

Wander Wisconsin Summer Preview

Travel Club (8-12 y/o)	June 11-15 August 27-31	Travel Club I Travel Club II
Kid Campouts (8-10 y/o) (2 Nights/5 Days)	June 18-22 July 9-13 July 23-27 August 6-10 August 20-24	Yellowstone Lake S.P. Buckhorn S.P. Mirror Lake S.P. Kettle Moraine S.F. Devil's Lake S.P.
Kid Campouts (8-10 y/o) (5 Nights/6 Days)	June 24-29 July 15-20 July 29-August 3 August 12-17	Devil's Lake S.P. Wildcat Mountain S.P. Wyalusing S.P. Blue Mounds S.P.
Tent Treks (10-12 y/o)	June 17-22 July 8-13 July 22-27 August 5-8 August 12-17	Skill Sampler Superior Hiking Trail (Backpacking) Ultimate Angler (Fishing) Not Just Bluffing (Climbing) River Runner (Rafting, Canoeing, Tubing)
Wisconsin Edventures (10-12 y/o)	June 24-29 July 15-20 July 29-August 3 August 19-24	Wisconsin Arts Native Wisconsin Old World Apprentice Wisconsin Rocks!
Teen Adventures (13-15 y/o)	June 17-22 July 8-13 July 29-August 3 August 12-21	Black River S.F. (Mountain Biking) Wolf River (Rafting & Canoeing) 'Yack & 'Pack (Kayaking & Backpacking) Boundary Waters (Canoeing)
U.S. Tours (13-15 y/o)	June 24 - July 3 July 15-24 August 24-31	Michigan Circle Tour Cities and Coasters TBA

Registration Starts February 2007

For more information contact us at 608-276-9782 or 800-238-1174 or visit our website at www.wanderwisconsin.org



www.wanderwisconsin.org

Whereabouts

A seasonal newsletter from Wander Wisconsin

WINTER 2007

New Names, Same Great Adventures

Instead of three categories based on age, Wander Wisconsin will divide its trips into six categories that are more descriptive.

Previously the trips were divided into Pathfinders, for ages 8-10, Explorers, for ages 10-12 and Voyagers for ages 12-15.

"The names really didn't say much about the trips," said Jason Anderson, Camp Programs Director. "The new names are more descriptive of what kind of trips they really are."

The new categories are: Travel Clubs, Kid Camp-outs, Wisconsin Edventures, Tent Treks, U.S. Tours and Teen Adventures.

"We also wanted to distinguish between those trips that are wilderness based and those that combine camping with water

and touring attractions," said Anderson.

Parents and kids will recognize the category "Travel Clubs". One of Wander Wisconsin's most popular sessions, it has grown from one to two sessions each summer plus two over winter break and spring break.

Kid Camp-outs will feature the introduction to camping sessions that combine two to five nights camping with a visit to a water park or special event. Wisconsin Edventures will be state trips with a strong learning component, and U.S. Tours will be two week adventures that travel a significant distance such as touring on the East Coast. Teen Adventures will be more challenging outdoor trips for older kids.

Tent Treks will be strictly tent camping and related adventures.

"We want to make the wording and the language of our descriptions sound inviting to our audience," said Anderson. "Camp-out' really says what it is: traditional camping fun but not wilderness."

For more information visit www.wanderwisconsin.org.



Travel Club offers two sessions over winter break

Unique adventures and camping experiences for youth.

Online Registration Makes Signup Easier

Beginning last summer parents were able to register their children for Wander Wisconsin trips online.

"All the feedback from parents has been very positive," said Jason Coleman, Wander Wisconsin Program Director. "I would say that probably 95 percent of all campers were registered online this year."

Coleman said online registration has several advantages.

Number one is that it eliminates repetitive paperwork for parents. In the past if a parent was registering their child for more than one trip, they had to fill out the basic information for each trip. Using the online format, they only have to fill it out once.

For administrative staff it was a help because if parents forgot to fill in a required field, the program wouldn't allow them to complete the registration until they went back and filled it in.

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Register the easy way at www.wanderwisconsin.org



Wander Wisconsin is a program of Wisconsin Youth Company
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Fall Camp-out Packed with Fun Activities



Nawakwa at Lions Lake

The annual Fall trip to Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI had a busy schedule that included a hayride, archery, crafts and a costume party.

“The nice thing about the trip is that it was almost all first-time campers,” said Jason Anderson, Camp Programs Director.

Wander Wisconsin trips are designed to appeal to children and youth who are new to camping and outdoor

experiences as well as to those wanting more challenging trips.

Campers stay in cabins for the Fall camp-out and get to try a sampling of traditional camp activities such as a campfire with S’mores, a night hike, nature crafts, fishing and a visit to the camp trading post.

Because the camp-out was held October 25-27, a costume party was part of the fun followed by a movie and games. Parents needs were also met during school days off during the Teachers Convention.

Long time Wander trip leader Dave Weber and Marie White were staff for the trip. Marie was

a trip leader last summer and is currently AFTER SCHOOL Site Supervisor at Hawthorne School.

Twelve campers participated in the trip including several who are not AFTER SCHOOL students. They learned of the trip through flyers distributed at their school.



Campers stayed in heated cabins.

Director’s Message



There’s a theory popularized by Richard Louv in his recent book *Last Child In the Woods* that says that children are suffering from “nature deficit disorder”. His book details the research to back up this theory. Diminished use of the senses, attention difficulties and higher rates of physical and emotional illnesses are the results of this alienation from nature.

Those of us who work with children and youth in camp and other recreational settings notice the phenomenon too. We see children who shriek at the sight of a spider rather than taking an interest in the web it is spinning. We see children as old as ten or 12 who are afraid to sleep in a tent overnight. We see kids who have never roasted a marshmallow over a campfire and who suffer from withdrawal when told to

put away their Gameboys. Children study “the environment” in school as though it was a remote place in a museum—something to be preserved but not necessarily touched or explored. Our busy lives keep us running from house to school to work and back safely enclosed in the confines of our cars. Our connections with nature are few until nature forces us to take notice with icy roads, a heavy snowfall or rain on a day we’d planned to cut the grass.

We owe it to our children and to ourselves to spend time outdoors exploring, smelling, listening and touching. We can learn from nature. We can be soothed by nature. We can have fun in the natural world. Perhaps most importantly, we can raise children who care about the out of doors and embrace its complexity, beauty and power. Start in your own yard. Look at the stars. Smell the earth. Listen to the wind. Come home.



Nature Net, an online resource for teachers, has added Wander Wisconsin as a link from its web site. You can visit the site at www.naturenet.com.

Convenient Online Registration

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This eliminated phone calls to parents to gather the missing information. Online registration also allowed staff to email a confirmation letter immediately along with a list of clothes and equipment needed for the trip. If parents later chose to add a trip or session, they could log on and sign up without having to repeat all the required information again.

“It made it much easier for us to check campers in before their trip left,” said Coleman. “I could just

Two Communities Create “Trips by Design”

The communities of Wauwatosa and Menomonee Falls have taken advantage of Wander Wisconsin’s service, “Trips by Design”. Wander staff put together trips for both cities’ recreation departments.

For Wauwatosa they planned a day long outdoor education experience for middle school students and for Menomonee Falls they arranged a two night camp-out at Devils Lake that included rock climbing lessons and a visit to a water park..

Because of their many years of experience organizing trips, communities find it easier to have Wander Wisconsin handle all the details including transportation, staff and equipment.



We can design an adventure for YOUR program!

In an effort to boost the “Trips by Design” component, Wander staff have exhibited at two recent conferences.

They attended the Wisconsin Education Association Council conference at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison on October 26 and 27. They also exhibited at the Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association Conference in Green Bay last month.

“We want to let teachers, parks and recreation professionals know that we can design trips for their groups,” said Jason Anderson, Camp Programs Director. “We can tailor the trips to their needs and wants.”

Wander Wisconsin Up for Accreditation Visit

Wander Wisconsin and WYC’s summer day camp are due for their three year accreditation visit by the American Camp Association. Camp programs come up for accreditation visits every three years.

“An inspector makes a site visit and looks over all our paperwork including forms and policies,” said Jason Anderson, Camp Programs Director.

“They also visit one of our Wander trips while it’s out and they visit a check-in day”.

Anderson said the inspector likes to see how the camp handles check-in safety issues like collecting medications from the parents and loading the vans.

Wander has been accredited for six years and summer day camp for three

years. Accreditation means complying with 300 individual health and safety program quality standards. Only about 25 percent of camps in the U.S. are accredited. You can log onto www.acacamps.org for more information about the American Camp Association and accreditation.



Staff “Wander” to AFTER SCHOOL

Three Wander Wisconsin trip leaders are working for AFTER SCHOOL during the school year. Lua Yaganagi is the site supervisor at Chavez School, Marie White is the site supervisor at Hawthorne, and Sara Millonig is the site supervisor at West Middleton. AFTER SCHOOL and Wander Wisconsin are both divisions of Wisconsin Youth Company.



Sara Millonig (left) and Lua Yaganagi (right)



Marie White (center) with Wanderers