

Frequently Asked Questions about Sand Lake Conservation Camp

Q: What forms do I need to register my child(ren) for camp?

A: You need several forms for registration per child. They are all available on the camp website to print off and send in; you can also call for forms to be mailed to you. Go to www.marinettecounty.com and search for “sand lake” or “conservation camp”. The first result will be the camp webpage. The forms are located near bottom of the page under the heading “Registration Forms”. You will need:

- 2013 Sand Lake Camp registration form (including the choice activity signup pages - more information on registration form) – * **AVAILABLE ONLINE BY MARCH** *
- A photo or photocopy picture of your child (for ID purposes only)
- Sand Lake Camper Expectation Agreement form
- Sand Lake Camp Release & Hold Harmless form
- Payment – please make checks payable to “Marinette County LWCD – Conservation Camp” (checks will be held until two weeks before camp starts, then cashed).

Please note that the above forms require BOTH camper and parent signatures.

Q: What does my child need to bring to camp?

A: There is a “What to Bring” list on the camp website. There are also examples of what NOT to bring to camp (ex. cell/smart phones, iPods, internet devices, electronic games, aerosol sprays, fireworks, skimpy clothing, string bikinis, etc.). See the list for more information.

Q: What kind of supervision does my child have at camp?

A: There are adults present on campus the whole time during camp. Scheduled activities and programs, mealtimes, and free time are all supervised by an adult presence. Overnight, campers stay in cabins of 9 with 1 adult staff. All overnight cabin staff is background-checked prior to camp. There are also camp caretakers, lifeguards, first aid-trained staff, and a certified EMT on campus during camp as well.

Q: My son/daughter has a friend going to camp, and would like to bunk in the same cabin as him/her. Is this allowed?

A: Certainly. I will do my best to fulfill bunking requests. Please attach a note to your child’s registration form with the name(s) of other campers they would like to bunk with. Remember to put any other authorized adults to pick-up your child from camp on the registration form (grandparents, aunt/uncle, friend, etc.).

Q: What if my child gets homesick during camp?

A: A flyer about homesickness will be sent to parents of registered campers in early June. Since we started camp in 2006, we have only sent two children home and that was because of extenuating circumstances. If your child is feeling homesick, we may allow him/her to call you from camp to talk to you, but we highly discourage campers leaving camp for several reasons. First, it is only a 2-night camp, and we have found that

once campers start to enjoy themselves they do not want to leave. Second, and probably most practically, is the driving distance issue. **We do not provide transport for campers if they become homesick, it is the parents' responsibility.** We also do not offer refunds if a camper goes home early. If your child has never been away from home overnight, please consider a 'practice' overnight stay away from home before camp starts to better avoid any issues that might come up. You can also consider sending a friend to camp with your child so they can keep each other company. Visit these websites with tips on how to avoid homesickness at camp: http://www.ehow.com/how_2270867_have-fun-summer-camp.html & <http://www.gocamps.com/artic-parent3.html>.

Q: Does the camp fill up quickly? Is there a waiting list?

A: Registrations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Our camper capacity depends on how many staff we are able to get, so if we receive more registrations than we can put into cabins, there will be a waiting list. If your child is on the waiting list, and is not able to come to this year's camp, you will be contacted first about the next year's camp (if age requirements are met).

Q: How do I get to Sand Lake Conservation Camp?

A: There are directions on the webpage attached with the "What to Bring" list. Camp Bird's street address is N8395 Caldron Falls Road, Crivitz, WI 54114. I suggest bringing a paper map with you just in case, as GPS directions can sometimes be confusing.

Q: My child is too old to come to Sand Lake Conservation Camp. Is there a similar camp available for older children?

A:

1. Rusk County in north-central Wisconsin has a similar program for youth going into 9-11th grades, the WLWCA Youth Conservation Camp. Their website is <http://www.wlwca.org/>. Click "WLWCA programs" in the left-hand menu, and then click the "Conservation Camps" tab. This camp is longer (4-5 days) and has some similar activities and they also do hands-on projects like habitat restoration and daylong canoe trips. This year it will be held in Eagle River, WI at Trees for Tomorrow Natural Resources Education Center. Click here for a brochure: <http://www.wlwca.org/PDFs/programevents/2012%20Camp%20Brochure.pdf>. Contact Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County Land Conservation, at 715-479-3682 or cascho@co.vilas.wi.us.

2. Another opportunity for older students is the Crex Meadows Conservation Camp, located near Grantsburg, Wisconsin. The Camp offers two-week sessions for qualified high school students between the ages of 14-19. Campers work daily with the Crex Meadows and Governor Knowles State Forest Department of Natural Resources staff on a wide range of outdoor, hands-on projects, including Canada goose banding, building boardwalks and bridges, hiking trail maintenance, and removal of invasive species. Evenings are spent with recreation time and with science, nature, and work-based curriculum programs. Contact Brad Gingras, Youth Services Manager & Camp Director, at 715-682-9141, ext. 200 or email him at bgingras@nwcep.org.

3. Trees For Tomorrow Natural Resources Education Center in Eagle River, WI holds a careers workshop for high school students in mid to late June. It's a close-up, hands-on look at what's available in natural resources-related jobs today. Students will meet with working professionals, learn about natural resources colleges, learn what various occupations require for education or training, what they pay, and what today's job market is like. Contact [Joe Panci](#) at Trees for Tomorrow (715-479-6456) for more information, or visit www.TreesForTomorrow.com.