

OUTDOOR SCHOOL FOR ALL

This spring, legislation was introduced at the MN Capitol that has the potential to be the most bi-partisan bill passed in recent historical memory. Working together with legislators, Minnesota's residential environmental learning centers, including Osprey Wilds, have introduced Outdoor School For All Minnesota. This program would fund every 4th-8th grade K-12 student in Minnesota to attend a multi-day outdoor learning experience at an accredited outdoor school.



Even with our rich outdoor heritage and nation leading number of accredited residential environmental learning centers (outdoor schools), currently only 30% of Minnesota K-12 students participate in these overnight outdoor learning experiences. Outdoor School For All would create a grant program to fund every K-12 student that experience, regardless of their zip code, economic background, or school they attend. Find out more at <https://www.outdoorschoolforallmn.org/>.

WELCOME FELLOWS AND QUILLBERT

We are excited to introduce our five new education fellows for the 2023-24 Outdoor School season! Their first day was August 21 and they hit the ground running with training leading into our first Outdoor School program September 6-8.

We also have a new animal ambassador, Quillbert the North American Porcupine. Quillbert joined us mid-May as an infant. He has grown tremendously over the past few months and started programming Mid-July. Quillbert officially moved into his permanent enclosure August 19th.



Pictured: Quillbert exploring his new enclosure on August 19, 2023



Pictured left to right: Nathan Sayers (bottom left), Marin Silverman (top left), Shane Evans, Kyra Binkhoelter, Jenna Stanze

VIEW OUR UPCOMING EVENTS



STRENGTH BY VOLUNTEERS

This year we have been able to partner with two AmeriCorps programs to help drive our mission even further. Kaden, our Communications Outreach Specialist, joined us through Conservation Corps, Minnesota & Iowa. Her position is a one year Individual Placement working a unique role of ½ time marketing and ½ farm staff.

Then in August, we were granted an AmeriCorps NCCC team to help with significant land management projects. The Willow 50 team worked on clearing trails from our winter storms, harvesting and cultivating the farm along with taking our produce into our kitchen and preserving it for the year. Osprey Wilds and other non-profit organizations benefit tremendously from these strong volunteer-base programs.

"Serving at Osprey Wilds has been one of my most beneficial post-grad experiences. I have developed my professional skills and learned first-hand from Trapp Farm the important connection between community and good food."
-Kaden Mettel, CCMI



"The staff at Osprey Wilds have introduced us to the importance of the environment surrounding us, imparted their knowledge in a digestible manner, and fostered a welcoming atmosphere conducive to service work and education."
-Cecil Forest, Willow 50

"Osprey Wilds has taught me so much about sustainable farming. I plan to bring these practices home with me and introduce them into my communities!" -Aliza Shoemaker-Allen, Willow 50
"It makes me happy to see individuals of all ages and backgrounds discover the wonders of nature."
-Lowellsh Hicks, Willow 50

BIDS FOR KIDS RETURNS TO THE TWIN CITIES

A change of venue and format are "on tap" for Bids for Kids 2023, Osprey Wilds' annual fall fundraiser. A week of online bidding and giving opportunities beginning Friday, Oct 27 will culminate with a gathering at **St. Paul's Urban Growler Brewing Company on Sunday, November 5, from 2:00 to 5:00.**

The come-and-go event will feature short presentations every hour by Osprey Wilds leaders and guests, along with a raffle, games, and tables with educational and informational material and items from the Osprey Wilds gift shop. There will be no cost to attend, with food and drinks available to purchase from Urban Growler.

Go to the Bids for Kids page on our website <https://ospreywilds.org/event/bids-for-kids-2023/> to find the online auction and learn more about how to connect with and support Osprey Wilds during Bids for Kids week!



BEQUESTS GROW ENDOWMENT FUND

Both last summer and this, Osprey Wilds was the grateful beneficiary of legacy gifts that together swelled the endowment by more than \$515,000—an almost 60% increase! Bequests left in a will are the most common type of legacy gift, though in the past five years, Osprey Wilds has also been the named beneficiary of a retirement account and received the proceeds from a charitable gift annuity. Bequests themselves can take different forms, with the most common being cash, stock shares, and real estate.

You can learn more about the varied means and benefits of leaving a legacy gift to Osprey Wilds in the planned giving section of our website or by getting in touch with Development Director Jim DeYoung (deyoung@ospreywilds.org, 320-245-7791).

Learn more about
our work at
OspreyWilds.org

