Bring what you have and camp can help supplement to find a combo that works for you and your canoe partner. We divide up into partners when we get started so don't worry about that.

3. Spare duffel bag – We go as lite as possible for the outback section and then use an extra bag for the remainder of your gear. A mesh laundry bag is also helpful. **Put your name on everything.**

4. Foot wear – Hiking boots with good arch and ankle support **OR** a decent (high quality) full foot latching sandal. Durability is important!

5. Sleep Gear – A sleeping bag rated 40+ degrees is fine. No rectangular bags! A backpacking style mummy bag is best. The rectangular ones are usually very heavy and bulky. It will limit you and weigh you down. Camp has a limited number of bags that can be reserved by calling or emailing Gus.

6. Fork, Spoon, bowl & cup for hot chocolate. No sense in taking anything else. This is all you need!

7. 2 Water bottles, small Gatorade bottles (24 oz or 32 oz) work fine.

8. Clothing: For the Outback

1 pair of nylon shorts to wear and one swim suit, sock combo (even if you just bring sandals socks feel good at night!), boots or heavy duty sandals (not flip flops) – One tee shirt to wear and one to pack, a wash rag and underwear to wear and one to pack, light weight jacket and pants – the ones that work well are the nylon warm-up type, they are light and don't absorb water easily – NO Jeans. Swim suit. Anything other than this - **You don't need it!**

9. Other necessary items

Backpacking style small tent ( we partner up and put people together so that we take what we need and spare the rest!), Rain jacket – light weight – ponchos are fine, Towel (not necessary in back country - we air dry), wash rag, hat, toothbrush and tooth paste, hair brush, deodorant – small dry, soap for duffel (we have special soap for the backcountry), Personal supply of TP, Bug cream, Sun Screen, light first aid needs – the staff will carry a more comprehensive kit, flashlight, matches or a safety lighter. Nothing in the back country can be in cans - no sprays of any kind.

10. Still Other potential Items:

Foam sleeping pad, sunglasses, hammock, small amount of cash, fishing gear, small Bible (nothing big!)

11. **Items not to bring:**

Hunting knives (folding pocket knives are okay), Electronic stuff – (These are usually valuable and would be left at the trail head in the vans which get very hot and could be broken into), illegal things or medications not prescribed for you. All meds should be left in their original bottles, large sums of money, everything else that you know better than to bring!

12. Pack all gear to be carried in large Ziplocs. This insures them being dry and fresh when you want to use them.