

Wander Staff to Be at Local Events

Wander Wisconsin staff will be giving out information about trips at three events in Dane County in April.

The evening of April 15, 6-7:30 p.m. Wander staff will be at LaFollette High School, April 17, 6-7:30 p.m. staff will be at Memorial High School, and on April 29 from 6-8 p.m. they will be at the Dane Region AFTER SCHOOL spring fair at the Alliant Energy Center.



Wander Wisconsin Trip Leaders
Joshua Ludke and Whitney Volker.

These are opportunities for youth and parents to pick up information about Wander trips, look at pictures and video from past trips and meet Wander Program Director Kathy Smith and Division Director Jason Anderson.

Scholarships Available for Wander Trips

The newly created Wander Wisconsin Scholarship Fund is available through the Wisconsin Youth Company and is intended to provide a unique summer opportunity to youth for whom the cost is prohibitive. If you or a friend are interested in applying for a Wander Wisconsin scholarship, please review the guidelines below:

If a child is eligible for a free hot lunch through their school district, the family may qualify for a 50 percent scholarship toward a Wander Wisconsin trip with the scholarship not to exceed \$500. If a child is eligible for a reduced hot lunch, a family may qualify for a 25 percent scholarship toward a Wander Wisconsin trip with the scholarship not to exceed \$250. To receive an application contact Kathy Smith, Program Director, Wander Wisconsin, 608-276-9782, ext. 24 or ksmith@wisconsinyouthcompany.org.



Whereabouts

A seasonal newsletter from Wander Wisconsin

SPRING 2008

www.wanderwisconsin.org

Safety, Fun and Friends Are Parents' Priorities

Being safe comes first. After that it's having fun and making friends. Leeta Russell, 12, has experienced all three so her parents, Mary and Dave Russell, don't worry too much about her when she's on a Wander Wisconsin trip, especially now that she's gone on several trips.

"For her first trip she was 10 and it was hard for us but now I know she's in good hands," said Mary Russell.

Leeta also happened to be the only girl on her first trip but her mom says she felt "perfectly at home."

"She really bonded with Lua (one of her trip leaders) on the trip," said Mary. "She really likes all the trip leaders."

Leeta's family lives near Hillsboro, WI having moved there from Madison two years ago.

"It's been hard for her living in a smaller community," said Mary. "But Wander Wisconsin is good for her. She comes home with a new friend every time she goes on a trip."

Leeta's father noted that when she comes home from a trip at first all they notice is that she's "tired and dirty."

"Then she gets rested and cleaned up and spends all her time talking about how great it was," said Dave. "The kids make friends real quick on these trips."

Mary Russell also appreciates the kinds of things Leeta learns on a Wander trip.

"Leeta's an only child so it's good for her to learn to adjust to different personalities

and viewpoints," said Mary Russell. "She's learned that others' needs are just as important as hers and she's learned how to get along and be diplomatic."

Both parents have seen a growth in responsibility in their daughter. Mary Russell noted how the campers are given a budget and they go to the store and do the shopping for the food they need for their trip.

"The first time she did that she went on and on about how they had to stay within their budget and had to make decisions about what they could afford to buy," said Mary.

Mary and Dave Russell are pleased with their daughter's Wander trip experiences.

The only problem now is deciding which one Leeta will sign up for this coming summer.

"She likes the more adventurous ones," said Mary.

Mary and Dave Russell believe that for any young person a Wander trip will "make their summer."

"It gives them memories that will last forever," said Mary Russell.



Wander trips give youth a chance to try new things.



Friendship is a big part of Wander Wisconsin trips.

Unique adventures and camping experiences for youth.



Wander Wisconsin is a program of Wisconsin Youth Company
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Experienced Wanderers and New Campers Love the Trips



Leeta Russell

Perry Cooper, 9, and Leeta Russell, 12, may not have much in common. After all he's a nine year old boy from Madison and Leeta's an almost teenager from Hillsboro, but they agree on one thing: Wander Wisconsin trips are fun and kids should go on them.

Perry, a fourth grader from Randall Elementary School, is new to the Wander program. His first trip was last summer. He also attended the fall campout in October.

"It was really good," said Perry. "We got to go fishing and do lots of other stuff."

Leeta's a seasoned veteran of Wander trips. She's been on three starting with "Skill Sampler" two summers ago where she got to try out canoeing and caving.

"You learn new skills and you learn about people too," said Leeta.

Leeta said she enjoyed getting to know kids she "wasn't used to seeing" and that the kids she met were "usually really nice."

"The one you get to know the best is the person you share a tent with," she said.

Leeta hasn't decided what trip to take this coming summer.

"I might take 'Ultimate Angler' because I want to get better at fishing," she said.

Perry's advice: "If any kids asked me I'd say they should go because Wander Wisconsin is really fun and I like it a lot!"



Perry Cooper

Director's Message



Oh the weather outside is frightful,
But a Wander trip so delightful,
And since we've got places to go,
Stop the snow! Stop the snow! Stop the snow!

Knowing the adventuresome spirits each of you brings to a Wander experience, I can only imagine how much fun you have had playing in the 80+ inches of snow we have had so far this winter. I am sure your winter days have been filled with sledding, snowshoeing, ice-skating, cross-country or downhill skiing adventures; not to mention building a snow sculpture or two.

Wander Wisconsin is a wonderful trip and travel program offering unique adventures and camping experiences for youth ages 8-16. Many of our parents have asked if we do any trip and travel programs like the Wander Wisconsin adventures for families. The answer is YES! Please read the article in this newsletter on Generation Tours.

Oh, as I write this article, we are under yet another snow advisory for south-central Wisconsin with an anticipated snow accumulation of 7-9 inches. Get out and have snow fun!

Kathy Smith

Thirty Earn Credit Towards Wander Trips

Thirty families earned credit towards Wander Wisconsin trips by selling fruit and fudge during the Wisconsin Youth Company fall fundraiser.

The top two fundraisers were Joseph Wojner from Holy Apostles AFTER SCHOOL program in the Waukesha Region and Logan Bittner from Hawthorne AFTER SCHOOL in the Dane Region. Joseph sold \$438.50 worth of fruit and fudge and Logan sold \$206.50 worth. Both boys earned \$450 credit towards the Wander trip of their choice.

Seventeen families earned \$15 credits; six families earned \$25; four earned \$35 and one earned \$45.

Money from the sale goes to the Scholarship Fund to help families who can't afford the fee to send their children on Wander Wisconsin trips.

Generation Tours: Wander Style Trips for Families

How long does a family vacation last? A day... a week... a lifetime!

Many of our parents have asked if we do any trip and travel programs like the Wander Wisconsin adventures for families. The answer is yes!

Generation Tours offers travel opportunities with an educational component making fun adventures exciting learning experiences for the whole family. Trips are led by trained youth education coordinators, offer flexible itineraries, and include daylong, weekend and extended vacations.

Travel together with parents, grandparents, other family members and friends. Leave the planning and driving to us. Trips leave from our Madison outpost or our Waukesha office.

Spring Trips

Sleep with the Fishes-Shedd Aquarium
April 11-12, 2008

Grab your sleeping bag and pillow and join us for an overnight adventure at Shedd Aquarium in Chicago.

American Girl Place, Chicago
April 27, 2008

Visit the American Girl Museum, eat lunch in the café and take your seats for "The American Girl Revue" theatre performance.

Wicked-Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Chicago
May 18, 2008

This spellbinding musical takes a look at how two unlikely friends, one born with emerald-green skin, smart, fiery and misunderstood, the other beautiful and very popular, grow to be the wicked witch of the West and Glinda the good Witch.



Summer Trips

Oceans of Fun Sea Lion Adventure, Milwaukee Zoo
June 14, 2008

Go behind the scenes and enjoy a personal marine mammal interactive program.

Bristol Renaissance Faire
July 19, 2008

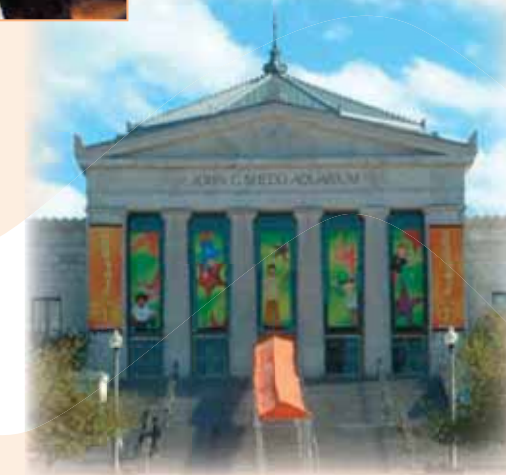
Your family will enjoy all the activities the Faire has to offer: story tellers, gamesters and the most fun cast of characters to be found anywhere in the shire.

Set Sail with the S/V Denis Sullivan, Discovery World at Pier Wisconsin
August 23, 2008

Join the crew and help set the sails, coil the line or take a turn at the helm on the S/V Denis Sullivan, a three-masted schooner.

Dozin' with the Dinos-Field Museum
June 27-28, 2008

Sue the T.rex is having a sleepover! Join us for a night of family workshops, tours and performances at the Chicago Field Museum.



You can sleep overnight at Shedd Aquarium in Chicago on the "Sleep With the Fishes" trip April 11-12.

Fall and Winter Trips

Horseback Riding
September 21, 2008

Mississippi Fall Colors Boat Trip
October 19, 2008

Breakfast With Santa
Old World Market, Elkhart Lake, WI
December 6, 2008

Eagle Watching Days, Sauk Prairie
January 17, 2009 (Tentative Date)

The AZTEC World, Chicago Field Museum
February 7, 2009

Family Overnight Trips

Chicago's Magnificent Mile Lights Festival
November 22-23, 2008

Kick-off the holiday season with a stage show featuring Mickey Mouse and his Disney friends, carolers, children's activities, live entertainment, a parade, fireworks and of course, a visit from Santa.

Mall of America
October 30-November 2, 2008
(Coincides with Wisconsin Education Association teacher's conference.)

Share in the fun, thrills and excitement at Nickelodeon Universe, the nation's largest indoor family amusement park, shop 'til you drop at Mall of America, explore the various interactive exhibits at the Science Museum, enjoy a sleepover at the Underwater Adventures aquarium and celebrate Halloween, Mall of America style!

Find out more about our exciting Family Trips by calling Kathy Smith at 608-276-9782 ext. 24.