



# More Information

## river trips

ABOUT: Wilderness toilet facilities; aka: "The Groover"

We've been worrying about human waste on river trips for a long time - so you don't have to. But if you're still concerned, here's your number one guide for going number two on the river.

### THE GROOVER

**1. The equipment:** Our solution for pooping in the woods is what we affectionately call "The Groover", a sturdy metal or plastic box with a toilet seat that takes care of all our solid human waste. Originally a re-purposed military-surplus ammunition box, there are now custom built solutions [\(in multiple colors!\)](#) Sure, it's different than home, but your interaction with it will be familiar.

**2. The location:** Prime. Most camps have an established spot that combines privacy and convenience while maximizing view. We'll tell you where the Groover is as soon as we can when we get to camp (so you don't find yourself camping in the bathroom) and we'll mark the trail clearly (so you don't lose yourself looking for it). But rest assured, it'll be private.

**3. The handwash:** We're going to share a lot of things on our trip; sunscreen, snacks, stories, etc. but we don't want to share our germs. To help, we'll set up a handwash station (or two) and encourage (or insist) you use it after visiting the Groover (and before entering the kitchen). Illness can spread quickly and being sick on a river trip is not fun; washing our hands is the best prevention. Expect some handwringing about handwashing.

**4. The routine:** Once the Groover and handwash are set up, the Groover is open for business; but it may not be open for you. To control traffic flow and maintain privacy, we use a "key" (usually a ziplock or Tupperware container with toilet paper in it). The key lives at the handwash station but travels to the Groover with the user, (and hopefully back, see Mistake #2. below). If the key is at the handwash: go go; if it's not: wait wait.

**5. The gist:** It's not that big of a deal. It's cleaner than the gas station and more private than the airport (and we've all survived those, right?) And we guarantee that the view is better than both.

### GROOVER TMI

Our Groovers can hold about 50 movements each and weigh about 45 pounds when they are full.

Deferentially, the responsibility for cleaning The Groover at the end of the trip falls to the Lead Guide, (and yes, they think of you – deferentially)

At the end of the trip, Groovers get cleaned in a special "SCAT" machine. You can watch a video [here](#) - (if you're a sicko)

Sometimes, when we're bored, we'll introduce The Groover using the last name of our favorite guide (always funny). Or manager (always funnier). If you get instructions on how to use *The Pascoe* or *The Farley*, it's because we love Kelley and Ry.

"Groover" is a proper noun ("Where's The Groover?") that became a verb ("I need to groove.") Just like Google.



### THE MISTAKES

There are only a couple of boo boos you can make when making a doo doo:

**1. Liquid waste in the Groover.** Like sneezing during a movie, it's not that big of a deal if only one person does it. But everyone!? Then it's a problem. If we all pee in the Groover, the Groover fills up before we're ready and then we could run out of room (which creates all sorts of problems you don't want to think about and we don't want to deal with). Liquid waste has its own rules specific to the environment, but can always go in the river; you can either deposit it directly yourself or use the pee bucket. Whichever method you choose; everyone will appreciate your effort.

**2. Forget to return the key.** Right? Eventually someone counts, but in the meantime, a lot of people dance. Everyone is aware (and afraid) of this crisis, so it rarely occurs and is always humorous (and forgiven). But still, you don't want to be "that person".