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Forest Friends

June 5-15, 2023 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs session

Twice a week for two weeks, children and their caregiver will use all senses to explore several habitats and natural play areas on the Reserve. A flexible format will allow time for children to use their imagination, creativity, hand-eye coordination, balance, and physical strength to build confidence through connection with the natural world.

Fee: \$55/child

Limit: 10 children/ session

Registration Deadline: May 22, 2023

Instructor: Zenda Shimsak has been working with 1-5 year olds for over 10 years. She believes nature is the best teacher, as it allows children to have the opportunity to practice safe risk taking, getting dirty, and experiencing all weather while offering both a wild freedom and instinctive calm. Zenda has a passion for social and emotional education at the preschool level and wants all children to feel safe and welcome. She currently teaches at the Viroqua Children's House Montessori Preschool where you can often hear her humming Raffi and saying 'everyone is learning'!

AGES 4-5

Kinder Camp

June 5-15, 2023 9:00 am – 11:30 am
Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs session

Twice a week for two weeks we'll explore the natural world through discovery hikes, nature crafts and song. Your child will experience nature with guided hands-on activities designed to engage their imagination and encourage their connection with nature.

Fee: \$70/child

Limit: 15 children/session

Registration Deadline: May 29, 2023

Instructors: **Celia Carr** is a naturalist and educator who delights in exploring the world with curious people of all ages. Celia is currently an assistant teacher with the 4K/5K classrooms at the Kickapoo Valley Forest School and has a background in environmental education with learners of many ages at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland, MN. Celia is honored to help connect children to the lifelong nourishment of a relationship with the more-than-human world.

AGES 6-7

Jeepers Creepers

June 12-16, 2023

Morning Session: 8:30-11:30 am

Afternoon Session: 12:30-3:30 pm

Children will become nature detectives, looking for clues, solving mysteries and using their senses to look, listen, touch, taste and smell. Our days will include games, projects, and an explorer's notebook.

Fee: \$115/child

Limit: 15 children/session

Registration Deadline: May 29, 2023

Instructor: **Mary Szepi** taught early childhood education at Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton Schools. She headed the Environmental Education program at NOW for over a decade. Mary enjoys long-distance hiking and has trekked the wilderness in several countries. She has been helping children discover the simple joys of playing in nature at the KVR for 15 years.

NEW! Love Bugs!

June 5-9, 2023

10:00am -3:00pm

Come explore the magical world of insects with us! This camp aims to reconnect students with insects by investigation, observation, art, and conversation. We will learn about what an insect is, where they live, what they eat, and more! Through activities, games, and art projects we will understand the important roles that insects play in our world. Our camp will dispel myths about insects and inspire students to love bugs!

Fee: \$115 (youth must pack own lunch)

Limit: 12 children

Registration Deadline: May 22, 2023

Instructor: Willow Lovecky is an ecologist with a particular fondness for insects, but really she is a naturalist at heart. She graduated from University of Wisconsin - Madison with a B.S. in entomology and certificate in American Indian Studies. Willow has spent a lot of time with bumble bees and other pollinators, but loves all insects! She can be found looking through stacks of field guides identifying birds, trees, and bugs. Willow aims to encourage people to slow down and appreciate the natural world, especially the creatures that have six legs.

AGES 8-10

Habitat Trekking

June 19-23, 2023 9:00am-2:30pm

Join us for a week of nature discovery as we go habitat trekking along the trails at the KVR. Bring along your sense of curiosity and cooperative spirit to investigate the unique natural habitats and get to know some of the plants and animals that live there. Is a frog a predator or a prey? Have you ever found a water penny? Can we find a living food chain? Be prepared for hiking, observing, discovering and learning from one another in a group setting. By looking closely, listening carefully, and asking questions, campers will learn through first-hand experience. Interactive games, activities, and nature crafts will be part of each day. Respect for nature and each other will be emphasized. Topics will include edible and poisonous plants, designs of nature, animal tracks and signs, predators and prey, among others. **This camp is a good fit for budding biologists, kids who enjoy close study of nature topics, and cooperative learners.**

Fee: \$150/child (child must pack own lunch)

Limit: 12 children

Registration Deadline: June 5, 2023

Instructor: **Cathy Chybowski** is an experienced naturalist and life science teacher whose passion is getting kids outside. She worked for several years as a DNR Naturalist and spent almost 20 years teaching ecology, biology, and A.P. environmental science. She works as a KVR instructor where she spends much time outdoors continuing to be inspired by nature and her students.

Art Sprouts: The Art and Science of Nature

July 17-21, 2023 9:00 am– 2:30 pm.

Calling all dreamers and discoverers! In a camp experience that seeks to unite the artist and the naturalist in each of us, we invite children to join us for a week of drawing, painting, crafting, experimenting and exploring. Who were our famous artists/scientists as children? Who are the da Vincis, the Leopolds and Olivers of today? We will immerse ourselves in the wild, where discovery and play are one. Art Sprouts campers will spend most of their time outdoors: building forts, exploring streams, and creating art from nature. We will investigate together as a team to explore, create, & discover Nature's wonders.

Fee: \$150/child (child must pack own lunch)

Limit: 12 children

Registration Deadline: June 3, 2023

Instructor: **Vicki Ramsay** is a Wisconsin certified Biology, Broadfield Sciences and Environmental Education teacher. She's been teaching Biology, Agriculture, Chemistry, Geometry and Drawing at Youth Initiative High School in Viroqua and at the KVR for over 16 years. She has two sons, who have been a great source of inspiration. She loves the adventures and lifelong learning that we all receive from Nature just by taking time to notice, explore, and spend time in the wild.

Four Elements

June 26-23, 2023 9:00 am– 2:30 pm.

Each day of camp will offer an exploration of one of the elements through creative play, song, science experiments, animal studies, and making interesting contraptions. Four elements campers might make and fly a kite, build a birdhouse, or wade through a stream from its roots to the Kickapoo. By exploring the wild land around the Kickapoo Valley Reserve, we will see how the four elements unfold in the natural world. Campers will experience how these fundamental ways of looking at the world can lead to discoveries in nature and within ourselves.

Fee: \$150/child (child must pack own lunch)

Limit: 12 children

Registration Deadline: June 12, 2023

Instructor: **Vicki Ramsay** is a Wisconsin certified Biology, Broadfield Sciences and Environmental Education teacher. She's been teaching Biology, Agriculture, Chemistry, Geometry and Drawing at Youth Initiative High School in Viroqua and at the KVR for over 16 years. She has two sons, who have been a great source of inspiration. She loves the adventures and lifelong learning that we all receive from Nature just by taking time to notice, explore and spend time in the wild.

Summer Camp 101

June 5-9, 2023 9:00 am– 2:30 pm

This week is for everyone who loves a classic summer day camp experience and the traditional things about summer camp! Swimming, hiking, games, crafts and friends! There will be plenty of opportunities to develop physical skills such as canoeing, fire starting, fort building and exploring as well as life skills such as helping others and making group decisions. Campers will be active and engaged in all the great things the KVR has to offer. If you are a kid who likes to move your body, this is a camp for you!

Fee: \$150/child (child must pack own lunch)

Limit: 12 children

Registration Deadline: May 29, 2023

Instructor: Andrea Auel is currently a student at UW- Green Bay studying Environmental Science. Andrea has had previous experience assisting with camp instruction and is excited to return to the KVR program as a camp instructor. Andrea grew up in the Driftless Region and holds the area in a special place in her heart. She is a self-proclaimed nature geek and enjoys learning about all of the natural world's little intricacies.

Nature Nuts

July 31- Aug 4, 2023 **9:00 am– 2:30 pm**
August 7 - 11, 2023 **9:00 am– 2:30 pm**

Each day of Nature Nuts camp brings exploration, discovery and new skills. Campers will investigate the realm of plants with identification games and crafts, they'll search for animal life and learn the art of quiet sitting to see who comes along. We'll encounter the wonders of the water with a day on the pond learning basic canoe skills and safety and discovering who lives in this watery world. Traditional crafts and demonstrations in the ways that ancient peoples made their fires, shelters and food will also be part of the adventure. Each day will include hikes, time for guided play, and safe exploration. We'll get wet, dirty and gain a new level of comfort and knowledge about nature.

Fee: \$150/child (child must pack own lunch)

Limit: 12 children

Registration Deadline: July 24 and July 31, 2023

Instructor: Andrea Auel is currently a student at UW- Green Bay studying Environmental Science. Andrea has had previous experience assisting with camp instruction and is excited to return to the KVR program as a camp instructor. Andrea grew up in the Driftless Region and holds the area in a special place in her heart. She is a self-proclaimed nature geek and enjoys learning about all of the natural world's little intricacies.

NEW! Wild World of Plants

July 10-14, 2023 **9:00 am– 2:30 pm**
July 24-28, 2023 **9:00 am– 2:30 pm**

Every time you go outside you are surrounded by plants, but you would be surprised about all the crazy cool things that they do. Each day of camp we will explore a different part of the wild world of plants through hands-on exploration, crafts, games, guided hikes, and more! Aside from getting to spend time outside and get to know the natural world, campers will also learn things including (but not limited to) plant identification, vocabulary, how to respect plant life, and lots of cool crazy things that plants have done to adapt to their surroundings. Why does the oak tree grow so slowly but get so strong? What is jewelweed and why is it named that? Why does Great Mullein look like something straight out of a Dr. Seuss book? At camp we will learn all the answers to these questions and more! Curiosity at this camp is encouraged and questions are highly welcomed!

Fee: \$150/child (child must pack own lunch)

Limit: 12 children

Registration Deadline: June 26 and July 10, 2023

Instructor: Andrea Auel is currently a student at UW- Green Bay studying Environmental Science. Andrea has had previous experience assisting with camp instruction and is excited to return to the KVR program as a camp instructor. Andrea grew up in the Driftless Region and holds the area in a special place in her heart. She is a self-proclaimed nature geek and enjoys learning about all of the natural world's little intricacies.

AGES 8-12

Camp KickaPedal

July 31- Aug 1, 2023 **9:00 am – 4:00pm**

This two-day, action-packed Mountain Bike Camp is designed to offer young people a positive and fun way to get involved in mountain biking. It is a catalyst for learning such skills as proper bike handling and technical finesse, proper bike maintenance, trail design and building, and respect for both riding and other riders. Through the sport of mountain biking, students develop a strong sense of self-esteem while having great fun in the outdoors and setting the stage for life-long cycling activities. All abilities welcome. Participants must supply their own fully operational, proper fitting mountain bike (if uncertain, please consult your local bike shop).

Fee: \$110/child (child must pack own lunch)

Limit: 20 children

Registration Deadline: July 17, 2023

Instructor: **Pete Taylor** has been playing in the woods on mountain bikes since the 80's. He started coaching and running mountain bike camps in Idaho about 20 years ago and had so much fun with kids on bikes that he never stopped. He moved with his family to the area 17 years ago and created the very popular Camp Bluedog Weekend Mountain Bike Adventure which has hosted over 800 kids since the first year. Pete and his crew of coaches are professionally trained, first-aid certified, and huge kids-at-heart themselves.

AGES 11-14

Wilderness Adventure Camp

July 10-14 (optional overnight July 13) 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Whether you are joining Wilderness Adventure for the first time or returning for another year, there are always new skills to learn and friends to meet! Join us for a combination of high adventure activities and wilderness living skills that promote self-confidence while developing a sense of wonder about nature. This camp will include challenge course team building; active adventure elements such as remote backpacking, map and compass navigation; and river paddling. It will also allow participants to gain knowledge of plants, mammals, tracking, birds and wilderness survival skills. Our qualified instructors will guide students into new and challenging experiences that nurture their connection to the earth and serve them for a lifetime. Past Nature Nuts campers will have an opportunity to build the wilderness foundation skills they have already gained. This camp is also a prerequisite for Wilderness Leadership camp. The optional Thursday overnight will give participants the opportunity to expand their wilderness cooking skills, fire building, and leave-no-trace camping skills; hone their night-time nature awareness; and do some guided evening star gazing if weather permits. Additional female staff will chaperone the overnight.

Fees: \$165 Monday-Friday (youth must pack own lunch); \$45 Optional overnight (fee includes supper and breakfast)

Limit: 15 children

Registration Deadline: June 26, 2023

Instructors: **Nicholas WazeeGale** is a long time resident of the Driftless region and is a passionate naturalist, outdoorsperson, forager, craftsman, and dedicated instructor. He has been teaching summer camps and day programs at KVR for 18 years and he teaches a variety of programs in wilderness skills and traditional craft with the Driftless Folk School. He and his wife also run a handcrafts business and conduct programs through their business Wildroots Handcrafts, found on the web at www.wildrootshandcrafts.com and on Instagram @wildroots.handcrafts **Jordan Marshall** is a high school Social Studies teacher with a passion for spending time outdoors. He enjoys wilderness backpacking trips in addition to local adventures with his wife and 5-year old son.

NEW! Incredible Insects!

July 31- Aug 4, 2023 **9:00am -3:00pm**

Come explore the magical world of insects with us! This camp aims to reconnect students with insects by investigation, observation, art, and conversation. We will learn about what an insect is, where they live, what they eat, and more! Through activities, games, and art projects we will understand the important roles that insects play in our world. Our camp will dispel myths about insects and inspire students to love bugs!

Fee: \$165 (youth must pack own lunch)

Limit: 12 children

Registration Deadline: July 17, 2023

Instructor: Willow Lovecky is an ecologist with a particular fondness for insects, but really she is a naturalist at heart. She graduated from University of Wisconsin - Madison with a B.S. in entomology and certificate in American Indian Studies. Willow has spent a lot of time with bumble bees and other pollinators, but loves all insects! She can be found looking through stacks of field guides identifying birds, trees, and bugs. Willow aims to encourage people to slow down and appreciate the natural world, especially the creatures that have six legs.

AGES 13-17

NEW! Black Ghost Fly-Fishing Camp

July 24-28, 2023 **9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Join us as we enter the hidden gem that is driftless fly fishing. This is a 5-day exploration of the creeks that flow through the KVR for ages 13-17. This fly-fishing camp will focus on building independence through fly-fishing skills. Anglers will be provided a rod and reel combo, tackle, flies, and a small pack for day trips while we adventure through local spring fed creeks. Angler and instructor Dalton Yocum will teach fly-fishing basics like fish behavior, knot tying, casting mechanics, fly tying, and other essential fly-fishing skills. Packs generally weigh 3-5 lbs. and hiking distances are typically 2-3 miles daily, at times in remote, backcountry locations. Students will "wet wade" during this camp, meaning no waders will be used. There will be no overnight trips. In the event of inclement weather, indoor fly-fishing and fly-tying activities will be taught.

Prerequisite: Youth aged 16 and over before or during camp are required to obtain a 2023 WI DNR fishing license including trout stamp prior to camp.

Fee: \$165 (youth must pack own lunch)

Limit: 10 youth

Registration Deadline: July 10, 2023

Instructor: Dalton Yocum is a longtime angler, Driftless native, and social studies teacher. Dalton grew up running around the KVR and started fly fishing when local guide Bob Blumreich took him under his wing and created a fly-fishing fanatic. When Dalton doesn't have a fly rod in his hands, he is tying flies in his home that are covered in fur and feathers or taking others out to introduce them to the art that is fly fishing in driftless waters. Dalton enjoys teaching all ages about learning poise, composure, respect, ethics and stewardship as an angler while chasing some of the most aggressive and beautiful fish the world has to offer. Some of Dalton's favorite flies are the Black Ghost, 1" death punch, trailing shuck olive, Elk Hair Caddis, and the black foam beetle, just to name a few. Dalton also enjoys hunting whitetail deer, hiking, cooking, and spending time with his family. He is excited to introduce this fun and exciting hobby to new anglers..

Leadership Trail Camp

July 18-21, 2023 9am drop off- 3pm pick up

Come join us on this challenging four-day, three-night adventure for teens only. Leadership Trail focuses on active skill building and the practice of hard skills such as backpacking, navigation, and canoeing. Campers will deepen their experience in the wilderness environment and gain hands-on leadership and interpersonal skills. This is a self-contained wilderness trek designed to develop endurance and self-confidence by pushing personal boundaries in a safe and supportive backcountry setting. Experienced wilderness instructors Nicholas Gale and Bill Humphrey will teach subjects such as proper selection and use of outdoor gear, shelter building, wilderness cooking, weather safety, and wilderness navigation. Campers will provide their own backpacks, sleeping bags, and personal clothing and are expected to carry personal as well as group gear in backpacks. Pack weight is typically 30-35 lbs and hiking distances are approximately 4-5 miles daily. Tents will be provided as well as food and cooking gear. A detailed gear list is provided with registration confirmation. An additional female staff will be available to chaperone overnights.

Prerequisite: Wilderness Adventure day camp (see above) or equivalent experience.

Fee: \$355 (3 meals per day will be provided)

Limit: 10 youth

Registration Deadline: July 4, 2023

Instructors: **Nicholas WazeeGale** is a long time resident of the Driftless region and is a passionate naturalist, outdoorsperson, forager, craftsperson, and dedicated instructor. He has been teaching summer camps and day programs at KVR for 18 years and he teaches a variety of programs in wilderness skills and traditional craft with the Driftless Folk School. He and his wife also run a handcrafts business and conduct programs through their business Wildroots Handcrafts, found on the web at www.wildrootshandcrafts.com and on Instagram @wildroots.handcrafts. **Jordan Marshall** is a high school Social Studies teacher with a passion for spending time outdoors. He enjoys wilderness backpacking trips in addition to local adventures with his wife and 5-year old son.

Wildways Leadership Camp

June 13-16, 2023 9:00am drop off – 3:00pm pick up

This exciting camp for teens will allow youth to work on their camp skills and deepen their knowledge of the land with most activities based right at camp. This camp will begin with a challenging hike into base camp and a solid paddle on the river when we depart, but will balance daily physical activity with time to enjoy being in

nature and learn more of the area's ecology. There will be time to focus on the details of setting up an efficient camp, developing wilderness skills like fire building and foraging, and time for observing and experiencing the land through periodic solo time and nature awareness activities. There will be emphasis on cooperation and communication, on ecology and mindfulness of the natural landscape, and on gently pushing personal boundaries in a safe and supportive backcountry setting. New foods will be tasted, new experiences will be had, and new connections with the land and one another will be remembered for a long time. A detailed gear list will be provided. An additional female staff will be available to chaperone overnights.

Prerequisite: Wilderness Adventure day camp (see above) or equivalent experience.

Fee: \$355 (3 meals per day will be provided)

Limit: 10 youth

Registration Deadline: May 30, 2023

Instructors: **Nicholas WazeeGale** is a long time resident of the Driftless region and is a passionate naturalist, outdoorsperson, forager, craftsperson, and dedicated instructor. He has been teaching summer camps and day programs at KVR for 18 years and he teaches a variety of programs in wilderness skills and traditional craft with the Driftless Folk School. He and his wife also run a handcrafts business and conduct programs through their business Wildroots Handcrafts, found on the web at www.wildrootshandcrafts.com and on Instagram @wildroots.handcrafts. **Willow Lovecky** is an ecologist with a particular fondness for insects, but really she is a naturalist at heart. She graduated from University of Wisconsin - Madison with a B.S. in entomology and certificate in American Indian Studies. Willow has spent a lot of time with bumble bees and other pollinators, but loves all insects! She can be found looking through stacks of field guides identifying birds, trees, and bugs. Willow aims to encourage people to slow down and appreciate the natural world, especially the creatures that have six legs. **Jordan Marshall** is a high school Social Studies teacher with a passion for spending time outdoors. He enjoys wilderness backpacking trips in addition to local adventures with his wife and 5-year old son.

KVR Summer Camps are made possible by our generous sponsors.

