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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WISCORPS



Myrick Park Center Update

WisCorps operations, scheduled programs, and scheduled events continue to take place within The Myrick Park Center; however, the building has not yet reopened to the public. It's exciting to hear the sounds or happy children again attending Nature School Day Camp in and around the Center every Monday – Friday.

This past month, WisCorps has been able to offer opportunities for volunteers to remain actively engaged by working outside in the Native Myrick Gardens and Demonstration Garden that surround the building. Volunteers cleared out weeds and debris from the native gardens and rescued peppers and tomatoes from the demo garden just before the first frost of the fall season. The fruit and veggie garden is getting ready to be put to bed before the snow flies.

Myrick Park Center is operating under stringent safety policies including increased disinfecting procedures, required face coverings, and reduced operating capacity to 25%.

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The Dunes Crew Report

The WisCorps fall wetland restoration crew as part of a multi-year partnership has begun working at the Indiana Dunes National Park! The crew quickly became acclimated to early-morning starts and full days on their feet in the sunny wetland prairies, marshes, and fens of the Park. These ecosystems, located near the southern shore of Lake Michigan within sight of the Chicago skyline, are some of the most biodiverse in the country.

Throughout the first week the crew has worked with NPS staff member Garrett, who led the group through hands-on training so they can begin to work on project sites independently. Our crew is filled with fast learners, excited for whatever comes with this new phase of the season. Better yet, our crew is lighthearted, hardworking, and supportive, and we can't wait to see what the next nine weeks bring!

The National Park Service gave our crew the proper knowledge and tools to mix herbicides safely and properly as well as how to transport and apply them! When winds grew too strong to effectively spray invasive plants, the crew cut seed heads on invasive purple loosestrife and hybrid cattail and planted native species to the region. Our crew got into "speed planting," timing how fast each person could transplant a bucket of native plants equipped only with a trowel and a bit of determination. Our plantings included different sedges, rushes, and even swamp milkweed.

The Indiana Dunes National Park Fall Wetlands group members are: Crew Leaders Abbigail Ward and Aidan Karlsson and Crew members Veronica Frank, Amy Stel, Hannah Welsh.



2020 Environmental Education Fall Camps

September has been an exciting month for the Environmental Education Department at WisCorps! We started the month with 3 new AmeriCorps members on the EE team: Shannon, Ashley and Livi. They all arrived with amazing skills and spent the first week learning even more to be prepared to run upcoming WisCorps programs. The team began preparing for our new Nature School Day Camps designed to help get kids safely out of the house and into a social setting where they get to learn about nature as well as related topics to help promote growth for early childhood. The program is designed for 4-6 year olds, focusing on early childhood topics like learning about the basics of science, what makes animals unique, and practicing early skills like counting, colors, art, the alphabet and other topics in the realm of S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math)

While running our Day Camp programs we also worked with a La Crosse School District middle school teacher to run our very first virtual program. The program focused on learning about wetlands, meeting the education animals and delving into Leave No Trace. We hope to expand our future virtual learning opportunities so we can better help teachers with reinforcing the science curriculum through meaningful education experiences!

Our programs went well with a lot of great feedback from parents and we plan to continue the program into the month of October. Spots are limited so sign up fast!

[Sign Up](#)





Sips & Shovels: An Evening with WisCorps

Sips and Shovels Update

Due to the uncertainty of the impact of COVID-19 on the Myrick Park Center in early December, we have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Sips and Shovels event as we know it. Instead, we are starting to plan a few events to take its place, including an online silent auction. If you are interested in providing an item for this auction, please contact Deb Ward at deb.ward@wiscorps.org or call and leave a message at [608-782-2494, ext. 230](tel:608-782-2494).

Suggested auction items include gift baskets, gift certificates (for nature-related items, camping equipment, books, landscaping), and nature-related experiences (canoe trips, kayak expeditions, cabin excursions, hot air balloon rides, etc.). We are open to your creative suggestions too!

We will provide more information as the events get closer, and hope that you will "join" us online during early December for what we have in store! Follow us on Facebook for more information!

Enchanted Forest Update

Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, we have made the decision to cancel hosting Enchanted Forest for October 2020.

Enchanted Forest will be returning in 2021 with a new beneficiary.



The only way forward, if we are going to improve the quality of the environment, is to get everybody involved.
- Richard Rogers

Donate Now



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