

Wolves and Northwoods Carnivores: Predator Ecology

Jan 5-19, 2025

2025 January Interim Course at Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center

We look forward to meeting you in January and sharing this month of winter, wolves, and other large predators with each one of you. No season creates as much stress on the ecology of wildlife as winter. In the summer, there is always enough to eat when the plants are green and abundant, but what food is to be found when three feet of snow covers the ground? There is always shade in the heat of summer, but is there always a warm place to be found in winter? What are some of the physical and behavioral adaptations of organisms to the cold, dry winter environment?

During this season, we will attempt to understand winter through interpretation of wolf and predator ecology, research and practical experience. We will be tracking wolves to locate territorial packs and observing the environmental impacts of deer on their habitat. We will assist lynx researchers with tracking data. We will also spend a week divided between Superior National Forest and the North Shore of Lake Superior to survey the wolf population on the Jonvick Deer Yard, a special ecological zone which concentrates over 100 deer/sq. mi., and at one time the largest wolf pack in Minnesota. We will prepare for our experiences with lectures on wolves, lynx, and the other predators of Minnesota, as well as their interactions with prey species, and will practice data gathering techniques and do tracking surveys which will benefit wolf and lynx researchers and managers.

We will furnish snowshoes for the research, and will work with you on first aid and winter survival skills. There will be some time for cross country skiing on your own and some of our routes are better run on skis.

Transportation during the course will be provided by Osprey Wilds' 15- and 7-passenger vans.

Required Reading:

- * *Track Pack: Animals in Full Life Size* by Ed Gray
- * *Animal Tracks of Minnesota and Wisconsin* by Ian Sheldon and Tamara Eder

Recommended Reading:

- * *Wolves: Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation* by L. David Mech and Luigi Boitani
- * *Recovery of Gray Wolves in the Great Lakes Region of the United States* by Adrian P. Wydeven, Timothy R. Deelen and Edward Heske
- * *The Company of Wolves* by Peter Steinhart
- * *Tracking and the Art of Seeing* by Paul Rezendes

Driving directions to

Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center
54165 Audubon Dr., Sandstone, MN 55072
320-245-2648

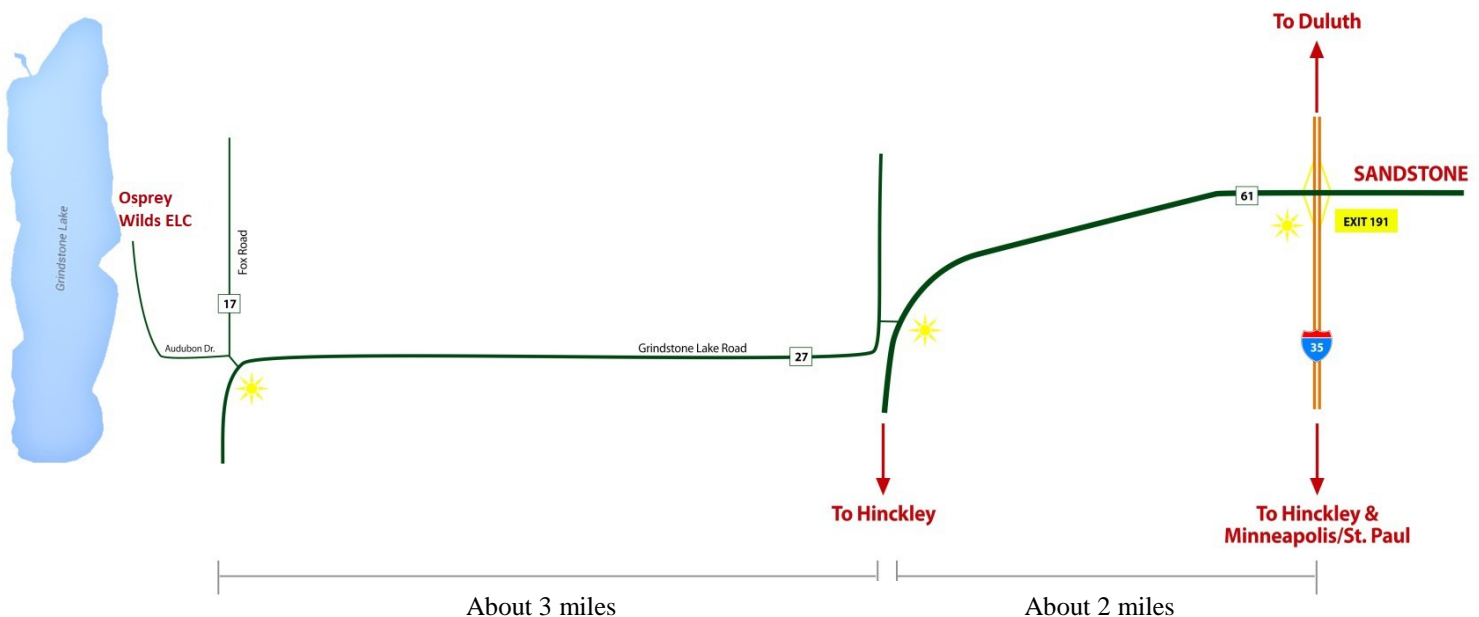
If searching for our location online, use maps.google.com

Osprey Wilds GPS coordinates

(46.117186384284004, -92.99793720245361)

**Driving directions to Osprey Wilds
From the Twin Cities and Duluth**

1. From Interstate 35, exit on the Sandstone **Exit 191**.
2. Go west on Hwy 61 just over two miles.
3. Take a right on County Road 27, cross the Munger bike trail, turn left at the 'T' (Grindstone Lake Road) and go just over three miles.
4. Take a right on County Road 17 (Fox Road) and go about 100 feet.
5. Turn left between the stone pillars (Audubon Drive – our driveway).
6. **Proceed directly to main office/dining hall for check-in** – just follow our mile-long driveway all the way until it ends at the parking lot and the office.



2025 January Interim Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

- 1/5** - Plan to arrive at Osprey Wilds between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.
(Please try to arrive no earlier than 2 p.m. – lodging facilities may not be ready until after 2)
Introduction to Osprey Wilds
Overview of month
Expectations, Journals, and Grading
- 1/6** - Wolves Presentation
Orienteering & Predator Prey
Winter Safety and First Aid
Optional Climbing Wall - Rock Climbing
- 1/7** - Wolves Presentation
Cross Country Skiing & Telemetry
Live Animal Program
- 1/8** - Intro to Tracking Presentation and Tracking Scenarios
Telemetry & Cross County Skiing
- 1/9** - Tracking at Hidden Falls and Osprey Wilds
- 1/10** - Wolves Presentation
Dr. Dave Mech Q & A - Zoom
Wildlife Science Center - Tour & Lecture
- 1/11** - Banning State Park and Sandstone Wildlife Management Area
- 1/12** - Gooseberry Falls and Temperance River State Parks
Winter Plant Identification
Night Hike - Superior Hiking Trail & Agnes Lake
- 1/13** - Transects & Ski Groups
- 1/14** - Transects - Skiing/Hiking
Camp Du Nord
Sauna & Polar Plunge
- 1/15** - Radio Telemetry Flights
Tracking
Sauna & Polar Plunge
- 1/16** - Sigurd Olson's House & Listening Point
Kawishiwi Falls
International Wolf Center
Wintergreen Sled Dogs
North American Bear Center w/ Dr. Lynn Rogers
Sauna & Polar Plunge
- 1/17** - Hegman Lake-snowshoeing/tracking
Return to Osprey Wilds
- 1/18** - Study and homework a.m.
Turn in journals, reflection and research paper
Pre-test Question and answer session
Test p.m.
Movie Night. Drive home if local
- 1/19** - Leave by Noon

Travel Information

Travel by car

Plan to arrive between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 5.

You may leave on Saturday, January 18 after the final test, or if you have a long way to drive, you can stay the night and leave by Noon on Sunday, January 19.

Travel by plane

Osprey Wilds will provide an airport pickup/dropoff for \$35 each way

Fly into MSP (Minneapolis/St Paul Intl) Airport TERMINAL 1.

Arrive by Noon on Sunday, January 5, to allow for any flight delays.

The van departs for Osprey Wilds from Terminal 1 at Baggage Claim Door 4 at 2 p.m.

Flight departure must be after Noon on Sunday, January 19.

We will have you at the airport by 10:30 a.m.

Alternate shuttle

If you will be arriving/departing outside of the above times, you can book Groome Transportation shuttle service. This travels between the Twin Cities and Duluth. It also picks up and drops off at the Airports.

Go to www.groometransportation.com (tel. 218.724.4676) for the schedule (click on Duluth).

The nearest stop to Osprey Wilds is Tobies in Hinckley – we can pick you up and/or drop you off there.

Lodging Information

While at Osprey Wilds, you will stay in one of our Lodges. There are 4-6 bunks per room and men's and women's bathrooms and showers. While at Osprey Wilds, you will have bunks in rooms designated male or female. You will need to bring a sleeping bag and pillow, as well as towels and washcloths. You will have daily housekeeping responsibilities.

In Ely, you will be staying at YMCA Camp Du Nord on Burntside Lake, and while on the North Shore of Lake Superior, you will be staying at Solkbakken Resort near Lutsen, Minnesota. Since there are limited beds, and in order to keep costs reasonable, it will be necessary for participants to share double- or queen-sized beds with roommates.

Call or email Osprey Wilds if you have any questions

Tel. 320-245-2648

Email frontdesk@ospreywilds.org

Additional Course Information

Meals Served cafeteria style in the main lodge while at Osprey Wilds. Many lunches will be packed to eat in the field. On the North Shore, we will cook our own meals. We can prepare vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options. You will be responsible for three restaurant meals during the course.

Training Walk a lot ahead of time. **This is a physically demanding program.** We recommend getting up to 4 miles or more, 3-4 days every week, at a brisk pace with a daypack and water – see ***Clothing and Equipment Notes*** for information on what you might carry in your pack on a typical day. If you are physically prepared for the program, your experience will be much more enjoyable and safe.

Tests There will be various short quizzes. Research skills and background are important and we need to have some idea of where you're at. Some of you will need grades for school credits. These tests will help assess your grades. We will also ask you to research some aspect of wolf ecology or behavior to present to the class.

Grades Course requirements are outlined in the Syllabus. **Please let us know in advance if a grade is required, and the name, address, phone number, and email of the advisor we should send grades to.**

Drug & Alcohol Policy Alcoholic beverages and recreational drugs are not allowed at Osprey Wilds during this program. Smoking and vaping are not allowed in any of the buildings or vehicles. Smoking at OW is restricted to one outside area. Smokers/vapers will be asked to move away from the group when smoking in the field. Chewing tobacco is not allowed in any of the buildings or vehicles.

Mail Use Osprey Wilds' street address for all mail and deliveries (*your name*, Osprey Wilds ELC, 54165 Audubon Dr., Sandstone, MN 55072). UPS and FedEx deliver directly to us Monday through Friday – this is the best option for any packages, since USPS mail has to be picked up from town, and sometimes there is a delay with USPS mail packages. Mail arriving in advance of the course can be held for you.

Phones There is a phone in each of the Lodges and the dining hall for emergency use only. Osprey Wild's main phone (320.245.2648), which is located in the office, can accept voice messages after hours - those messages will be delivered to you the next morning.

Using Osprey Wilds Gear - you are personally responsible for repair or replacement of any gear borrowed or rented by you from Osprey Wilds and will be charged for loss or damage if it is caused by personal negligence.

Clothing and Equipment Notes

Weather Conditions January is our coldest month of the year, with a temperature range from above freezing to -45°F. We are more concerned about the annual thaw and the wetness that accompanies it than with the cold weather. If you dress in layers and wear the proper fabrics, you should have no problems with the cold. We will discuss, in great detail, how to dress for and behave in cold conditions. Most temperatures will be in the -10 to +20°F range.

A Suggested Packing List follows.

Cross Country Skiing Osprey Wilds has cross country ski equipment which you can use. Our bindings are back country style which allows you to wear warm winter boots. Cross country skiing is an optional activity, however some of our wolf-tracking routes are best done on skis.

Please let Janette (frontdesk@ospreywilds.org) know ahead of time if you plan to use any of our equipment.

Winter Clothing Concerns Please refer to the *Suggested Packing List*. Winter conditions demand far greater concern for proper clothing than any other season. The effects of cold, wind, and moisture are most severe at this time, so clothing should be chosen to serve adequately for safety and comfort.

Wool is one of the best materials since it has a high insulation value, and retains most of that value even when wet. Silk, polypropylene, pile, bunting, and a host of other materials are available, with specific uses and abilities, and they should also be considered, especially if layered with some wool. **Cotton should be avoided, because it holds moisture and loses all insulation value when wet.**

You should dress in multiple layers so you can take off or add layers to adjust your temperature, depending on weather conditions and your level of activity. If the snow is deep, you will be working hard and building up lots of heat. Layers should then be removed to reduce perspiration so you don't get your insulating layers wet. Wet clothing means quick conduction of heat away from your body.

At any time in the field on a cold day, you might be wearing the following (or an equivalent combination): wool hat, long underwear, turtleneck top, wool sweater, windbreaker or some other windproof layer, long underwear bottoms, wool pants, 2 pairs of wool socks, insulated boots, ski gloves or wool mittens with leather choppers. In your daypack might be a warmer jacket and/or down vest and/or additional wool sweater. (Do not go out and buy a parka just for this course. As long as you can bundle up in lots of layers, almost any winter overcoat will do.)

Each evening you will have to work towards drying clothes so that they can be used again.

Daypack Day trips and research days will typically require us to be outdoors all day. Your daypack should be large enough to carry extra clothing, field guides, a clipboard, 2 quart-size water bottles, a flashlight, and lunch.

Suggested Packing List

(NOTE You do not need all items to attend - READ CAREFULLY!)

- Sleeping bag or bedroll and pillow to put on bed in lodge - make sure they are warm!
- Wool or fleece hat or balaclava
- Neck gaiter/scarf – wool or fleece is best
- Wool or other heavy duty mittens - at least 2 pairs
- Leather or nylon overmitts - to keep wool ones dry
- 2 wool or fleece sweaters
- Long-sleeved wool or polypropylene shirts
- Wool or polypropylene long underwear - TOPS AND BOTTOMS – recommend 2 sets
- Wool socks - at least 4 pairs
- Liner socks* - lightweight wool, silk, polypropylene,
- Vest – down, fleece, or polarguard
- Winter jacket, parka or shell
- Gaiters - a must to keep snow out of boots and socks
- Good winter boots with removable wool/felt liner - essential! SOREL boots are the best, but there are many less expensive copies which work well too. These are boots with rubber bottoms and leather uppers.
- Extra pair of wool/felt liners for boots*
- Good raingear - jacket and pants - good for wind protection; should be durable in cold.
- Sunglasses or ski/snow goggles
- Bathing suit for the saunas at Solbakken and Camp Du Nord
- Wool pants - 2 pairs - one heavy and one light OR one pair of wool and one pair of ski/snow pants. Wool pants are available at Army/Navy surplus stores at very reasonable prices (looks may not be great, but warmth is terrific!)
- Down or Polarguard booties* (optional for lodge use)
- Large daypack - a must for carrying gear and extra clothing on day trips
- Pocketknife
- Headlamp (plus spare bulbs/batteries) – good for late work since it gets dark around 4:30 p.m. in the winter
- Binoculars*
- Notebook/pens/pencils (pencils work best in winter conditions)
- Compass - or orienteering style with 2 degree increments Silva Polaris
- GPS unit (highly encouraged)
- Laptop computer (**highly recommended** for homework and class emails)
- 2 heavy duty large garbage bags to line your daypack
- Large freezer Ziploc bags to cover notebooks and field guides
- Quart size steel thermos* - so your water doesn't freeze
- 2 quart-size water bottles
- Cross country skis/boots/poles/waxes – optional, but do bring your own if you have them
- Snowshoes - optional - we have some you can use
- Personal toiletries and medical items (prescription meds, lotion, lipbalm, toothpaste/brush, soap, bandaids, moleskin, aspirin, coughdrops, tampons, GoGirl, etc)
- Washcloth and towels
- Ace bandages/braces if you need to use. We will be in rugged country, so be prepared if knee/ankle problems are weak areas
- Laundry soap

*Optional, yet highly recommended items. Call or email for more information if you have any questions.

Be sure to bring sufficient comfortable clothing for the evenings and inside. Include slippers/moccasins, robe, underwear, pajamas, jeans, etc. The above packing list relates to the outdoor activities.

Syllabus

Course Title *Wolves and Northwoods Carnivores Predator Ecology*

Number of Credits 3 semester credits – recommended by instructor

Semester Offered January Interim, January 1-14, 2024

Instructor's Name Bryan Wood

Contact Phone 320.245.2648

Email wood@ospreywilds.org or frontdesk@ospreywilds.org

Catalog Description

This course covers a broad range of topics related to wildlife. The focus will be the gray wolf, lynx, the white-tailed deer, and other MN predators and prey, but all animals directly or indirectly associated with or affected by these predators or prey may be included. The course is field-oriented and includes opportunities for backcountry travel, wildlife observation and tracking, as well as an introduction to habitats, how wildlife respond to natural and artificial disturbance, and human factors. Additional topics include wildlife research techniques, data acquisition and analysis, as well as management practices.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to

1. Describe animal adaptations to a winter environment.
2. Identify and describe various wolf behaviors.
3. Identify and describe wolf field signs.
4. Identify habitat types and individual woody browse plants important to ungulates in the Border Lakes region.
5. Describe wildlife research techniques and their application.
6. Demonstrate the ability to use a map and compass for backcountry navigation.
7. Describe and demonstrate safe field techniques.
8. Identify and describe ecological factors related to lynx research.
9. Identify and describe lynx field signs.
10. Describe Minnesota predators and their habitat, prey, and lifestyle.

Student Assessment Methods

1. Field Journal
2. Research Paper
3. Oral and written quizzes
4. Discussion of assigned readings
5. Instructor assessment of student participation and competency
6. Instructor assessment of practical skill demonstration and competency
7. Reflection Paper
8. Final exam

Outline of Major Course Content

Wolf Ecology
Northern Predator Species
Northern Prey Species
Predator-Prey Relationships
Predator and Endangered Species Issues and Management
Backcountry Navigation
Wildlife Habitats
Wildlife Research Techniques
Winter Field Techniques and Safety

Attendance Policy

Students must participate in all class activities unless prearranged with class instructor, in which case make-up assignments may be arranged.

Grading Policies and Evaluation Procedures

Participation	35% of total grade
Journal	30% of total grade
Research Project	15% of total grade
Final Exam	15% of total grade
Reflection Paper	5% of total grade

Final Grade is based upon % of Total Points

90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, Below 60% = F

Course Accommodations

For any accommodations needed during this course, please let Janette (frontdesk@ospreywilds.org) or Bryan (wood@ospreywilds.org) know by December 13, 2024.

Course Location

The first half of the course will be based out of Osprey Wilds, and the second half will be split between Ely, MN and the North Shore of Lake Superior.

Academic Integrity Statement

Students are expected to abide by academic integrity standards in this class. Student unethical practices, such as cheating on examinations or misrepresenting authorship on class assignments, will not be tolerated.

TRAVEL INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION
2025 January Interim Course at Osprey Wilds
Wolves and Northwoods Carnivores: Predator Ecology 1/5-1/19/25

Please mail or email this form to Osprey Wilds ELC, PO Box 530, Sandstone, MN 55072 or
frontdesk@ospreywilds.org so that it reaches us by **December 13, 2024**. You will be sent instructions for paying the
balance of your fee.

NAME _____ AGE _____ GENDER _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COLLEGE ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER CELL () _____ HOME () _____

EMAIL _____

- I will be receiving college credits from my own school for this session. What kind of credits? _____
- An evaluation of my experience/performance should be sent to my advisor (include name, address, phone, and email) _____

NOTE - please bring/send a copy of your school's evaluation form if we are to use it.

I will need the following equipment from Osprey Wilds

Cross country skis I am _____ feet _____ inches tall Cross country ski poles Snowshoes

TRAVEL PLANS

Others traveling with me are _____

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

- I will arrive by car and will be at Osprey Wilds at _____ on Sunday, January 5, 2025
- I will need a shuttle (\$35) to Osprey Wilds from MSP Airport on Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 2 p.m. My arrival is before Noon. My flight info is: Airline _____ Flight # _____ Arrives at MSP _____
- Groome Transport will drop me at Tobies, Hinckley at _____ on Sunday, January 5, 2025

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

- I will leave Osprey Wilds by car at on _____
- I will need a shuttle (\$35) from Osprey Wilds to MSP Airport on Sunday, January 19, 2025. My flight departs after Noon. My flight info is: Airline _____ Flight # _____ Departure time _____
- I will be picked up by Groome Transport at Tobies, Hinckley at _____ on Saturday, 1/18/25
Sunday, 1/19/25

J-Term 2025
Health/Medical Form



This form must be completed and returned by **December 13, 2024**

Please send completed and signed form to
frontdesk@ospreywilds.org or to
Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center
PO Box 530, Sandstone, MN 55072

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Cell or Home Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Date of Birth _____

<u>Emergency Contact</u>
Name _____
Relationship _____
Daytime Phone _____
Evening Phone _____

<u>Primary Physician (s)</u>
Name _____
Phone _____
Name _____
Phone _____

<u>Insurance Information</u>
Carrier _____
Policy # _____
Group # _____
Insurance Phone _____

Do you have any of the following conditions?

- Epilepsy/seizures Bleeding/clotting disorder Heart Asthma/emphysema
 High blood pressure Diabetes Other

Allergies (food, environmental, medication) _____ No known allergies
 Please check this box if allergies are anaphylactic

Dietary preferences or restrictions (e.g., vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, etc.). We make every attempt to offer and identify vegetarian and gluten-free menu options at each meal. If you have severe food restrictions or specialized dietary needs, you may need to bring supplemental food.

List any medications taken on a daily basis (or attach separate sheet) Do not take any medications

Do any medications require refrigeration? Yes No

Do you have any other medical condition of which the Center should be aware? (describe below)

Will you have additional medical requirements during the course? Yes No

I hereby release the above information for use of Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center and/or any other medical personnel who might need to provide care to me during this event. In the event of an emergency, I authorize treatment by emergency medical personnel.

Signature _____ Date _____



Liability Release Form

Please send completed and signed form to frontdesk@ospreywilds.org or to Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center PO Box 530, Sandstone, MN 55072

This form must be completed and returned by December 13, 2024

Assumption of Risk & Liability Release and Consent to Publish

Participant Name _____ Birthdate _____

I will be participating in the program at Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center (A Minnesota nonprofit corporation). I acknowledge and am aware that this program involves certain inherent risks which I expressly accept and assume. These risks may include (but are not limited to) physical injury, emotional injury, paralysis, permanent disability, illness, death or property damage due to inclement weather; walking on uneven trails; canoeing; cross country skiing; snowshoeing; rock-climbing; and belaying on an indoor climbing wall; a high ropes course activity; field trips to non-Osprey Wilds sites; and other people's actions. I understand that even if the participant travels outside of the state of Minnesota, any actions arising out of this activity will be bound by Minnesota law.

After appropriate medical consultation, I have determined that my health is adequate to participate safely in this program (except as indicated on the Health Form submitted). In the event of an emergency, I authorize treatment by emergency medical personnel. I understand some risks simply cannot be eliminated, despite the use of safety equipment, without jeopardizing the essential qualities of the activity.

I understand that COVID-19 is a global pandemic, extremely contagious and believed to spread from person-to-person contact. Osprey Wilds ELC has enacted preventive measures in an attempt to reduce the spread of COVID-19, but cannot guarantee that participants in the program will not become infected. I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by participating in the Osprey Wilds ELC program.

Accordingly, I hereby voluntarily release and forever discharge Osprey Wilds, including the directors, officers, employees, agents, volunteers, participants, and all other persons or entities acting for them on behalf of myself, the participant, from any and all claims and liabilities in any way with respect to injury, sickness, disease, loss or damage. This release applies to any and all liabilities to me or my estate of any description, whether arising from ordinary negligence or otherwise, and whether involving fees and expenses of any kind. In the event that some other person or entity seeks compensation for these released liabilities, I or my estate will indemnify and hold harmless Osprey Wilds for all sums incurred in response to that claim. This release is to be interpreted and enforced under Minnesota law.

By signing this document, I understand and agree that if I am hurt or if my property is damaged during my participation in this activity, I may be found by a court of law to have waived my right to maintain a lawsuit against the parties being released on the basis of any claim for negligence. I have had enough time to read this agreement and consult with legal counsel if I chose to do so. I understand that this activity may not be made available to me if I were to choose not to sign this release. I have read and understood this document and I agree to be bound by its terms.

I give Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center unrestricted permission to use and publish any images, audio, video, and recordings taken during the visit in print, video, digital, and internet media. I understand that that I will receive no payment, and voluntarily waive any and all privacy protections that I have and knowingly consent to the use of this material by Osprey Wilds ELC.

Participating Adult Signature _____ Date _____

Signer Name _____ Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please note Failure to sign this form will prohibit you from participating in all Osprey Wilds activities. You are invited to request more information about our programs, facilities, and policies at any time.