

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 in the registration packet, 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 packet is located near bottom of the page under the heading “Registration Materials”. You will need:

- 2018 Sand Lake Camp registration packet (including the choice activity signup pages - more information on registration form*) – **AVAILABLE ONLINE BY LATE FEBRUARY/EARLY MARCH**
- Sand Lake Camper Expectation Agreement form - *included in registration packet* *
- Sand Lake Camp Release & Hold Harmless form - *included in registration packet* *
- Payment – please make checks payable to “Marinette County LWCD – Conservation Camp”

*** Please note that registration form, Expectation and Release/hold harmless forms ALL 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, PSPs, MP3s, tablets/kindles, aerosol sprays, fireworks, lighters, skimpy clothing, string bikinis, etc.). See the list for more information. Digital and 35mm cameras are ok.

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 with at least 1 adult staff member. All overnight cabin staff is background-checked prior to camp. There are also 2 camp caretakers, a lifeguard and other first aid- trained staff, and a certified EMT on the premises during camp.

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, siblings, 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 only because of extenuating circumstances. If your child is feeling homesick, we may allow a call from camp to talk to you, but we highly discourage campers leaving 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 do not offer a refund 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. 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 alleviate homesickness: <http://www.campparents.org/homesickness> & <http://www.acacamps.org/media-center/how-to-choose/homesickness>.

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. Bring a paper map with you just in case, as GPS directions can sometimes be wrong or confusing.

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

A:
1. The Wisconsin Land + Water Conservation Association State Youth Conservation Camp will be held the same week in June and engages students with Wisconsin's natural resources and the people who manage them, and includes activities like lake research, wildlife and forest biology, nature hikes, canoeing, and habitat restoration. Students interested in natural resource management careers or who enjoy the outdoors are best suited for this week-long camp. It will be held at the North Lakeland Discovery Center in Manitowish Waters (www.discoverycenter.net). Contact Kim Warkentin, WLWCA, at 608-441-2677 or kim@wisconsinlandwater.org. You can also visit <http://www.wlwca.org/> - click "Programs" at the top of the page, and then click "Youth Education" in the drop-down menu.

2. Trees For Tomorrow Natural Resources Education Center in Eagle River, WI holds a Natural Resources Careers Workshop for high school students. Participants meet foresters, fisheries and wildlife biologists, water resource specialists, conservation wardens, recreation land managers, and more! Experience real-life field work and develop outdoor skills. Learn what various occupations require for education or training, what they pay, and what today's job market is like. Get a step ahead by participating in this workshop and earning college credit! Call 715-479-6456 for more information, or visit www.TreesForTomorrow.com and click the "Schools" tab and select "Natural Resources Careers Workshop".

3. Another opportunity for older students is the Crex Meadows Conservation Camp, located near Grantsburg, Wisconsin. This camp provides a positive learning experience where youth develop valuable work-related skills and a connection with the environment. It 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 the Camp Director at 1-888-780-9141, or visit their page on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nwcep). The website is at: <http://www.nwcep.org/crex-meadows/4587605830>.