

**A Kickapoo Valley Experience:
Cultural Tour for Educators
July 8-12, 2013**

This project is brought to you in partnership with Organic Valley Family of Farms and the Friends of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.



Information

The tour is specifically designed for the needs of K-12 teachers and other educators who wish to incorporate local culture and hands-on learning into their classroom teaching. The five-day intensive tour will provide teachers with a variety of indoor and outdoor experiences from sampling traditional Ho-Chunk foods to canoeing on the Kickapoo River. This tour aspires to offer teachers rich, multi-disciplinary experiences so that they may return to their own schools and communities and see new ways in which they can incorporate local knowledge, resources and experiences into their work.

The days will be long, often beginning at 8:15 am with breakfast and lasting well into the evening. Many of the activities involve walking and hiking. Participants will also spend some time on several days riding a bus through the area observing the landscape (while onboard instructors provide commentary).

Tour Dates

The dates of this year's tour are July 8-12, 2013. Each day of the tour will begin and end at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center located just north of La Farge in Vernon County. Participants are responsible for their own travel each day to and from the Visitor Center. Carpooling for those lodging at the Kickapoo Valley Ranch will be encouraged. Free parking is available at the Visitor Center.

Activities on Monday, July 8, will begin in the morning. Those with a long travel distance are advised to arrive the evening before the tour begins and stay overnight in the area. Overnight lodging will be provided at the Kickapoo Valley Ranch for tour participants who choose it, Monday through Thursday nights. However, those coming into the area on Sunday must make their own arrangements for that night; the Kickapoo Valley Ranch may offer special rates for those staying Sunday evening. Activities on Friday, July 12, the final day of the tour, will end at noon.

Lodging

The Kickapoo Valley Reserve will offer overnight lodging for participants at the Kickapoo Valley Ranch, just a few miles from the Visitor Center. The accommodations at the Kickapoo Valley Ranch consist of "fully-appointed, five-star guest accommodations". These Amish-made cabins host breathtaking views of the Kickapoo Valley, air conditioning, kitchenettes, full bathrooms and expansive porches. Through a partnership with the Kickapoo Valley Ranch we

are able to offer this exciting lodging opportunity for just \$140/person for 4 nights. Participants will share cabins, but each person will have their own bed. If you are a light sleeper, you might consider earplugs. Likewise, if you need absolute darkness to sleep, please bring something to shield your eyes for the night. Bed linens and towels are provided and parking is available. For more information about the Kickapoo Valley Ranch, check out their website at:

www.kvranch.com. This lodging choice is optional; participants may choose to find their own accommodations.

Transportation

Transportation for the tour includes a school bus and canoes. On one of the mornings teachers will also divide into small groups and each group will visit a different artisan or farmer. For that activity, it will be necessary for teachers to drive their own cars. About 3-4 people will comprise each small group and carpooling will be encouraged.

Parking

Parking is available at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center and at tour lodging. Though every effort has been made to arrange for safe parking, the Kickapoo Valley Reserve cannot take responsibility for participants' vehicles while they are away on the tour.

Meals

The tour will provide a light breakfast each day as well as lunch and supper Monday through Thursday. The mealtimes may vary slightly from day to day. Some menus will be predetermined, others offer choices. Some meals may involve special ethnic recipes. Every effort will be made to provide vegetarian options for those who wish to have them.

What to Bring

Participants should bring comfortable, casual clothing, including raingear. Tour activities will occur rain or shine, though some activities may be modified in the event of very inclement weather. Several activities will take place in wooded areas. Participants are advised to bring at least one long-sleeved shirt with a collar, long pants, socks and walking/hiking shoes. Participants must also have closed-toe shoes that grip for traveling in the canoes. Participants are also advised to bring sunglasses, sunscreen, and a hat and may wish to consider bringing mosquito repellent. A towel for the day on the river is recommended.

Picture Taking

Participants are invited to bring cameras along to take photos for their classroom work. Tour staff will make every effort to alert teachers to the occasions when picture taking may be culturally inappropriate.

Cost of the Tours

A Kickapoo Valley Experience: Cultural Tour for Educators has received support from Organic Valley Family of Farms and the Friends of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. This support helps makes it possible for this tour to be offered to teachers at the cost of \$185.

The \$185 registration fee includes all tour programming, tour transportation (bus and canoe), and meals. Participants are advised to bring along additional money for teaching materials that may be for sale, incidentals, and souvenirs.

Additionally, if you require lodging during the tour, we have partnered with the Kickapoo Valley Ranch (see Lodging above) to offer a great lodging opportunity at a hard-to-beat price of \$140 for four nights (Monday-Thursday). This lodging choice is optional; participants may also opt to procure their own lodging.

Application Process

Twenty seats are available to teachers and educators on this tour. The seats will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

The deadline for registration is June 1, 2013

Interested teachers and staff should print out and complete the Application Form available on the Kickapoo Reserve website: <http://kvr.state.wi.us>.

Mail the completed application with a check or money order to the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. Payment must accompany the application form in order to secure a seat. Purchase orders will not be accepted.

Your registration is secure when you receive confirmation via email or standard mail.

Special Accommodations

If you have a disability and require special accommodations, please advise us ahead of time. Please also advise us as soon as possible about any dietary restrictions such as no dairy or no wheat. Requests are confidential.

Waiting List

In the event that all 20 seats are taken, a waiting list will be created.

Refund

If a teacher whose application has been accepted for the tour finds that s/he cannot go on the tour, a full refund will be available if that teacher notifies the Kickapoo Valley Reserve by May 15, 2013. However, after that time, a full refund will be available only if there is someone from the waiting list ready to fill the empty seat.

Full refunds will also be considered through July 6, 2013 for those with documented family or medical emergencies.

UW-La Crosse Course Credit

This tour may be taken for three University of Wisconsin - La Crosse graduate credits at \$110 per credit. Those interested in acquiring UW- La Crosse credit should contact jonel.kiesau@wisconsin.gov.

The cost of UW-La Crosse tuition is not included in the *Kickapoo Valley Experience* tour registration fee.

Professional Development Plan

Participation in this tour may be used to meet some of the content requirements of a teacher's Professional Development Plan. The tour will address the following Wisconsin standards:

1. Teachers know the subjects they are teaching.
3. Teachers understand that children learn differently.
6. Teachers communicate well.
7. Teachers are able to plan different kinds of lessons.
10. Teachers are connected to other teachers and the community.

Curriculum Standards

K-12 teachers will be able to use the information generated through this experience to meet state curriculum standards for such topics as community (Grades PreK-3), environmental stewardship (4-12), Wisconsin history (4-5), visual culture (4-12), and content-based writing (4-12).