

## Three Trips Will Include Biking On State Trails

Three Wander Wisconsin trips will include biking this summer. "We've got such good bike trails in the state," said Cheri Wilson, Wander Wisconsin program director. "We really should take advantage of them."

A new biking trip for teens was added to this year's schedule. It includes a day biking on the Capital City Trail around Madison and two days biking on the Military Ridge State Trail while

based at Blue Mound State Park. Two Kid Campouts for ages eight to 11 also feature biking. The Wildcat Mountain State Park trip will give campers a chance to see the famous tunnels on the Elroy-Sparta State Trail. The Kohler-Andrae State Park trip includes a visit to the Military Ridge State Trail near Blue Mound State Park.

The Capital City Trail is paved and rated "easy to intermediate." The Military Ridge and Elroy-Sparta are both crushed limestone and rated "easy." Capital City winds through farmlands and forest as well as city streets. Military Ridge is mostly rural but passes

through or near small towns like Verona and Mt. Horeb. Elroy-Sparta is best known for passing through three rock tunnels. One is three quarters of a mile long.

"These trips offer the ease of doing something familiar like biking yet have the adventure of going to a new place or doing something unique like going through a train tunnel," said Wilson.



# Whereabouts

A seasonal newsletter from Wander Wisconsin

SPRING 2010

## Canoe Camping Trip to Cover New Stretch of River

Wander Wisconsin's popular canoe camping trip will cover a new stretch of the Wisconsin River this summer. The trip, which includes three nights of camping on the river, will go from Gotham to Boscobel.

"This stretch of the river is not as busy as it is around Sauk City," said Cheri Wilson, Wander Wisconsin program director. "You get more of a wilderness feel." Wilson said canoe camping on the Wisconsin is a unique experience.

"You can see eagles, great blue herons, hawks and a lot of other wildlife," said Wilson. "It's fun to pull up to a sandbar and eat your lunch."

Wilson organized this trip specifically to help campers become better acquainted with the Wisconsin River.

"The river is vast and it's right in our backyard," she said.

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### Register Online

Parents can register their children for Wander Wisconsin trips online. "We started offering online registration about four years ago for this program as a convenience for parents," said Camp and Enrichment Programs Division Director Jason Anderson. "About 90 percent of our families register online." Visit [www.wanderwisconsin.org](http://www.wanderwisconsin.org) for more information.



These Wander campers took part in a day trip on the Wisconsin River last summer.

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Unique adventures and camping experiences for youth.

### WANDER WISCONSIN

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## Wander the Wisconsin River This Summer



You never stand in the same river twice as the saying goes. And no matter how many times you canoe the Wisconsin River, it is never the same trip. This summer Wander Wisconsin will send seven trips to the Wisconsin River for day

and overnight canoe and camping experiences.

The Wisconsin River originates at the Wisconsin-Michigan border at Lac Vieux Desert. It flows south across the glacial plain of central Wisconsin, then west in southern Wisconsin where it empties into the Mississippi River about 10 miles south of Prairie du Chien. At 430 miles, it is our state's longest river. Wander campers will explore the lower

Wisconsin River, from Sauk Prairie to Boscobel. Most of the day paddles will take place between Sauk City and Spring Green. The Wisconsin River Canoe Camping trip will start in Gotham and finish in Boscobel. This portion of the river is the least developed and provides important natural habitats for a variety of wildlife, including white-tail deer, otter, beaver, turtles, Sandhill cranes, eagles, hawks, and a variety of fish species.

Seeing wildlife, paddling on a historic river, camping on a sandbar—the Wisconsin River has a lot to offer. We're lucky to have this unique waterway in our backyard. Take a trip on this ever-changing river. It might change you.

*Cheri Wilson*  
Cheri Wilson



*Paddling the Wisconsin River is a great way to improve canoeing skills and experience wildlife as these campers did last summer.*



## Wander Wisconsin Offers Family Trips

For the first time Wisconsin Youth Company's Wander Wisconsin division will offer family camping trips. The trips are: Wisconsin River Family Canoe Camping July 17-18, and Wyalusing State Park Family Campout August 14-15.

"I'm really excited to be offering family trips through Wander," said Camp and Enrichment Programs Division Director

Jason Anderson. "We often hear parents say when they are dropping their kids off for Wander trips, 'I wish I could do that too.'"

Anderson said he thought some parents felt they didn't have the skills or the equipment to take their kids camping. Now, he says they don't have to worry about that.

"We'll provide all the equipment and our trip leaders will provide the expertise," he said.

Parents with the equipment and know-how may want to sign up too for the social aspect.

"Camping can be more fun when there's other kids and adults around," said Anderson.

## Two Wander Wisconsin Trip Leaders Returning

Trip leaders returning to lead Wander Wisconsin trips this summer include Josh Ludke and Hope Edgren. Josh, an artist and elementary school teacher in Madison, has been leading Wander trips for the past nine years. Josh has led a variety of trips throughout Wisconsin. Hope was a trip leader in the summer of

2008. She was also a program specialist at Chavez AFTER SCHOOL during the 2007-08 school year and is currently the site supervisor at Mt. Horeb AFTER SCHOOL. She will staff the AFTER SCHOOL summer day camp overnights and fill in on some Wander trips.

Wander Wisconsin program

director Cheri Wilson doesn't know yet who will lead what trips. That won't be decided until the week before camp starts.

"I like to let the trip leaders choose if possible," she said. "I want them to pick the trips they have a passion for." Wilson said all of the trip leaders are capable of leading

any of the trips. But she likes to match leaders with a trip or sport where they have a special skill or interest like backpacking, hiking or fishing.



Josh Ludke.



Hope Edgren

## Spring Break Trips Feature Lots of Water

Water is a big part of the five day-trips during Wander Wisconsin's spring break program which runs from March 29 through April 2. Campers will travel to the Mississippi River Museum in Dubuque, IA the first day to learn about the history of the river and the fish and

mammals who live in and near it. On the second day they will visit the Riveredge Nature Center in Newburg, WI to learn about making maple sugar. On the third day the group goes to a perennial Wander favorite, Mt. Olympus indoor theme and water park for water sliding

and other fun. The fourth day campers go to Lake Farm Park in Madison for Urban Bird Day to count local birds for the Cornell Ornithology Lab. The last day features a visit to another old favorite, the Kalahari Water Park in Wisconsin Dells. Join us for this special week.

Register online at [www.wanderwisconsin.org](http://www.wanderwisconsin.org).

## ACA Conference Workshops Cover Social Media

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*"There are some really neat opportunities for us to build our relationships with parents and communicate with them and their kids through social media."*

conference was social media.

"It's a huge hot topic and there were multiple workshops on it," said Anderson.

He said many camps were becoming involved by having a Facebook page, using Twitter or blogging.

"There are some really neat

opportunities for us to build our relationships with parents and communicate with them and their kids through social media," said Anderson.

Anderson also attended workshops on a variety of camp management and safety topics.

Anderson and Cheri Wilson,

Wander Wisconsin program director and some summer staff also attended the Mid-States ACA conference in St. Charles, IL.

These professional development opportunities keep our staff and programs at the forefront of the camping profession's best practices.

## Canoe Trip

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The trip is six days and five nights and includes two nights camping at Wyalusing State Park and three nights on the river. Campers will also visit a cave and park in Prairie du Chien.

"It's a good opportunity for kids to feel comfortable on the water," said Wilson.

Campers must be between 11 and 13 years of age. No previous canoeing experience is necessary.

"If a camper is new to paddling or a little uneasy, we'll pair them with one of the staff or a more experienced camper," said Wilson.

Campers wear lifejackets at all times on or in the river.

A male and female trip leader will accompany the group. Up to 12 campers may sign up for the trip. The fee covers equipment, food, transportation and trip leaders.