



# Whereabouts

A seasonal newsletter from Wander Wisconsin

WINTER 2001-02

www.wanderwisconsin.org

Fostering personal growth through unique adventures and camping experiences for youth.

## Introducing *Whereabouts!*

Welcome to the first issue of the official Wander Wisconsin newsletter! *Whereabouts* is about and for all of the "wanderers" out there; campers and their families, staff, partnering organizations, supporters, friends and everyone interested in finding out more about Wander Wisconsin!

It's about where we've been, where we are, and where we are going. We think *Whereabouts* sums that all up quite nicely.

Please send any feedback about the newsletter or questions about Wander Wisconsin to [whereabouts@wanderwisconsin.org](mailto:whereabouts@wanderwisconsin.org).

Jason Anderson  
Managing Director

## ACA Accredited



We are pleased to announce Wander Wisconsin is now an American Camping Association Accredited camp program! We completed the accreditation process this past year. Accreditation is a symbol of our commitment to safe-

ty and a quality camping experience.

The ACA Accredited Camp logo is a mark of distinction that only 25% of camps in the United States have earned. ACA accreditation verifies a camp complies with up to 300 individual health and safety program-quality standards. Accreditation assures parents that practices of a camp have been measured against national standards.

Wander Wisconsin is proud to join the American Camping Association and camps across the country in continuing to enrich the lives of youth through the camp experience!

## One of the Best

Alex Zinga has been a trip leader with Wander Wisconsin for six years. Trained as a leader by the National Outdoor Leadership School, Alex would be an incredible asset to any camping or travel program. "Wandering is my favorite job... Wander Wisconsin is like another family."

Alex has been trained as a Wilderness EMT and a Wilderness First Responder and holds certifications as a lifeguard. While not Wandering, Alex has taught science classes as an Environmental Educator, worked with a Forest Association, and developed programs for teens as a Youth Outreach Coordinator.

"I love seeing kids grow in the outdoors and I love teaching kids to appreciate the outdoors...and I love Wisconsin!"

Alex has been an incredible asset to Wander Wisconsin over the last six years. She is a big part of what the program is today and continues to help shape what Wander Wisconsin will become in the future. Thanks Alex!

We'll see you next summer!

**Wander Wisconsin trip leaders during their 2001 training trip. L-R (back row) Suzanne, Jeff, Alex, Michelle, Dave, Josh. (front row) Susan, Mandy, Erich. Now hiring trip leaders for Summer 2002. Pass it on!**



### WANDER WISCONSIN

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A program of  
Wisconsin Youth Company Inc.

# Spring Break Water Park Extravaganza!

## Sunday, March 24 - Thursday, March 28

### Wisconsin Dells

Join Wander Wisconsin on our Spring Water Park Extravaganza for a week of fun and adventure.



Spring Break Wander Wisconsin Style

We will visit two (yes, two!) indoor water parks in the area, so be ready to slip, slide and splash with your friends.

On Sunday we will depart from the Wisconsin Youth Company office at 1201 McKenna Blvd. and travel to Camp Gray in Reedsburg, Wisconsin, our home base for the week. While there we will make use of their great facilities, sleep in heated cabins and enjoy campstyle, dining hall meals.

In addition to the water parks, another fantastic stop just minutes from Camp Gray, is Devil's Lake State Park. We will spend a day at Devil's

Lake exploring the breathtaking bluffs and fantastic scenery.

Add the games, camp-style activities like archery and crafts and other exciting options at Camp Gray, and we may have to stay two weeks just to fit it all in! (Sorry, but we do have to promise to have you home in time for school!)

The cost for this trip is \$325. For information and registration contact Dave Curtiss, Wander Wisconsin Director, at 276-9782 ext. 26.

### Director's Message

During the summer as our campers are traveling throughout the state and the entire country, I have a special reason for looking forward to Friday each week. Friday is the day when our trips return.

The groups that first came together as strangers a week or two before return to our home base and come bouncing out of the van... and then it starts. I hear all about swimming in the chilly waters of the Adirondacks. I hear which Green Bay Packers were spotted while visiting training camp. What was that about a Purple Gorilla?

Listening to the amazing adventures and experiences that our campers had while on the trip really is the best part of my week. I get to watch as that one camper, too shy to say much on the first day, now can't get her thoughts out fast enough. Or, those two campers with a history of not getting along so well, now talking to their parents about how they can get together over the weekend. I am constantly amazed by the "power of camp." The equation isn't too complicated. We create a situation where campers have the ability to learn new skills, meet new friends, live as a group in a beautiful natural environment, all while being supported by fantastic, positive role models. No, it's not rocket science, but it works.

I'd like to thank our staff. Those positive role models I mentioned. Three years ago when I came to Wander Wisconsin, a priority of mine was to continually maintain the best trip leading staff possible. Well, thank you all. I have worked with a number of trip leaders, and you really are up there with the best of the best.

I'd also like to thank you, the families who have supported the program. I hope we have been an enriching part of your child's life. I know watching your children grow and mature is a special part of mine.

Thank Goodness It's Friday!

*Dave Curtiss*



We made it! At the top of the Adirondacks in New (seated) Mela, Reece, Ken

## Adventures in the Adirondacks

As we hiked our last three miles in New York's Adirondack Mountains, we were able to identify the scents of all of the soap, lotion, perfume and powder on each passing day-hiker. These clean and shiny folks surely noticed some interesting scents on us after six and a half days of backpacking. With our packs startlingly lighter than they had been when we left the trailhead on day one, the ten of us came out of the woods with a triumphant spring in our steps. We had camped for nearly a week with only the supplies we could carry on our backs. We had kept ourselves, and each other, healthy and happy in a very large wilderness area. We had hiked over 27 miles and had climbed the two highest peaks in New York state.

That's a pretty good week from nearly any perspective, but is especially impressive considering that the average age in our group was only 16 - and that includes the three trip leaders in their mid-twenties!

The trip was aptly summarized by a poll taken on day 12 in the van as we neared the end of over 40 hours of driving. We decided that our best meal was the pizza we ate in Lake Placid after that last hike and a quick shower. Our hardest hike, as well as the greatest achievement of the trip, was climbing Mount Algonquin on a rainy day. Climbing Mount Marcy on a sunny day was our favorite hike.

Our favorite lean-to and campsite was the one near Avalanche Pass, where we spent our first and last nights on the trail. That last night was the end of the day voted to be our

best as we had celebrated Ken's 13th birthday, swam and played in the beautiful stream nearby, and played an intense game of capture the flag. From the list of over 50 musicians we listened to in the van, Phish ultimately won for best van music. Lots of awards related to the quality and quantity of, well, let's just say the increased frequency of a perfectly normal human function due to the change in diet to backpacker's cuisine, but we'll spare the names of the "winners."

It was sometimes difficult, sometimes hilarious, sometimes trying and often odiferous, but I feel I speak for all of us when I say that I can't wait to do it again.

Suzanne Kohring  
Trip Leader

### Annual Spring Retreat Friday, April 26 - Sunday, April 28 McKenzie Environmental Center

The McKenzie Center in Poynette, Wisconsin is operated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Its 280 acres of rolling fields and forest land contain a live Wisconsin Wildlife exhibit, "hike and learn" trails, museums, arboretums, a wildlife observation tower and so much more. Enjoy s'mores around the fire, working as a team on the obstacle course, abundant wildlife and "kick the can!" While there, we will stay in their main bunkhouse cabins.

The cost of \$75 includes:

- Two nights lodging in comfortable, heated cabins
- Delicious and nutritious "camp-style" meals
- Transportation in Wander Wisconsin vans
- All supplies and equipment

Led by the Wander Wisconsin Director and a team of experienced Wander Wisconsin trip leaders who lead the popular summer trips.

For information and registration contact Dave Curtiss, Wander Wisconsin Director, at 276-9782 ext. 26.



York are L-R (standing) Peter, Maggie, Kevin, Tim



Canaan (L) and Mike (R) at the 2001 Spring Retreat at the McKenzie Center.

## Summer 2002 Trip Calendar

Dates	Pathfinders (8-11)	Explorers (10-13)	Voyagers (11-14)
June 17-21	<b>Wisconsin Dells Attractions</b> Devil's Lake State Park	<b>Wisconsin Dell Attractions</b> Devil's Lake State Park	<b>Fishing, Floating, Fun</b> Willow River State Park
June 24-28	<b>American Players Theatre</b> Governor Dodge State Park	<b>Tubing/Fishing</b> Willow River State Park	<b>Backpacking</b> Porcupine Mtns/U.P. Michigan
July 8-12	<b>Fishing, Floating, Fun</b> Willow River State Park	<b>Canoe Trip</b> Buckhorn State Park	<b>Two Week Colorado Tour</b> Rocky Mtn. National Park
July 15-19	<b>No Trip</b>	<b>5 Night Sea Kayaking</b> All Girls Trip Apostle Islands	
July 22-26	<b>Canoeing</b> Wyalusing State Park	<b>Nature Photography</b> Copper Falls State Park	<b>Two Week Backpacking</b> Appalachian Trail
July 29-Aug. 2	<b>Milwaukee Tour</b> Kettle Moraine State Park	<b>No Trip</b>	
August 5-9	<b>Wisconsin Dells Attractions</b> Devil's Lake State Park	<b>5 Night Sea Kayaking</b> Flambeau Flowage	<b>Wisconsin Dells Attractions</b> Devil's Lake State Park
August 12-16	<b>Packer's Experience</b> Potawatomi State Park	<b>Mountain Biking</b> Black River State Forest	<b>5 Night Sea Kayaking</b> Door County
August 19-23	<b>Fishing</b> Black River State Forest	<b>Chicago Tour</b> Illinois Beach State Park	<b>No Trip</b>

Contact us at 608-276-9782 or 800-238-1174 to receive the Summer 2002 Adventure Guide and Registration Packet. Summer 2001 Wander Wisconsin campers and their families will automatically receive the Adventure Guide.



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