

Parent/Guardian/Educator Program Details



Crex Meadows Youth Conservation Camp

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Crex Meadows Youth Conservation Camp is a unique skill development program. The camp employs approximately seventy at-risk youth (economically disadvantaged, those with special education needs or other barriers) ages 14-18, residing in the ten northwest counties of Wisconsin. Over four, two-week sessions during the summer, these youth assist the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Habitat for Humanity and other regional organizations with a variety of environmental conservation and community improvement projects *and* participate in daily academic and experiential learning activities.

Summer Work Experience

The Crex Camp offers youth the opportunity to:

- Work outside
- Earn School Credit*
- Make Money
- Gain Skills
- Meet new Friends
- Have FUN!



EDUCATION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING EXAMPLES

- *Natural History/Biodiversity:* Crex Meadows historical uses, animal and plant ID
- *Employability Skills:* Resume, application and successful interviewing techniques,
- *Interpersonal Skills:* Stress management techniques, communication and leadership
- *Cell Biology/Natural Science:* Cell arrangement and response to sunlight, mosquito biology and response to humans= natural sunscreen and bug repellent creation
- *Biology:* Owl ID, owl pellet dissection
- *Wildlife Management:* Animal tracking and monitoring techniques
- *Individual Enhancement/Team building:* hands-on challenges to foster teamwork & individual social skills
- *Engineering/Physics/Financial Literacy:* design and construction of egg drop baskets & parachutes with budgetary requirements

CAREER EXPLORATION EXAMPLES

- *Career Exploration:* Manufacturing, Healthcare and Natural Resource related careers (including tours of area businesses and college campuses)
- *Job Skill and Career Assessment:* examination of skills and education requirements for jobs, career match-up and skill self-assessment



*Participating High Schools award students with a partial or full credit for their Crex Camp experience.

The Crex Meadows Youth Conservation Camp will provide a positive learning experience where youth develop valuable work-related skills and a connection with the environment.

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BENEFITS TO YOUTH

Youth learn valuable lessons in **goal setting, team building, leadership development, and work readiness** skills not only through the curriculum and work activities but also during workshops, field trips, and recreation time offered at the camp. In addition, youth **earn minimum wage** for their work with the DNR and **earn high school credit** from participating high schools.

WORK PROJECT EXAMPLES

- Canada goose banding and fish hatchery maintenance
- Barbed wire fence removal and prairie restoration projects
- Trail maintenance (boardwalk construction, brushing, clearing)
- Native seed harvesting
- Invasive species removal (spotted knapweed, purple loosestrife) buckthorn, honeysuckle, prickly ash)
- House construction and landscaping



2 Week Job Experience

Youth work on Conservation & Community Improvement Projects
5 days a week 8:30-4:30 daily



CAMP STAFF

Day-to-day camp operations are completed by 4 full-time Counselor/Crew Leaders, a Camp Cook and the Camp Director. Staff represent varied backgrounds and provide a positive, engaging and structured environment for participants. All staff are college-aged or older and are responsible for supervising campers during all activities including working alongside during the week. Staff participate in an extensive camp training period prior to camp and are medically certified.

WEEKEND EXCURSIONS

- Tent Camping
- Canoeing
- Horseback Riding
- Ropes Courses
- Wolf Center Visit
- Waterfalls Hikes

Associated Work Partners : WDNR from Crex Meadows, Polk , St. Croix County and Governor Knowles State Forest, Interstate Park, St. Croix Falls, Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity, Spooner Fish Hatchery, Village of Grantsburg, Friends of Crex, Osceola Fish Hatchery Program

Crex Meadows Youth Conservation Camp

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

- Freshman, *Sophomores, Juniors* and Seniors
- Students interested in challenging themselves in an outdoor setting
- Students who could benefit from a skill building/work opportunity
- Students who will benefit from CEP year-round services

CAMP SPONSORSHIP ELIGIBILITY*

Based on one or more of the following:

- Income (based on WI state standards)
- Family receiving public assistance (FoodShare, SSI, TANF)
- Disability (IEP, mental or physical)
- Foster Child Status
- Additional Barriers to Employment

**Call for sponsorship details*

CAMPER EVALUATION

Each camper is evaluated on the following 21st century skills throughout their time at camp. The evaluations give the campers insight into how their personal work skills can translate into their future world of work. They learn about strengths, weaknesses and ways to improve. Each camper is evaluated in writing and participate in a face-to-face evaluation on the following criteria:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Responsibility | • Problem Solving | • Dependability | • Lifelong Learning |
| • Teamwork | • Systems Thinking | • Commitment to Tasks | • Adapting to Change |
| • Persistence | • Information Processing | • Motivation & Initiative | • Courtesy & Friendliness |
| • Sense of Quality | • Attitude towards Work | • Quality of Work | • Cooperation |
| | | | • Judgment |



The CAMPER Experience:

- I came away with amazing new friends and the attitude to try to associate with people from all backgrounds and to get to know them.
- I know that I am able to work when I'm motivated but also that I don't always need motivation to work at my best!
- I learned that challenges are the best way to grow.
- I am walking away with the knowledge of what team work really is.
- I learned that living in a schedule can be good and how to ignore small things in a pursuit of the end result.

For more information please contact the Camp Director at (715) 682-9141 or online at www.nwcep.org/crex-meadows, on YouTube and on the camp's Facebook fan page.