



**Osprey Wilds**  
Environmental Learning Center

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# K-12 Trip Planner

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## History of Osprey Wilds

Established in 1968, Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center is a private, non-profit 501(c)3 residential environmental learning center (RELC) and green retreat and conference center on Grindstone Lake near Sandstone, MN. We provide outdoor and environmental education to K12 students and adults.

Prior to European Settlement in the 1800s, what is now Osprey Wilds property was used by local Ojibwe families for hunting and gathering. Portions of the forest were logged prior to the Hinckley Fire in 1894 and the land was farmed under the Schwyzer family ownership for the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The 780-acre Osprey Wilds sanctuary is a mix of old-growth white pines, second-growth mixed hardwood forest, and red pine plantation on the shores of Grindstone Lake, one of the deepest lakes in Minnesota. We have spent decades managing the old farm land in order to restore the area's forest, wetland, prairie, and freshwater ecosystems, which we now utilize in our educational programming.

## Our Vision

A healthy planet where all people live in balance with the Earth

## Our Mission

To instill a connection and commitment to the environment in people of all communities through experiential learning

## Our Core Values

- **Healthy Relationship** - We demonstrate a respect, care and passion for the earth, all people and all living things, recognizing our interconnectedness with each other and the natural world.
- **Equity** - We actively incorporate the lenses of equity and representation in our education, environmentalism, and leadership.
- **Action** - We practice and encourage informed, intentional living that helps restore and maintain healthy ecosystems.
- **Life-long Learning** - We promote life-long learning through a positive shared experiences with the natural world.

Dear K-12 Group Leaders,

Our staff is looking forward to your visit to Osprey Wilds. We value your commitment to providing experiential learning opportunities for your students and we are thrilled that you've chosen Osprey Wilds to have your residential field trip experience.

Our goal is to make the process of planning your school's visit as easy and streamlined as possible. In this planner you will find a sample schedule, class descriptions, dorm and classroom information, meal guidelines, a campus map, all the necessary paperwork, deadlines for returning paperwork, and everything else you need to plan a successful trip.

We strive to make to make all our classes student-centered and nature-focused. We feel this is critical given the evidence that supports the idea that fostering discovery and learning in the outdoors is effective at creating a lasting connection between the student and their environment. This concept is exciting for us as educators and aligns well with the mission of Osprey Wilds. We know you will see the positive results!

Thank you again for choosing Osprey Wilds for your field trip experience.

Your questions and feedback are always welcome, as is your willingness to evolve with us as we strive to best meet your needs.

--Education Staff  
schools@ospreywilds.org

## Daily Schedule

<b>7:40</b>	KP Breakfast
<b>8:00</b>	Breakfast
<b>9:00-11:00</b>	<b>Class 1</b>
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	Free time
<b>11:10</b>	KP Lunch
<b>11:30</b>	Lunch
<b>12:45-2:45</b>	<b>Class 2</b>
<b>2:45-3:15</b>	Switch!
<b>3:15-5:15</b>	<b>Class 3</b>
<b>5:15-5:45</b>	Free time
<b>5:25</b>	KP Supper
<b>5:45</b>	Supper
<b>7:00-8:00</b>	<b>Naturalist Evening Program</b>
<b>8:00-10:00</b>	Optional Teacher-Led Activities
<b>10:00</b>	Quiet Hours/Bedtime

1. **Time frame:** Decide when you'd like to visit and for how long. Dates book up to a year in advance, so plan to check our availability at least 4 months prior to your visit. Contact us to check date availability – [schools@ospreywilds.org](mailto:schools@ospreywilds.org) or 320-245-2648. Pricing depends on your length of stay. See page 5 for details.
2. **Confirmation:** At least **four months** before your trip, complete and send back your **Reservation Agreement** to confirm your reservation dates. Please take a look at the cancellation policy detailed on the form so you are aware of what the potential fee will be should you need to cancel or severely decrease your numbers.
3. **Classes:** At least **two months** before your visit, complete and return your **Scheduling Form**. We can't wait to learn more about how your chosen classes fit your goals for your trip! Please see the chart below for due dates.
4. **Forms:** Distribute links for the **Required Health and Liability Forms** to students and chaperones. Please use your own Health Form if you'd prefer, but attendees cannot participate in classes here at Osprey Wilds without a signed liability form. **Please have all participants fill out the digital liability form using the link that is emailed to you.** We expect you will monitor the completion of the liability forms and insure all participants have completed the form before your arrival. Please note that the Health Form Summary is due 2 weeks in advance so that we can plan menus around allergies and order food appropriately. Remember to check with your accompanying adults about any dietary restrictions.
5. **Details:** At least **two weeks** before your arrival, complete and return the **Pre-Trip Logistics** (KP, Learning Group, and Room Assignments, **Health Form Summary**, and Approved Chaperone List).

**Trip Tip:** Keep an eye on your e-mail! Our Education staff will help you throughout the scheduling process to ensure that all your planning goes smoothly. This includes helping you to meet key deadlines...

If your trip is in:	Your Scheduling Form is due:
September	June 10
October	August 30
November	September 10
December	October 10
January	November 10
February	December 10
March	January 10
April	February 10
May	March 10
June-July	April 10
August	May 10

- Each learning group of 15-18 students must be accompanied by at least one adult chaperone.
- There is no charge for required adult leaders -- one per 15-18 students. Additional adults will be charged the normal participant cost (see below).
- We will bill small groups for a minimum of 12 students (this number cannot include adult chaperones).

## Residential Cost Per Participant

The residential costs listed below are package rates and include lodging, meals, equipment, and instruction. These rates cover the time from arrival to departure; they do not include snacks or costs for transportation to and from Osprey Wilds.

Days	Overnights	Meals	Classes	25-26 Cost per participant Subject to change	26-27 Cost per participant Subject to change
3	2	7	6	\$195	TBD
4	3	10	9	\$245	TBD
5	4	13	12	\$295	TBD

## Changes and Cancellations

In order to cancel your reservation at no cost to your school, you must do so at least four months before the reserved date. Schools canceling later than that are required to pay a percentage of the fee based on the following schedule. Cancellation fees are not covered by any scholarships.

Notice time	Cost
60 days or less	50% of fee
61-90 days	40% of fee
91-120 days	30% of fee
>120 days	0% of fee

**Trip Tip:** We have some great options for teacher-led activities on page 7. Please indicate on your Scheduling Form if you would like to utilize our supplies & lesson plans.

## Payment

The final billing will be made upon your departure. The total cost is calculated on the actual numbers indicated in your final number confirmation plus any last minute additions. Repair costs for damage caused by anyone in your group to facilities and equipment is also included in this bill. Full payment may be made within 30 days with no interest. Thereafter, an interest charge of 1.5% per month will be applied to your unpaid balance.

If your group numbers are significantly reduced (more than a 10% reduction) between submitting your scheduling form and your arrival, you may be charged for up to the full amount of participants expected in order to cover food and staffing costs.

## Arrival

Most groups arrive between 10:30-11:00am. If you arrive later than 11:00am, your afternoon schedule may have to be altered a bit to make up for lost time.

**PLEASE CALL us at 320-245-2648 if you are running more than 15 minutes late or early! Thank you!**

## During Your Stay

**Cell phone policy:** While we strongly discourage cell phone use by students while staying at Osprey Wilds, we do understand that students may want to use their phone as their camera. Lead teachers are given the authority to allow their students to bring phones or not. Osprey Wilds teaching staff and naturalists have the right to ask students to put phones away if they feel they are being used for functions other than a camera, if they're detracting from the learning atmosphere, or are creating an unsafe situation. Cell service is not reliable at our location, so texting or calling may not be possible. We do have open Wi-Fi, which can be used to make Wi-Fi calls or access messaging apps. Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center is not responsible for lost, stolen, damaged or missing items.

**General Supervision:** We ask teachers and adult leaders to help us ensure student safety while here. Supervision of students is necessary at all times. There should always be an adult present during classes, free times, meal times, and in the lodges.

**At Class:** We ask that each Learning Group (**of 15-18 students**) has at least one adult leader with them. If you choose to take our High Ropes class, **at least 3** adult chaperones are necessary for that class to create a safe and fun learning environment. Cross-country skiing and canoeing **require 2 adults** per class.

**Evening Activities:** To wind down from a busy day of exploring and learning, students participate in Naturalist-led evening activities and/or your own group-led activities. Let your chaperones know if they are needed to assist in these activities.

**Free time:** Please remind your students that they are ambassadors for their school while at Osprey Wilds. This means treating all other students and adults, as well as equipment, facilities, and the environment, with respect. Some suggestions during free time include:

- *Take a hike!* We have 780 acres to explore AND trail maps so you don't get lost (though that's fun, too).

- *Recess games!* We have lots of lawn space and a small assortment of recreation items for volleyball, football, and etc. We **do** encourage you to bring your own items, especially if you have a larger group.
- *Journaling and group discussions* are great ways to reflect on the amazing experience happening here.

## Departure

Before breakfast on your last day, ALL luggage and personal belongings must be removed from your lodging to give our Housekeepers access to your rooms. Most groups depart by 12:30pm, though it's possible to arrange for a bag lunch so your group can leave sooner and eat on the way home.

## Meals

We want our guests, especially those with food allergies and special dietary needs, to feel safe as they sit down to eat in our dining hall and leave satisfied. We cook nutritious meals in a safe manner to ensure our guests are comfortable and well fed. However, we cannot accommodate every situation and need.

**The following is a brief list of what we CAN do to help.**

1. We can provide any and all information regarding the food being served in as timely and accurate manner as possible. This information is available up to two weeks prior to your visit.
2. In many cases, we can provide an alternative to our standard menu items (e.g. gluten-free bun). We can also provide nut-free meals. These require advanced notice – at least **two weeks** ahead of your program.
3. We can provide limited storage space for supplemental food and drinks for our guests, both dry storage and temperature controlled (food cannot be kept in the dorm). A microwave is available for guest use.
4. We can, within reason, prepare alternative food items (that you provide) when necessary. Prior communication (two weeks) and approval from the kitchen is required for food preparation: heating, baking, or assembly (such as sandwiches, etc.)
5. We can help our guests with special food needs integrate in a discreet manner while being respectful of the needs of the rest of the group

**The following is a list of things that we CANNOT do at this time.**

1. Accommodate special dietary needs without a **two-week** notice.
2. Though we can provide nut-free meals, we cannot guarantee a nut-free facility. We serve items with nuts and traces of nuts (both ground and tree nuts) on a regular basis. We encourage parents to send supplemental desserts and snacks, as these are the two areas where there is the biggest risk of accidental ingestion.
3. Beyond offering PB&J, we cannot make special accommodations for picky eaters. Supplemental foods can be sent with these students by their parents.
4. We cannot allow any guests to use any kitchen equipment. This is a safety, sanitation, and liability issue and no exceptions will be granted.

**Trip Tip:** Do you want to have a campfire? If so, please check yes on the scheduling form so we can get you supplies!



5. We cannot accommodate certain specialty diets (e.g. low-carb, low sodium). We encourage guests with such special needs to contact the Reservations & Events Coordinator, ([schools@ospreywilds.org](mailto:schools@ospreywilds.org)) BEFORE their visit to make arrangements, if necessary. We will be happy to do what we can to help their visit be a safe and nutritious one.

**The following information should be provided for EACH guest, both child and adult, with allergies or other dietary needs.**

1. The specific kind of allergy or sensitivity
2. The severity of the allergy, i.e. can you be around the allergen? Is it ingestion only or contact? etc.

## Lodging

You will be provided with rooms according to the number of students and adults in your group. Teachers are able to assign space in those rooms to students and adult chaperones in order to suit their needs and the policies of their schools. Please check to see if your school has policies about how students are housed when on offsite field trips. Let us know immediately if you need a special accommodation with regards to room numbers or locations. If you want additional rooms beyond what you have been assigned, there is a \$50/room per night fee if extra rooms are available.

A prayer room or other suitable space can be made available to groups upon request. Unfortunately, we cannot provide items such as prayer rugs, but such items can be stored in the designated prayer space.

*If you have students who are transgender or non-binary*, Osprey Wilds does not enforce any particular housing policy, but recommends that students be housed according to their gender identities and any applicable school policies. Dorm rooms in Crosby Lodge have single-occupancy toilets and showers, as well as an all-gender public restroom. Schwyzer Lodge also has single-occupancy toilets and showers. Lowry Lodge has two bathrooms with 2 toilet stalls and 3 shower stalls in each. When making your reservation, please indicate if you have a lodge preference with regards to accommodating transgender and/or non-binary students.

If you have further questions about Osprey Wild's policies regarding lodging for LGBTQ students and adult chaperones, or would like advice on inclusive lodging options, please contact the Executive Director, Bryan Wood: [wood@ospreywilds.org](mailto:wood@ospreywilds.org).



## Your Liaison

Two liaisons will be assigned to serve as your guide and troubleshooter for the entirety of your stay. Upon your arrival, your liaisons will greet you, help you settle in, and give your group a brief orientation to your dormitory. A full orientation will take place during *Welcome to Osprey Wilds*, your group's first class. Throughout your stay, your liaisons will keep frequent contact with you to answer questions, arrange necessary equipment, and assist you in meeting your needs. Please relay any questions or concerns to your liaisons.

## Medical Services

Please make sure you remember to have all participants (students and adults) **complete** health forms and liability release before your arrival using the links emailed to you. We do not need printed copies, the online form is preferred.

At a minimum, all Osprey Wilds staff are trained in CPR & First Aid. All instructors carry a basic first aid kit during classes for minor emergencies such as cuts and scrapes. First aid kits are also located in each building for use by adult leaders.

In the event of a serious medical emergency, please call 911 before reporting to Osprey Wilds staff. Sandstone is the nearest town with a clinic and emergency room (7 miles/10 minutes by car). You must have a vehicle available to you for health situations that require medical attention. It is the full responsibility of all schools to plan for the medical needs of their students.

**Trip Tip:** To reduce extra paperwork, feel free to make copies of your school's existing health forms for students. Osprey Wilds health forms will always be available to use, and we do ask that you use them for all adults attending.

## Games & Recreational Equipment

If your group desires board games for free time or other recreational equipment (such as sports balls or hula hoops), please let your liaisons know. We have a limited selection of items here, so if your group is large, please plan on bringing supplemental equipment.

## Extra Clothing

A selection of outdoor gear is available for check-out upon request. If you anticipate that a significant portion of your group will require some of our gear, please indicate that on your scheduling form. You will be assigned a check-out time before your first class. Lead Teachers and chaperones **must be present at gear check-out**. Gear should be returned after your group's final class. Please return equipment to a staff member, as you will be billed for any equipment that is missing or lost.

## Welcome to Osprey Wilds (WOW) - Introduction Class

Every group will be welcomed to Osprey Wilds with an introductory course in scientific observation and nature exploration. This class will teach students to open their eyes to the wonders of nature through a phenology investigation, and will also include icebreakers and an orientation of Osprey Wilds.

### WILDLIFE

#### Animal Signs

Animal Signs are clues that paint a picture; a moment in an animal's day. Discover the basics and sign-reading and investigate clues to solve a variety of animal sign mysteries.

#### Bird Basics and Beyond

All birds have some basic features in common, but it is their unique design and features that allows them to survive in every habitat on earth. Hike on our birding trail as you learn about bird characteristics, biology, and simple field identification techniques.

#### Creek Creatures (fall & spring only)

There is a magical world of under-water life right in front of us! How we care for our lakes, rivers and streams, has a huge impact on that life. Collect and identify macro-invertebrates (insects) in order to better understand the importance of water quality in this engaging, discovery-based class.

#### Creepy Crawlly Creatures (fall & spring only)

Become herpetologists in this hands-on class! Experience the creepy, crawlly, and often misunderstood world of reptiles and amphibians, then go on a "hunt" for frogs, toads and salamanders and try to spot or catch them where they live.

#### Ecosystem Engineers (fall & spring)

Just like human engineers build bridges or skyscrapers, beavers build with trees and create floods to change their environment and create their homes. Engineer your own beaver dam and lodge in this class, explore the physical adaptations of these ingenious mammals, and check out Osprey Wilds' very own beaver colony, dam and lodge!

#### Minnesota Wildlife **New!**

Native wildlife plays an important role in our ecosystems and daily life. Meet our live animal ambassadors up close to discover more about Minnesota's native wildlife and how they fit into our local environmental through a guided hike.

#### Predator/Prey (grades 4 and up)

For an animal, life and death hinges on their instincts and abilities. Experience life as a hunter, or the hunted, through a high-energy game and become acutely aware of the adaptations and strategies that are necessary for animals to survive in the wild.

#### Wolves of the North Woods (grades 5 and up)

Wolves are the North Woods' premier predator, yet they live a fine line between life and death; their survival is determined by their abilities and behaviors. Learn about wolf pack structure, behavior and adaptations using scientific tools and methods, such as radio telemetry.

### ECOLOGY

#### Forests

- **Forest Explorers** (grades K-5, fall & spring only) -Through the death of a tree in the forest, resources are now available for new life to begin. Explore the stages of decomposition. Then, become a forest cycle Detective and search for evidence of our decomposer suspects: fungi, bacteria, and invertebrates.
- **Forest Stories** (grades 6 and up) - Every forest has a story, and that story can shape how to care for and manage a forest ecosystem. Complete a survey of our forest ecosystem and work to discover the story that has made the forest look how it does today.
- **Maple Syruping** (March & April only) - For thousands of years, spring warmth has resulted in a sweet treat from the sap of maple trees. Visit our sugar bush, identify and tap a tree, collect sap, & taste delicious pure maple syrup!

#### Landscape Disturbance Stories (grades 8-12 March-December only)

Human-made and natural disturbances change the appearance and composition of a landscape with varying implications. Learn how to "read the landscape" to see the signs of disturbance and succession and learn the stories of the land all around you.

#### Lake Studies (Limnology) (grades 5 and up)

Just like people, all lakes age! Study the aging process of lakes by examining the ecosystems of Grindstone Lake and Windmill Creek. With visual observations and chemical testing, we will determine how "old" Grindstone Lake is and what we can do to keep it and other lakes young and healthy.

#### Renewable Energy S.T.E.M. Class Options

- **Clean Energy Solutions** (Grades 4 and up)  
Renewable energy sources are a growing part of our energy mix, and important part of a sustainable future. How do we get energy from the sun, wind, and water? What are the benefits to the planet and society? Explore multiple renewable energy systems present at Osprey Wilds, then design your own clean, green building!
- **Wind Power** (grades 4-8)  
From the pumping of water, to the milling of grain, to the generation of electricity, the design of windmills and wind turbines has changed over hundreds of years. Analyze windmill blade design through observation and experimentation, and then engineer a functioning windmill.

#### Wonders of Winter Hike (December – March only)

Have you ever wondered how snowflakes form or how plants and animals survive the winter? Through hands-on activities and exploring winter's conditions, students will learn the process of snowflake and ice formation and discover what happens to plants and animals once the snow falls. Students will also engage in discussion about our changing winters and the impacts reduced snowfall & ice cover has on our native plants, animals and bodies of water.

## ADVENTURE

### Archery (grades 4 & up)

Over the last thousand years, the purpose of Archery and the equipment has gradually changed and been modernized for hunting and sport. Experience the ancient art of atlatl throwing, and then sharpen your skills at the archery range.

### Canoeing (grades 9 & up; requires 2 adults; fall & spring only)

The art of paddling is more than pulling a paddle through the water. Discover the technique of paddling using the forward stroke, pry, draw, c-stroke and j-stroke. Work together in the bow and stern to practice your new skills on beautiful Grindstone Lake!

### Climbing Wall

Whether climbing a real rock face or an indoor wall, there is a challenge for everyone. Experience bouldering and top rope climbing on our indoor rock wall! Teamwork and goal-setting will be emphasized during this challenging sport.

### Snowshoeing (grades 4 & up; requires 2 adults; winter only)

Different cultures have responded in different ways to the necessity of traveling in deep snow. Experience the rich history of this 5,000-year-old North American activity through quiet, snow-covered forests.

### Fishing Fundamentals (grades 4 & up; requires 2 adults)

Fishing is a popular sport enjoyed by people all over the world. Students will become familiar with different types of fishing equipment, learn how to cast, set up a pole, and safely practice fishing from the shore or through the ice!

### High Ropes Course (grades 5 & up; requires 3 adults)

The world looks different from a bird's eye view; challenge yourself to climb high (20 or 40 ft options) and to be brave as you soar to new heights. Osprey Wilds' high ropes course also boasts a fun zip-line ride at the end of the course.

### Orienteering (grades 4 & up)

With only two tools you can navigate an unfamiliar environment. Use a compass and your own two feet to navigate Osprey Wilds' orienteering course using techniques like bearing setting, pacing, leapfrogging, and land-marking to complete the course!

### Survivor

You can survive three weeks without food, three days without water, three hours without heat, but the first key to survival happens within the first three seconds. Build a shelter and a fire with a team, and recognize that teamwork is also an important factor in survival.

### Team Building

#### o Total Team

Just as you can't seesaw by yourself, there are many challenges in life that will be easier and more fun with a team. Solve problems and overcome obstacles as a team by striving for improved caring, communication, and cooperation.

#### o Challenge Course (grades 4 & up)

Near-ground elements provide opportunities to test participants individually and as a team in this personal growth and team-oriented challenge course.

## CULTURE & HISTORY

### Nature Journaling

What does it mean to really see an object in nature? Train your eye to notice things differently as you write and share your observations of the natural world. Let out your inner poet as you explore the woods and prairies of Osprey Wilds.

### Ojibwe Hike

Ojibwe culture and traditions are a rich part of Minnesota's history. Through exploration, stories, and sensory experiences, students will learn about traditional Ojibwe practices and valuable uses of native Minnesota trees.

### Beaded Embroidery (Mazinigwaaso) (grades 6 and up)

We invite you to explore Ojibwe culture with us through our Mazinigwaasowin class (Ojibwe for s/he embroiders or beads something). We will investigate natural resources that have been used in traditional embroidery, such as porcupine quills, as well as how the Ojibwe impacted world trade in the region through the fur trade and their beading. You will then get the chance to make and keep your own embroidered craft using seed beads!

## STEWARDSHIP

We have stewardship and career path discovery in the following areas for high school students. Please contact us to learn more.

- Adventure Education and Maintenance
- Gardening, Grounds, and Trail Maintenance
- Wildlife Care and Husbandry
- Farm Harvesting or Weeding- (May-Oct)
- Maple Sap Collection (March/April)
- Pulling Garlic Mustard (May)
- Bud Capping White Pines (Sep-Nov)

## NATURALIST CHOICE

### Osprey Wild Card Hike **New!**

Let our staff of educators take you on a hike around Osprey Wilds' property to learn about a wide array of topics. This hike can take you to areas of Osprey Wilds that most classes do not get to see and can cover topics such as:

- Wildlife
- Forestry
- Ecology
- Fisheries
- Water Resources
- History
- Biomes

Have a request for a specific topic? Let us know when you schedule!

## NATURALIST-LED EVENING PROGRAMS

### The Hinckley Fire - Human Error and Heroism

Learn about the human and natural causes of one of the worst wildfires ever in North America. Discuss the conditions that led to this tragedy, as well as sustainable logging practices, the role of fire in the Minnesota forest ecosystem, and human resilience under pressure.

### Stargazing Stories

Throughout history, cultures from around the world have looked at the same stars to make meaning of their lives. Learn about constellations and the myths and legends behind them.

### Voyageur Rendezvous *(grades K-8 only)*

The Voyageur fur-trade lasted over 300 years and had a big presence here in Pine County! Meet “live” voyageurs who share stories of their lives during the fur trade era. Students will create skits and dramas to make history come alive.

### Pollinators **New!**

The web of life, the food chain and our planet's natural systems are totally dependent on these tiny, amazing creatures that fly around, doing the most important job out there - pollinating our plants! Learn about pollinators' incredible characteristics, the role our little friends play in everything from flowers to fruits, and what you can do to help them!

### Sustainable Foods **New!**

We all eat food, but do we know how it got to our plate, and if it grown or raised in a way that's good for the Earth? Learn about how important agriculture is to society, the impact it has on our planet, ways we can work with and learn from nature to produce healthy, delicious food and decisions you can make in your own life. You'll also get to know what's growing at Osprey Wilds' regenerative farm!

### Wolves of Minnesota! **New!**

Minnesota is the only state in the lower 48 that has continuously had wolves. They are iconic, charismatic, and misunderstood. Learn about the key role wolves play in ecosystems, their pack structure and behaviors, and the fascinating discoveries being made that shed new light on one of human's most captivating friends/foes.

### Grindstone Lake Hunters: Loons, Eagles & Ospreys **New!**

Grindstone Lake is home to three incredible avian hunters - loons, bald eagles and ospreys! We will take a look at each of them to discover the amazing physical features and behaviors that make each of them successful in hunting their shared primary food - fish. From our state bird (Common Loon), to our national symbol (Bald Eagle), to Osprey Wilds' mascot (Osprey), each of them have adaptations that make them truly unique and captivating!

**Trip Tip:** Many of our classes can be adapted in both content and standards to meet your specific learning objectives and individual student needs.

More detailed descriptions and academic standards for each class is available by request.

If you have questions about our curriculum, please contact our education team. We will work with you to find the best fit for your students.

## SELF - LED EVENING ACTIVITIES

### Campfire

Gathering together around a campfire ring to a crackling, warm and mesmerizing fire is a perfect way to wrap up your group's experience and appreciate the beauty of Osprey Wilds. If you desire s'mores supplies, please indicate so on your Snack Request Form or feel free to bring your own!

### Nature Scavenger Hunt

Become acquainted with Osprey Wilds through a list of activities and challenges. These will test the group's communication skills, cooperation, mathematical skills, and problem solving.

### Night Hike

See Osprey Wilds in a whole new light – with no lights! Enjoy the evening sounds and night skies with your group by utilizing our trails to open up students' curiosity and maybe get over some fears. Ask your liaisons or any staff member for their favorite trail to hike at night.

### Invent Your Own!

The possibilities are endless... Please let us know if we can help you brainstorm any other activities.

## \*NEW PROGRAM OFFERINGS\*

We are pilot testing new programs this year, we could use your help! If you are interested in trying out one of our new programs, please email us at [schools@ospreywilds.org](mailto:schools@ospreywilds.org)



The scheduling and Pre-trip logistics forms are available online at:

<https://ospreywilds.org/schools/k12-required-forms/>

(or simply click on the form name below).

## Reservation Agreement

- required to confirm your reservation dates. We must receive this **as early as possible (at least four months)** prior to your trip, and within 30 days of when you receive the Agreement). Reservations are not confirmed until we receive this completed, signed form. Please note that dates in September, October, April, May and June are in high demand. Lock yours in now!

## Scheduling Form

- complete and return **at least two months prior to your trip**

## Pre-Trip Logistics

- complete and return **at least two weeks prior to your trip. This form will be used to confirm your billing.**

Collect the following from students/parents/chaperones prior to your trip - please collect using the google form links provided to you at least two weeks prior to your arrival:

**Student Health Form** Required for overnight trips

Spanish version online – [Formulario Salud de Alumno](#)

**Adult Health Form** Required for overnight trips

Spanish version online – [Formulario Salud de Adulto](#)

**Liability Release** Required from all students and adults before participation in any program

Spanish version online – [Formulario Responsabilidad](#)

**IMPORTANT:** We must have a signed liability form for each student before they can participate in Osprey Wilds' programs.

**What to Bring** packing list

Spanish version online – [Que debo traer al Centro](#)

**Information for Parents**

Spanish version online – [Informacion\\_padres](#)

➔ We also have forms in Hmong and Somali.

Please print this checklist and use it to keep track of deadlines.

- ☐ **Sign and return Reservation Agreement – Within 30 days from your receipt**  
Your trip is not confirmed until Osprey Wilds receives this form, and many schools book a year in advance. We can only guarantee the date and rate for 30-days.
- ☐ **Contact parents and sign up students and chaperones**  
Many schools host an info meeting for parents to learn more about the trip. An Osprey Wilds staff member would be happy to attend this meeting in person or virtually and answer questions about the student experience.  
This is also a great time to do fundraising, if needed.
- ☐ **Fill out Scheduling Form – Two months before your trip**  
This form allows you to tell Osprey Wilds more about your students and goals. It's important that we receive it on time to allow for staff scheduling.
- ☐ **Invite participants to fill required paperwork using Google Forms**  
Every student and chaperone needs to have a health form (a copy of your school's form is acceptable for students) and signed liability form to participate at Osprey Wilds.  
You will also want to send home your school's permission slip and the Osprey Wilds packing list.
- ☐ **Complete Pre-Trip Logistics form – Two weeks before your trip**  
Assign your students to Learning Groups, dorm rooms, and KP duty, and choose snacks.  
Use participants' health forms (and remember your chaperones!) to fill out the Health Summary – this step is crucial for our kitchen to provide healthy, safe meals for all participants.
- ☐ **Insure all health and liability forms are completed – Two weeks prior to your trip**  
Make sure everyone's forms are complete before you arrive. You may want to have copies of the health forms for your use during your stay, we do not want hard copies.
- ☐ **Have fun!**  
The most important part of any trip is to have fun and learn. We can't wait to have you here!

