

# Badger Cruise, Camp & Dunes Weekend



June 24-27th with the Y-Trail Blazers in 2010

**“ALL ABOARD”.....This is the Trail Blazer event of the year that YOU DEFINITELY DO NOT WANT TO MISS!!! This our 4th annual Cruise, Camp & Dunes Weekend. There are so many fun things to do in the Ludington area that we have again extended the event from Thursday through Sunday to give us all more time to explore the town of Ludinton, Michigan, the dunes of Ludington State Park adjacent to our campsite, canoeing/fishing/hiking/biking, sand dune buggy rides, and the REALLY HUGE dunes of Silver Lake Dunes State Park.**

**To all graduating Y-Adventure Guides and Princesses, your fun together with your mom or dad does not have to end with your spring campout! This is the perfect way to start your summer and experience all the great times that await you in the Trail Blazers program.**

**This extended weekend mini-vacation is for the whole family so.....ALL ABOARD”**

**This event has it all for the first weekend of your summer break:**

- The excitement of a luxury cruise on the historic S.S. Badger Car Ferry from Manitowoc, WI to Ludington, MI!
- Tent camping under the stars enjoying all that Mother Nature has to offer!
- Exploring the Lake Michigan shoreline, sand dunes, wetlands, forest wilderness and climbing the spiral staircase of the historic Big Sable Point Lighthouse, all within the Ludington State Park and Manistee National Forest on Friday and or Saturday! Take to foot or use your pedal power to get you to and from Ludington and the State Park. Bring your bikes!
- Climb the huge Silver Lake State Park sand dunes, run/roll down, and then jump into the crystal blue waters of the lake. When you are good and tired, take a thrilling dune ride with the Silver Lake’s famous Mac Wood’s Dune Ride Company!
- Surfs up...take a break from touring the historic town of Ludington and enjoy the beach and the pristine waters of Lake Michigan!
- Friday night Trail Blazer Huge Meat BBQ & potluck camp dinner and bonfire!
- Saturday night Parents against kids volleyball and bonfire!
- Then come Sunday morning, we will take another luxury cruise from Ludington, MI back to Manitowoc, WI!
- Arriving back in Manitowoc at 12 Noon CT on Sunday, June 27th, the fun can continue by touring the Wisconsin Maritime Museum and the WWII USS COBIA submarine before heading back home!

### **The Weekend Agenda:**

- We will all meet at the S.S. Badger Car Ferry Dock in Manitowoc, WI, on Thursday (June 24) by 12:30 PM CT. We will condense all our gear as appropriate into the cars/vans/trucks that will be making the cruise with us, load these cars onto the ship along with our bikes and leave the remaining cars behind. There is free, secured parking by the dock in Manitowoc. The cruise departs at 1:55 PM. We arrive in Ludington, MI at 6:55 PM ET.
- We all will camp Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at Cartier Park Campground just 1.5 miles north of the Ludington dock. Check out the website below for the campsite map. We will have premium campsites with electric services. If you need an RV site, please let me know and I will reserve one for you. The Trail Blazers are covering a portion of the cost for the camp (excl. RVs).
- Spend Friday and Saturday exploring Ludington, the beaches, the forest, and the sand dunes of the Ludington State Park, adjacent National Forest, and the Silver Lake Dunes State Park, a short drive south. The Ludington State Park also has boats and canoes to rent. The fishing is outstanding!
- Friday night we'll have our traditional Trailblazer Huge Meat BBQ and family potluck campfire, followed by our Saturday night volleyball competition between parents and kids.
- Break camp early Sunday morning and meet at the S.S. Badger at 8 AM. The ship departs Ludington at 9:00 AM Eastern Time. We arrive back in Manitowoc at 12:00 Noon CT.
- Now if you would like to stay on the Ludington area side a bit longer on Sunday, the S.S. Badger makes another voyage from Ludington to Manitowoc late in the evening with an 8:30 PM ET departure and a 11:30 PM CT arrival time in Manitowoc.

### **Additional Details:**

- **Family Event:** Yes, as a reminder, the whole family is welcome to join in on this extended weekend Trail Blazer event!
- **Directions:** Head directly to the S.S. Badger in Manitowoc Wisconsin. Visit their website listed below for directions.
- **When Do We Have to Be at the Boat:** Remember, we will be meeting in the Badger's car ferry staging parking lot at 12:30 PM on Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. When you arrive, you will also have to check in with the Badger staff to pick up your tickets and pay your balance. Plan your travel time to Manitowoc accordingly.
- **Aboard SS Badger:** Buffet-style dining room, deli-style snack bar, spacious outside decks, free feature films in the movie lounge, free Badger Bingo & prizes, quiet room with maritime museum, video arcade, Badger "Boatique" Gift Shop for clothes/gifts/memorabilia. The S.S. Badger even has private staterooms with two beds and a bathroom for an additional fee. I may book at least one room for use as our Trail Blazer "Base Camp" on the cruise. Additional staterooms can be rented once we are on board for approximately \$40 each way. See the web link below for more information on the ship and all that it has to offer.
- **Our Base Camp - Cartier Park Campground:** Cartier is midway between historic Ludington and the Ludington State Park. It is a very well maintained, friendly, and modern tent & RV campground. All our campsites have electric service and access to water close by. There are modern bathroom & shower facilities very close to our campsites. Once I have a final number of participants, I will reserve our sites. Go to the campsite map on Cartier's website (address below)

and check the site map. The campground can accommodate RV's with full hook ups if anyone would like to bring an RV over on the Badger. Be sure to indicate your RV site needs on your email RSVP and your registration form.

- **How Do We Get Around Once We Get There, Do We Need a Car?:** Our campsite is about 1.5 miles north of Ludington and 1.5 miles south of the State Park. The campsite is connected to town via a nature bike trail to the south and the State Park is an easy ride to the north. We are strongly encouraging you to bring your bikes and therefore, one car per family is definitely not necessary. When we head out to the Silver Lake Dunes State Park, we'll car pool. To save on the auto transport fees, please consider combining your family's gear with another's into one vehicle for the trip to and from Ludington and split the vehicle fee! Parking at the Manitowoc SS Badger dock is easy, safe, and FREE!
- **Friday Night Trailblazer Huge Hunks of Meat BBQ and Pot Luck:** Bring a side or desert to pass and your own refreshments. The Trail Blazers will provide all meat & meat like products (possibly including Mr. Blocks famous Spam Burgers), buns, condiments, plates, utensils, and plenty of Tums, Pepacid, and Peptibismal.
- **What About the Other Meals:** By all means, you can and are encouraged to cook your meals over an open fire using the fire pits provided, or bring a camp stove. **DO NOT BRING YOUR OWN FIREWOOD.** Due to the significant problem with the non-native Emerald Ash borer insect, you must buy your campfire wood on site or at any local store; there are plenty of options. Now having said all this, consider traveling light. With all the great diners, pubs, and coffee places in Ludington and places to eat at the State Park, if you really don't want to schlep all your cooking gear and supplies, you certainly don't have to. For Thursday & Saturday night dinner, it's off to Ludington for me, Tarah and Lainey. We'll bike into town for Friday & Saturday breakfast and we'll likely have our lunches at the State Parks. On Sunday morning, we'll have breakfast on the Badger.
- **Fun at Ludington State Park & Silver Lake Dunes State Park:** Climb sand dunes, explore the shoreline and swim in Lake Michigan, enjoy miles & miles of hiking trails through wetlands, sand drifts, ravines, and hardwood forests. Ride your bike, canoe, rowboat, fish, or just enjoy the sun. There is much more to do for those seeking relaxation or more daring activities. See the Ludington web link below.
- **For more information....**
  - about the cruise ship and directions to the dock in Manitowoc visit [www.ssbadger.com](http://www.ssbadger.com)
  - about the campground [www.cpcampground.com](http://www.cpcampground.com)
  - about the Ludington State Park, Silver Lake State Park, and fun in Ludington visit [www.visitludington.com](http://www.visitludington.com)

#### **What Will This Extended Trail Blazer Weekend Cost:**

- **SS Badger Fees:** You are responsible for making your own S.S. Badger reservations no later than June 10<sup>th</sup>. A \$25 deposit is required when you make the reservation and the balance is due the day of departure. The Trail Blazers receive a 25% group discount on the RT 2010 posted passenger rates on our Badger travel. Autos, vans & SUVs are posted rate.

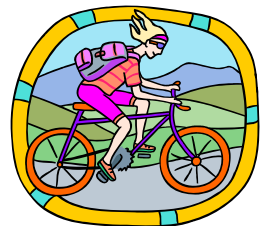
➤ **CALL the S.S. BADGER AT 1-800-841-4243. You must mention our group code name “Trailblazers” when making your reservation to receive the following Group Rates on the S.S. Badger (refer to attached letter):**

- Discounted adult round trip: \$81.75 each
- Discounted children (5-15, children <5 are free! ) round trip: \$29.25 each
- Autos, Vans, SUVs & Pickups round trip: \$118
- Refer to website for trailers, RV’s etc.

➤ **Campsite & Registration Fee:** Only \$45 per family for the 3 nights. The normal cost for each site is \$27 per night. The Trail Blazers will be covering the balance of the of campsite costs. Pay Tim at the Campsite.

If you have any questions, call our Trail Blazer Badger Event Coordinator, Tim Pasternak (his contact info on the registration form).

**THIS BIG EVENT WILL SOON BE HERE.....BLOCK OFF YOUR CALENDAR, PUT IN YOUR WORK VACATION REQUEST NOW.....MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS WITH THE BADGER.....RSVP ASAP....SOON AFTER, COMPLETE THE ATTACHED REGISTRATION FORM AND RETURN TO TIM.**



## SS Badger Cruise weekend of June 24 to 27, 2010

Please email Tim Pasternak immediately that you plan to attend. Once you have made your S.S. Badger cruise reservations, mail or email your Registration Form to Tim by June 10th.

Tim Pasternak  
1933 Oak Tree Trail  
Lake Villa, IL 60046

Home: 847-548-1461  
Work: 847-473-6085  
Cell: 847-644-3976  
tim.pasternak@baxter.com

Trail Blazer or Adventure Guide Parent(s) Name(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Trail Blazer or Adventure Guide Child's (or Children's) Name(s):

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home): \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile # that you plan to use on trip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be taking your car over to Ludington on the Badger: Yes / No

If not, who will you be sharing a car with?: \_\_\_\_\_

S.S. Badger Confirmation (required) #: \_\_\_\_\_

Any Special Campsite Needs (are you bringing an RV?): \_\_\_\_\_



May 6, 2010

Dear Tim,

Thank you for your recent inquiry on behalf of the YMCA Trail Blazers program. We look forward to the opportunity to serve your group. We will offer a special discount to those who sail aboard the S.S. Badger between June 21<sup>st</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Listed below are guidelines to expedite your group's reservations, ticketing, and discount qualifications:

- Your group code is **"Trailblazers."** When making reservations, changes, calling with questions, and claiming tickets, each individual must reference this code for discounted passenger fares.
- Reservations can be made together or individually through our main reservation system at **1-800-841-4243**.
- Your group members will receive a 25% discount off the current regular passenger fares at the time of booking. The current vehicle fares will apply. However, those traveling on a midnight sailing during the summer will receive an additional 10% off per auto.
- Sailing reservations must be made at least two days in advance of your departure and are subject to availability. **Discounted fares will not be extended to any individuals that have not reserved ahead or to those who do not reference the group code above.**
- Please note that a combined total of at least 15 paying passengers must book using your group code in order to receive the discount. General passenger fares will apply if the minimum is not met.

We look forward to your group's arrival and welcome you aboard the S.S. Badger!

Sincerely,

Sara Ewing  
Group Sales Manager