

## Reflections and Future Planning

### Parkland Crew - Peace River Canoe Brigade: Passing the Paddle

#### Create Pre-Brigade Relationship Days

- Book paddling team by May 2023 with established fees and commitments for the trip
- Moving every day is a challenge; therefore, we will take a night to prep ahead of time and to teach our youth to pack and check gear.
- Bring the crew together before the trips to establish relationships, talk through challenges and address preferences around group norms (dishes, kid support, boats, gear, transport, etc.)
- Create the brigade schedule and review it with the group
- Meet the boat captains online ahead of time with the Brigade Organizers

#### Equipment

- Equipment - List of daily equipment needed and coordinator each day to replace gear

#### Food

- Food - Meal Plan with list of food packed and location in the trailer cross-referenced with the provided meals ASAP
- Food allergies will be addressed by providing information ahead of time that we cannot accommodate specialized diets and their fee will be reduced
- Teaching crew ahead of time to be bear friendly and ensure that we're teaching food awareness
- We need to address the plastic, aluminum foil and reduce the pre-packaged food items
- Everyone has a daily lunch kit that includes utensils and a sandwich bag

#### Brigade Dynamics

- Slow down the pace of the brigade experience UNLESS it's a race; use this as a cultural experience of Canada and its beautiful and painful history lived out by the communities and people that we visit. Ask Brigade coordinators to communicate our team's goals for intergenerational paddling
- We need strong paddlers to support the youth boats ahead of time but we want paddling coaches who enjoy teaching and spending time with children and youth; let's have the adults apply for these positions
- Preliminary communication with our crew regarding weather complications - are you emotionally, mentally and physically ready for rain, cold and heat?
- More communication to our crew around campsite conditions – showers,
- Reflection on the day before dinner
- We need more prep materials on the Culture of Brigading to share with youth and adults and NON-big boat paddlers (show the video?)
- Stronger connection to the communities that we're landing in and teaching our groups the importance of the theatrics/symbolism of the landing

- Create cohorts of kids so that they are doing alternative activities with the ground crew or a land-based history teacher (museums, mini-golf, parks, etc.).

#### Driving and Maps

- Maps, distances and campground information clearer for ground crew
- Drivers must be comfortable with other brigade members driving their vehicles
- Create a bigger team to have enough ground crew

#### Social Media

- Get everyone online ahead of time

#### Post-Brigade

- Get four volunteers to stay behind and support the clean-up of the main trailer, tents, pads, debrief documents and thank you letters

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