

Questions & Answers about the Canoes on Wheels (COW) Program

1. How did the program get started?

At a Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters Board of Directors retreat in August 2008, we evaluated how we could best move our youth outreach effort forward. We found that many local high school students did not have supervised paddling opportunities, and that schools faced many challenges in providing on-the-water activities as part of their curriculums.

With strong community support, we successfully raised funds to purchase equipment including eight canoes, trailer, and associated gear to be made available on a no-cost basis to local schools and youth groups for outdoor studies. In April 2009 we hosted our first no-cost educator workshop and trained ten participants to effectively use the canoes and to integrate outings into their school curriculums. More workshops will be scheduled on an on-going basis.

2. Who owns the equipment?

Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters.

3. Who provided funding for the equipment?

- American Canoe Association / L.L. Bean Club-Fostered Stewardship Program
- Douglas County Environmental Reserve Fund
- Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club
- FiredUpStudios.com
- Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters
- Murphy Oil Class Acts!
- National Bank of Commerce
- River Alliance of Wisconsin
- Solon Springs Lions Club
- Town of Solon Springs
- Upper St. Croix Lake Association
- Village of Solon Springs

4. How are on-going operational expenses being funded?

A COW "Companion Fund" has been established to pay for additional educator workshops and on-going operational expenses.

Companion Fund donors include:

- Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters
- Northwood Education Foundation
- Superior Optimist Club

5. Which schools and youth groups are participating (as of 7/9/09)?

- Douglas-Washburn County 4-H (Leisure Lake Camp)
- Grantsburg High School
- Northwood High School
- Solon Springs High School
- WITC-Asland

7-9-09