

2009 Wander Wisconsin Summer Trip Calendar

Travel Clubs

June 29-July 3 Travel Club I
 July 27-31 Travel Club II
 August 24-29 Travel Club III

Tent Treks-Ages 10-13

June 21-26 Wildcat Mountain
 July 12-17 Devils Lake/
 Maquoketa Caves
 July 26-31 Newport State Park
 August 9-14 Wisconsin River

Kid Campouts-Ages 8-10

June 22-26 Devils Lake
 July 13-17 Kettle Moraine
 State Forest
 July 20-24 Buckhorn State Park
 August 3-7 Yellowstone Lake
 August 17-21 Black River State
 Forest

Teen Adventures-Ages 13-16

June 29-July 3 Travel Club
 July 19-24 River Runner,
 Northern Highlands
 State Forest
 August 2-7 Teen Backpack,
 Porcupine Mountains
 State Park

This is a preliminary listing of planned trips for summer 2009. Prices and detailed descriptions of trips will be available online or in the 2009 Wander Wisconsin summer brochure which will be available in February. Contact Cheri Wilson, Wander Wisconsin Program Coordinator, 608-276-9782, ext. 24 for more information.

New Theme Park Visit Planned



Continued from page 1

Caving is only on the Madison trip. Horseback riding is for the Middleton trip. Wilson said they took kids to the Kalahari Waterpark for a winter break trip and the kids were asking about visiting the indoor amusement park. It features a six story ferris wheel, elevated go karts, 24 bowling lanes, an African themed carousel, high definition golf and hundreds of arcade games.

Each week Travel Club can accommodate up to 26 kids. Travel Club is for kids ages eight to 12.



Whereabouts

A seasonal newsletter from Wander Wisconsin

FEBRUARY 2009

Back to Nature with Wander Wisconsin

Wander Wisconsin camping trips will feature more time at nature centers and area state parks and less time at water parks this summer.

“We are a camping program and we should be teaching kids about the environment,” said

Cheri Wilson, Wander Wisconsin Director. “Most of the kids we serve have been to the water parks because they do that with their families.”

The popular Travel Club which is offered by Wander Wisconsin during winter and spring break and summer will still include trips to water parks. Wilson, who organizes the summer trips, said she wanted to take advantage of Wisconsin’s natural environment.

“We have these wonderful nature centers and the state parks have great interpretive centers,” she said.

In planning the trips she looked for parks that Wander trips have never been to or have not been to in several years.

Continued on page 2



Campers stay in two person tents and use state parks as a base on many Wander trips.

Unique adventures and camping experiences for youth.

Two Travel Clubs Planned for Spring Breaks

Wander Wisconsin will offer two travel clubs this spring, one for the Middleton Schools and one for Madison Schools.

“We were planning a travel club for Madison Public Schools spring break April 6 to 10,” said Cheri Wilson, Wander Wisconsin Program Director. “Then some Middleton parents said ‘Why don’t you do one for us?’”

Middleton Schools have their spring break March 23-27.

Both series of trips will feature a visit to Chula Vista Waterpark, a trip to an area nature center, a visit to the new Kalahari indoor amusement park, a day of spelunking, caving at Popp’s Cave or horseback riding.

Continued on page 4



Caving at Popp’s Cave (above) is part of the fun planned for the Madison Spring Break Travel Club.

WANDER WISCONSIN

1201 McKenna Blvd.
 Madison, Wisconsin 53719
 608.276.9782 • 800.238.1174
 www.wanderwisconsin.org

A program of
 Wisconsin Youth Company, Inc.



Wander Wisconsin is a program of Wisconsin Youth Company
 1201 McKenna Blvd. • Madison, Wisconsin 53719

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Permit No. 2428
 MADISON, WI

Summer Wander Trips to Focus on Nature

Continued from page 1

Overnight trips will include visits to places like Horicon Marsh, McKenzie Environmental Center, Center and the International Crane Foundation. They'll also visit state parks like Buckhorn and Yellowstone Lake. "We want kids to get a real connection with where they live," said Wilson. "If they have a better understanding of the outdoors, they'll develop a relationship with it and they'll be better stewards of their environment."

"We want to offer affordable opportunities for kids to spend time in the outdoors," she said. It would be very expensive for a family to buy all of the camping equipment provided by Wander Wisconsin she noted.

Wilson said she thought families would find the new emphasis on nature by Wander Wisconsin appealing.

"The Madison area in particular is very green and people are very ecologically-minded," she said.

"The Madison area in particular is very green and people are very ecologically-minded," she said.

The trips are divided by age with shorter introductory camping trips of two nights called Kid Campouts for ages eight to 12. Tent Treks which are five nights long are for ages 10-13 and Teen Adventures are for ages 13-16. There will also be one day trips to state parks where Wander campers can take advantage of free nature programming from the park rangers.



Long time Wander trip leaders Josh Ludke and Hope Edgren will be back this summer. Ludke started with Wander Wisconsin in 2001 and Edgren in 2008. Dave Weber, who has been a trip leader since 2003, will not be returning but will be available to substitute. Weber, a retired school teacher from Marshfield, WI, wants to spend more time with his grandchildren.

For a complete listing of trips visit www.wanderwisconsin.org.

WYC Executive to Retire

Nancy Goodell, Executive Director of Wisconsin Youth Company, the parent company of Wander Wisconsin, is retiring effective June 30, 2009. She has led the organization for 21 years. Wander Wisconsin began as a week-long summer camp session in 1988 and under Goodell's leadership has expanded to a year round adventure

travel camp for children and youth. "I'm very proud of Wander's growth and the wonderful outdoor opportunities it provides for young people," said Goodell.

Wander Wisconsin, which is accredited by the American Camp Association, serves about 300 children and youth

ages eight to 15 each summer and during school year breaks. The program offers everything from one day trips to area water parks to introductory camping overnights to two week backpacking tours. The program coordinator is Cheri Wilson.

Director's Message



Greetings from Wander Wisconsin! I am enjoying my first Wisconsin winter (I moved here last Spring from Florida) and am eagerly learning all the wonderful wintry landscape changes, and discovering all the exciting outdoor winter activities. My children and I have been enjoying sledding, skiing and we have plans to snowboard and ice fish and I can't wait to strap on a pair of snow shoes!

Now that we have warm coats, boots and long underwear we have embraced winter and all it has to offer.

Winter is often depicted as bleak, gloomy, and joyless. I have found winter to be amazing, dazzling and inspiring. A walk in the woods brings a time of quiet tranquil discovery. Everything looks and feels distinctly different from the other seasons. I love to hear the crunch of the snow under my boots and enjoy the appearance of the bare gangly trees covered in snow. The sight of animal tracks reminds me that I am not as alone as I feel in the winter forest.

We have been busy planning the Summer Wander schedule. This summer we will incorporate more of the remarkable Madison area nature centers and natural areas into our trip itineraries. The Madison area is abundant with beautiful natural environments and great places to grow our connection and passion for the outdoors. We will be visiting places like Horicon Marsh, The Aldo Leopold Legacy Center, International Crane Foundation and the McKenzie Environmental Education Center to name a few. I feel that children today lack the opportunity to just plain mess around in the woods, a pond or a creek but we hope to offer many of those opportunities at Wander. For most parents today, sending your kids outside to play is different then when we were kids. Lack of green space and safety concerns means less opportunity for children to establish a relationship and sense of community with the environment. Studies have shown that when kids spend time in nature, it nurtures, educates and instills a sense of environmental stewardship. We hope you will join us this summer to get outside and wander Wisconsin!

"I like to play indoors better 'cause that's where all the electrical outlets are." From the book Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv

Bitter Cold Changes Winter Break Activities

It may have been bitter cold but that didn't stop the 22 kids who participated in Wander Wisconsin's winter break program from having fun.

The group was originally scheduled to go sledding and snow tubing at Christmas Mountain in Wisconsin Dells on Monday, Dec. 22. But sub zero wind chills caused Wander Program Director Cheri Wilson to schedule a trip to the Kalahari Waterpark instead. She moved the Christmas Mountain trip to Tuesday, Dec. 23 but it was too cold to go that day as well.

"They were supposed to go on a hayride and be sledding for three hours," said Wilson. "We decided that just wouldn't work."

She was also worried that the group would be delayed returning from the Dells due to heavy holiday traffic. It took

them an hour and a half to return from the Kalahari on Monday, a trip that normally takes an hour or less.

The group went bowling, played laser tag, went sledding for a shorter period of time at Elver Park and saw a movie instead of freezing at Christmas Mountain.

Winter break activities were based at Wisconsin Youth Company's Madison office on McKenna Blvd.



Kids participating in the Wander Wisconsin winter break program enjoyed playing board and card games.

Three Trips for Teens Planned for Summer 2009

Getting teenagers to participate in camping trips may be one of the biggest challenges of all for Wander Wisconsin.

They may have summer jobs. They may feel they are too old for summer camp. They may not want to be away from their friends.

"We try to appeal to their sense of adventure," said Cheri Wilson, Wander Wisconsin Program Director. "Our teen trips give them a chance to try something new, to be away from home and to be with kids their own age."

Three opportunities for ages 13-16 are being offered this summer:

a travel club, a river runner canoe trip and a backpacking trip to the Porcupine Mountains in Upper Michigan.

Wilson said the last trip is scheduled for August 2-7 so as to not interfere with the start up of school sports and band activities.



A backpacking trip to the Porcupine Mountains in Upper Michigan is planned for teens in August.

Wilson also wanted people to know that lack of equipment should not prevent teens from signing up for the camping trips.

"We provide all the camping gear - stoves, cooking gear and tents," she said. "We have extra frame backpacks if they need one."