

# Ultimate Sightseeing Challenge

## *5<sup>th</sup> Annual MITOC Adventure Race*



**When:** Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003 (5 AM – 8 PM)

**Where:** Mount Desert Island, Acadia National Park, Maine

**Who:** three-member co-ed teams of eager sightseers

**How:** biking, canoeing, hiking, ice-cream eating (rain or shine)

**Cost:** free!

### *Race Format*

- Self-administered, honor-system race
- Teams collect points by visiting various designated sights around the island
- The point value of a sight corresponds to how hard it is to get there (see appendix)
- Teams also collect points for finishing early and lose points for finishing too late
- The team with the most points at the end of the race wins

Each team designs its own course incorporating the following compulsory elements:

- **Registration:** Friday (23<sup>rd</sup>) evening at campground (preferred), also race-day 5 AM at the campground. Each team presents ready-to-go bicycles and ready-to-go packed backpacks with all required personal and team gear (see below)
- **Start:** 5:30 AM (just after sunrise), Bass Harbor Campground, in front of office
- **Finish:** before 8 PM (sunset), our campground near Bass Harbor. Failure results in point loss until 9 PM, disqualification thereafter.

### *Rules*

- The team must stay together at all times
- All members of a team must complete every claimed checkpoint together
- The team must travel solely under its own power (no engines, sails, etc...)
- No augmentation of bikes or canoes (no extra paddles, no wheels, etc...)
- You must carry everything you bring with you (no dumping/caching of gear)
- No biking around the one-way loop road in the wrong direction!!!
- All National Park regulations apply. The National Park prohibits the following:
  - Biking on hiking trails. You may push your bike along or carry it...
  - Biking to the top of Cadillac Mountain
  - Biking on carriage roads outside of Park's boundaries
  - Swimming in Eagle Lake, Jordan Pond and Bubble Pond
  - Hiking on trails closed for Peregrine Falcon nesting (check with race officials for up-to-date information)

## Logistics

The race is open to an unlimited number of teams. There is an optional canoe leg, and MITOC **will not** provide canoes in Acadia. Teams have three options with respect to canoes:

- 1) Rent a MITOC canoe (\$10) and transport it to and from Acadia
- 2) Rent a canoe on site, recommended outfitter is the National Park (they rent at north end of Long Pond), please see their webpage: <http://www.acadia.net/canoe/> for details.
- 3) Skip the canoeing segment altogether. It is possible but hard to win the race without canoeing.

### Getting to Acadia

- Each team should transport their own bicycles from Boston all the way to the start of the race. Very limited assistance available from MITOC, please inquire.
- It is highly recommended that teams arrive at Acadia on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Racers are encouraged to participate in the official MITOC Acadia Trip lasting all Memorial Day weekend. You have to be an official participant of the Acadia Trip to stay at our group campsite in Bass Harbor.
- Racers are responsible for their bicycles before, during, and after the race (i.e. come ready to lock your bike to a tree).
- No food or water is provided during the race.

## Gear

**Map:** MITOC will provide each team with one copy of the AMC Acadia map.

**Canoe (optional):** Each team is responsible for its canoe, see above.

**Bikes:** **Each team member must have a bike.** It is recommended but not required that the bike is capable of being ridden on the Park's carriage roads – a system of dirt roads criss-crossing the Eastern side of the Island. On the other hand, last year's winners used road-bikes...decide for yourself! Reaching certain checkpoints will require biking on busy regular roads, while reaching other checkpoints requires a dirtbike. If you don't have a bike, try to borrow one. If you are planning on renting one in Bar Harbor, do that on Friday. The club may transport a couple of bicycles on a trailer, but you should transport your own. The bikes that MITOC will transport will be tentatively loaded onto the MITOC trailer whenever that trailer departs for Acadia (more details later).

**Required personal safety-gear:** Without exceptions, each team member must carry

- Bike helmet (during biking section). No helmet, no race!
- 1 quart of water (checked at the start).
- Non-cotton shirt/bottom layer (polypro, coolmax, etc...)
- Windbreaker/shell top layer (waterproof recommended)
- Enough food for the day
- Headlamp/flashlight with batteries for at least 6 hours of light

**Required team safety-gear:** Without exceptions, each team must carry

- Space blanket or equivalent
- Appropriate gear to repair flat tires

**WARNINGS AND DISCLAIMERS:** If you want to race, you will have to sign a full liability waiver form. Note that you are responsible for your own rescue logistics and costs in case of an accident.

## Appendix: Acadia Sightseeing points

The following table lists the deterministic component of each sight's point value. Just after the start of the race, **a random number of up to 50 more points will be randomly added to five of these sights** drawn from a hat, forcing everybody to re-optimize their planned route on the spot. Additional 50 points will be awarded to teams that fulfill the secret task, to be revealed at the start. See the official park map for the location of these checkpoints (except for Kaahdin): <http://www.nps.gov/acad/ppmaps/acadmap1%2Epdf>

Checkpoint (summit of mountain unless stated otherwise)	Point value
Mount Katahdin via Knife Edge	1178
Canoe Long Pond north to south and all the way back	227
Mount Champlain	109
Cadillac Mountain	92
Day Mountain by bike	86
Sargent Mountain	82
Norumbega Mountain	82
Full ocean submersion at Sand Beach (all team members)	70
Pemetic Mountain	69
Parkman Mountain	69
Penobscott Mountain	68
Beehive	67
Hike the Wonderland Trail to the Ocean	66
Acadia Mountain	65
Mansell Mountain	64
Beech Mountain	63
Bernard Mountain	46
Bubble Rock	45
Otter Cliff via road	42
Hulls Cove Visitor Center	40
Dorr Mountain	38
Pretty Marsh Picnic Area	30
Bar Harbor ice cream shop	24
Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse	22
Finishing before 8 PM (points per hour, prorated)	30
Finishing after 8PM, before 9PM (points per hour, prorated)	minus 60

**Arriving at the campground after 9 PM will result in disqualification !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**