

SEPTEMBER 2020



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WISCORPS

WisCorps Receives LCF Grant

WisCorps recently received an Emergency Survival Grant from the La Crosse Community Foundation. These grants provide unrestricted funds to nonprofit organizations to offset pandemic-related revenue losses and expenses. We truly appreciate the support of the La Crosse Community Foundation as we attempt to recover from the financial losses we experienced this spring as a result of cancelled environmental education programs, conservation projects, and events that were scheduled to take place at the Myrick Park Center. Please consider making a gift to WisCorps, if you are able, to enable us to offset these losses. Visit our website, www.wiscorps.org/donate to make your gift online or send a check to 789 Myrick Park Center, La Crosse, WI, 54601. Like many nonprofits, we are working hard to lessen the long-term impact of these losses and we truly appreciate your support.

Myrick Park Center Update



WisCorps and the Myrick Park Center have committed to the La Crosse County Health Department's "Check the Spread" Campaign. Businesses are following six simple safety measures to ensure employees and customers are safe. We commit to making our organization and community safer and continue to monitor the situation of COVID-19 and evolve our protocol accordingly. Here are some of the measures we are taking:

- Masks are required at Myrick Park Center
- Increased sanitation practices
- Building capacity reduced to 25%
- Strict COVID-19 safety protocol tailored to HQ, programs, and reservations

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The Roving Crew

This year had many challenges to overcome, including the current pandemic we are continuing to fight. Prior to the season, WisCorps Staff created policy and procedures, which kept the crews safe and functioning. The Crew Leaders demonstrated strong leadership throughout the summer by implementing the new procedures. It took a lot of patience, flexibility and willingness to push boundaries past comfort zones, but in the end the crews were successful! Our Roving Crews were able to work through all their hardships and complete many different projects. From working on installing a new rustic staircase to digging fresh mountain bike tread our crew leaders and members will move forward in their lives knowing they are capable of such tasks. Roving Crew 1 was led by Crew Leader Hillary Donovan and assisted by Crew Leader Avery Kanel with crew members Elijah Marriott, Gabrielle Costley, and Daisy Chew. Roving Crew 2 was led by Crew Leader Camden Thomas and assisted by Crew Leader Katie Alexander with crew members Forest Lampert, Sophia Sperduto, Pearl Krieger-Coble, and Jacqui Taff.



Great American Outdoors Act Becomes Law

On August 4th, President Donald Trump signed the bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) into law. According to an article in the Harvard Gazette, "...The legislation has two main impacts. First, it establishes a National Park and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund that will provide up to \$9 billion over the next five years to fix deferred maintenance at national parks, wildlife refuges, forests, and other federal lands, with \$6.5 billion earmarked specifically to the 419 national park units.

Second, the GAOA guarantees \$900 million per year in perpetuity for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a flagship conservation program paid for by royalty payments from offshore oil and gas drilling in federal waters. The LWCF was established in 1964 with an authorization level of \$900m, but in most years Congress has appropriated less than half of this amount. The LWCF is especially important because it helps fund the four main federal land programs (National Parks, National Forests, Fish and Wildlife, and Bureau of Land Management) and provides grants to state and local governments to acquire land for recreation and conservation."



Environmental Education Update

The 2020 session of our Summer Day Camps ended on Friday, August 21. Campers and nature teachers had a lot of fun this summer spending time outside learning more about the La Crosse River Marsh and its inhabitants, participating in crafts and story times, and even designing their own COVID-19 masks!

We are excited to announce that we are starting a new three-week Nature School Day Camp from September 14 through October 2! These nature programs are designed to support teachers and parents during the first 30 days of virtual school but do not replace school. Each week we will have a different theme, and games, activities, and crafts will focus on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math). The camp is designed for children ages 4 through 6 who will meet in small groups and also practice COVID-19 safety measures including wearing masks, frequent hand washing, and social distancing. Camp will be held from 8:30-11:30 am and from 12:30-3:30 pm Monday through Friday.

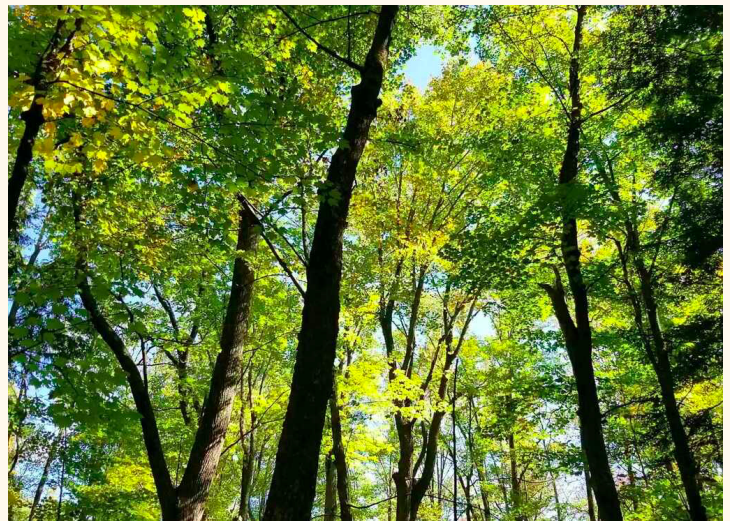
To find out more information about the Nature School Day Camp and registration fees, please contact Steph Hanna at steph.hanna@wiscorps.org, call 608-782-2494 extension X223 or visit our website, www.wiscorps.org/daycamps. Registration will open on August 26 and limited spots are available!



WisCorps to be Featured on Daybreak

Beginning this month, WisCorps will be featured on the Daybreak morning show of WXOW-TV! Daybreak anchor, Dustin Luecke, will share a story about WisCorps which will air on the third Friday of each month. Topics will include our environmental education programs, conservation projects, the Myrick Park Center, and our upcoming events.

We want to say a warm thank you to Dustin for agreeing to provide us with this monthly coverage and we want to encourage all of you to be sure to watch Daybreak!! Be sure to tell your family and friends to watch too! If you have some ideas for future stories, please send them to staff@wiscorps.org with "Daybreak story idea" in the subject line.



In a world of constant change and streaming technology, I find solace in the forest where a tree remains a tree.

- Angie Welland-Crosby



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