

'WOLF' ON THE WATER AN ADVENTURE ON THE KENNET and AVON CANAL



This is the narrow boat **'Falcon Adam'** which will be home to members of 'Wolf' Cub Pack for eight days and nights from the 24th of July until the 1st of August.

Falcon Adam is moored at Aldermaston Wharf, on the Kennet and Avon canal six miles west of Reading and is owned by the Thames and Kennet Narrow Boat Trust which is a charitable organisation providing boats for youth and community groups such as ours. Pictures of the boat and information on the trust can be obtained from their website at www.narrowboattrust.co.uk

The boat sleeps twelve people and we will therefore be splitting the trip into two parts with eight cubs crewing each leg, Saturday 24th of August will see us departing at approximately 8.30am from Aldermaston to set off for the beautiful city of Bath, it is estimated that the journey will take three and a half days at the mindblowingly peaceful speed of NOT MORE than 4 MPH. The second crew will join us in Bath for the return trip.

During the trip those cubs taking part will have the opportunity to learn about the handling of a narrow boat on this lovely canal. Cubs will learn to steer the boat, operate the locks and work together as a team to ensure the safety and comfort of all on board whilst enjoying the sights of a bygone era and a different way of life.

The Kennet and Avon is one of the most picturesque of England's inland waterways, its course takes us through the Vale of Pewsey and Bradford on Avon birthplace of William Shakespeare, before reaching Bath around Tuesday lunchtime (weather and traffic permitting). This will give two half days to explore the city with its Roman remains.

We will not be taking a TV nor will MP3's, radios or other music devices be allowed and only leaders will carry mobile phones (the numbers will be available to parents). Books, board games and an imagination are all welcome. A full kit list will be published nearer the time.

The whole of the canal and its banks teem with wildlife, Herons are a fairly common sight and Kingfishers may be spotted by the sharp eyed as well as coots, swans and ducks. The hedgerows abound with insect life and wild flowers. Along the way we will be working on our Naturalists' Badge by studying the flora and fauna. The cook's badge, we will expect all the cubs to help with cooking etc and work towards the Water Activities badge.

We will also encourage cubs AND leaders to take part in a small show on the last night of the cruise for each crew. This may take the form of a joke, song; trick or any other form of entertainment either singly or with a small group of friends to mark the end of four days together and this will contribute towards the entertainer's badge. Whilst on board the crew will be split into two 'watches' with one watch taking care of the boat (steering, locking, water replenishing etc) and the second watch taking care of the catering and relaxing in between duties and the watches will swap duties every half day.

All crew members WILL wear buoyancy aids when not seated inside the boat, this includes when steering and all activities on and off the boat will be supervised. The boat itself is fully equipped with life jackets, first aid kits etc. At least two of the leaders are fully qualified Inland Waterway Skippers holding a Royal Yacht Association Certificate.

About two weeks before we depart we will arrange a compulsory training session for all taking part to learn about the handling and operation of locks, this will take place on the Grand Union Canal just outside Hemel Hempstead. Training will be split into two sessions, morning and afternoon with eight cubs on each session.

Because we have to be aware of the mix of gender on each crew it will not be possible for cubs to book for one or other of the legs but they must be available for either. We will however give as much notice as possible as to which leg you are on BUT this may be subject to change.

The cost of the trip will be £110. Per cub, this will include boat hire, insurance, safety equipment, food, transfer from the cub hut to Aldermaston wharf on the 24th July and transfer from Aldermaston Wharf on the 1st of August. It is hoped that we can also do the switchover in Bath taking the new crew out and returning the old crew but we will need a volunteer to drive the mini bus for this to happen. Time and weather permitting it will also include a trip on the Avon Valley Steam Railway www.avonvalleyrailway.org on Wednesday afternoon (if this does not take place a refund equal to the group ticket price will be made to each cub).

Places are limited on this trip; we have thirty cubs in the pack and space for only sixteen on the trip. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Bookings must be accompanied by a non refundable deposit of £30. The first sixteen to apply will be assured of a place, numbers 17 to 20 will have their cheques returned and be given a reserve place should anyone drop out. Reserves would then pay the deposit to whoever's place they are taking.

Please DO NOT post this but instead bring it along to our next meeting which is February 24th 2010.

I _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile _____

Parent/Guardian of _____

Wish to reserve a place for him/her on the Narrow Boat 'Falcon Adam'.

I understand that the cruising dates may be either 24/7 to the 28/7 OR 28/7 to the 1/8 2010.

I enclose cash/cheque for £30 made payable to 'Wolf' cub pack.

Signed _____ Date _____

