

Dear family and friends.

We have arrived at our second stop, Aitkin MN. We are safe, warm and dry in the first Lutheran church.

On the first day of our second stretch it was snowing and the wind was blowing. We were supposed to go thirty miles that day, but we ended up only going thirteen because of the cold wet snowy weather. Mary and Sophia could not feel their feet so we had to stop and set up camp very quickly. Colby was a hero in getting the water boiling and we all worked to get the tents up and the sleeping bags out of their sacks. Once we were warmish and dry-ish we had a little lunch, it was actually pretty fun. We talked and laughed, ate and slept the day away. We set up all of the tents, but the girls ended up just squishing in the boys tent to stay warmer and just to chill.

We woke the next morning to three inches of snow on everything. The day ended up beautifully sunny and relatively warm. We paddled hard and made up some of the lost miles. We had three days of non-rainy weather in this stretch bringing our grand total of not rainy weather to four days of nice-ish weather.

Unfortunately, on short notice, Sam C. had to leave us to go home due to the death of a close friend. We miss his presence greatly and we look forward to his return.

On the fourth night of the week we had hard rain, but we were motivated to hurry to Aitkin the next day by the threat of more snow that never came. THANK GOODNESS!!!

We are now nestled on a very cushy couch in the youth room of the church with lights, warmth, and a kitchen readily available!

We miss you all and look forward to seeing you soon, but only after we have many more adventures!

With toasty warm regards,

The Canoe Trip

By: Colby, Mary and Jemiah

PS-be happy it's worm down there, no really we don't care what you say, it is worm down in Iowa. The leaves aren't even all the way out yet up hear.