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Whitetails Unlimited
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Updated 09/02/09

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Environmental Youth Connections

EYC

An Innovative Approach Between Youth and Nature

4 Reasons Why



Health-

Outdoor experiences result in reduced inactivity and improved health

Educational-

An educational system with plans, kits and maps for staff and volunteers to engage young people

Environmental-

Environmental education resources for local natural areas in our backyard

Economics-

Natural resources preservation that is essential to tourism in Waupaca County

EYC

The Benefits of Involvement

For Schools this project covers and encourages staff development to connect curriculum to outdoor classrooms in the most effective way.

For Teachers it accentuates learning opportunities in outdoor situations that produce the best possible outcomes for environmental science.

For Natural Resource Professionals this project increases use of natural resource areas in our backyard. It is a link to people of all ages and promotes stewardship in our county.

For Volunteers (both youth and adults), this project provides an opportunities to support teachers and natural resource professionals in a quality experience for youth. It builds the capacity of both natural resource professionals and teachers to reach more children in more sites in Waupaca County.

For Students this project allows hands on experiences to required teachings and exposure to the natural habitats in their backyard.



University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming including Title IX and ADA.



What can you do?

Whether you are a classroom teacher, a natural resource professional, or a volunteer (youth or adult), you may participate in any one of the following ways:

- Develop lesson plans for specific sites
- Assemble kits for outdoor areas
- Donate equipment for kits
- Share with others successful activities at local sites
- Volunteer to teach outdoor activities at local sites
- Submit articles about outdoor places and activities
- Donate money
- Assist the advisory board for sustainability of EYC

Name:

Phone:

Address:

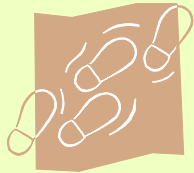
Email:

Your Help is Valuable

EYC is not possible without natural resource professionals, teachers, school administrators, students, and volunteers (adults and youth). Schools have offered professional development time and our organization has secured grant money to cover staff time, volunteer expenses, equipment and maps.

Listed on the other side of this section of the brochure are ways you can help. Please check the activities of your interest (on the other side). Then return this segment to the address below.

Environmental Youth Connections is only possible through you.



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Environmental Youth Connections (EYC)

This EYC project will provide a direct connection between environmental learning experiences for Waupaca County youth and adult residents to local parks, trails and natural resources areas.



This will be accomplished by:

- Inventory of Environmental Education
- Identify gaps in Environmental Education and site utilization
- Support resource development (maps, kits, lesson plans)
- Training or professional development plan
- Distribution and communication plan
- Evaluation
- EYC Advisory Board

*In the end, we will conserve only what we love...
we will love only what we understand...
we will understand only what we are taught.*

Chinese Philosopher, Lao-Tsu 490 BC

During Environmental Education sessions at a local park, volunteers asked how many youth had visited the park before. About 75% had not!

For our youth who will soon become caretakers of our natural resource areas, we will be able to document:

- increased awareness of natural resource areas,

Outcomes

- increased knowledge through hands on environmental education experiences,
- increased availability of environmental education resources
- increased capacity and numbers of professionals, teachers and volunteers to conduct environmental education experiences in our natural resource areas in Waupaca County and its communities.



A UW-Extension countywide survey revealed that professionals whose jobs connect to natural resource areas identified a need to serve more youth and citizens, to have access to more resources, to have opportunities for staff and volunteers to create resources that are age and site appropriate, and to create an advisory committee that can long term support environmental education and preservation in Waupaca County and their communities.

Local Research

UW-SP masters study of Waupaca Educators revealed that 88% of teachers indicated a need for more in-service training and curriculum on environmental education. Seventy-seven percent of teachers would like to greater utilize local environmental properties. Seventy-nine percent need or need access to environmental education equipment.

In 1991 a study of three generations of 9 year olds found that the radius around the home where children were allowed to roam and play shrunk to a ninth of what it had been in 1970. **American Demographics**