

DECEMBER 2020



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WISCORPS

A Holiday Message From Matt Brantner

I hope that you and your loved ones are doing well as the final days of 2020 are coming to a close. This has been a year of challenges for WisCorps, but I am happy to report that we were able to provide the majority of our services since the pandemic began. I am most proud of the fact that we completed this year's season of conservation projects without any crew members contracting COVID-19. Our staff worked diligently to develop new COVID safety protocols for our crews that were observed on a daily basis while they were out in the field.

The closure of schools in the spring did strike a blow to our environmental education programs for children. However, our staff were able to respond by pivoting and developing online resources for parents to use at home to provide environmental education. We also held nature day camps this summer on those weeks when it was deemed safe and in line with recommendations from our local health department.

Unfortunately, COVID also forced the closure of the Myrick Park Center and the cancellation of all activities scheduled to take place. Many disappointed couples were not able to move forward with their plan to hold their 2020 wedding ceremony in our facility. We offered these couples the option of rescheduling their nuptials in 2021 and many of were happy to do so. We are looking forward to a busy wedding season!

As we look ahead to 2021, we are hopeful that the availability of a COVID vaccine will help our lives return to a sense of greater stability. We are looking forward to completing our strategic planning process (which was interrupted by the pandemic) and working on making improvements to WisCorps programs and services. We may even have some exciting changes to announce next year to promote future growth!

Thank you to all of our staff, crew members, project sponsors, board members, and volunteers for all of your support to help WisCorps have a successful year in spite of the pandemic. We could not have done this without you!

To our donors, I want to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you for supporting us this year as we dealt with the financial challenges we faced. Without your support, WisCorps would not be able to carry out our mission to preserve our environment for future generations. The impressive work our crews completed is highlighted in this newsletter. We are so appreciative of your support that is vital to our daily operations!!

I wish you all a peaceful holiday season with time to pause and reflect on the past year, and then to look forward to the possibilities that exist for 2021!

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2020 Wrap-Up Fun Facts



2.5 miles of waterway improved

2.75 miles of trail built

10.5 miles of trail improved

148 Hours spent on La Crosse homeowner projects

174 acres of public lands improved including 24 acres in La Crosse

372 Hours spent assisting local non-profits and community gardens

1345 feet boardwalks, bridges, and stairs built

17,050 Herbaceous Plugs planted on one restoration project

24,250 Trees and Shrubs planted

39 young adults successfully completed the WisCorps crew program

Environmental Education Update

Nature School Day Camps have been so well received that we have decided to continue them in 2021. These programs are designed to get children safely out of the house and into a social setting where they learn about nature to help promote growth for early childhood. Nature School Day Camps are designed for 4-6 year olds, focusing on early childhood topics like learning about the basics of science, and practicing early skills like counting, colors, art, the alphabet and other topics related to S.T.R.E.A.M. (Science, Reading, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math).

Or want to share the joy of being outdoors with your “critter kid”? Critter Kids Nature Playgroup will continue in winter and spring. This program is for children ages 2 – 5 with an adult. Each week a different nature theme is explored. WisCorps nature teachers lead activities for adult and child to enjoy together.

Spots are limited due to WisCorps pandemic protocols so sign up fast!

The Education Department is also working on expanding our future learning opportunities so we can help teachers with reinforcing the science curriculum through meaningful education experiences. We continue to think about ways to reach a diverse audience with our programs and hope to continue the EnviroWednesdays at Myrick soon as well as Nature Saturdays at WisCorps. The Environmental Education team is committed to continuing to connect folks of all ages and abilities to the wonderful outdoor world.



Day Camps

Critter Kids

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM WISCORPS

Myrick Park Center is hibernating

December 24 - January 3

**20% OFF
WINTER
WEDDINGS**



Amber Jean Photography



MyrickParkCenter.org

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