



NO BOUNDARIES ^{TO THE} BOUNDARY WATERS

An education program from
Friends of the Boundary Waters

Alison Nyenhuis, Education Director



Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

Restoring and protecting the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness through our pillars:

- People
- Wilderness
- Community



With the support of the LCCMR, this project connected students all over Minnesota to the wilderness through online resources, classroom visits, and canoe trips.




Online resources



These units explore a variety of BWCA topics including ecology and ecosystems, Anishinaabe seasonal practices, biomes, human impact in the BWCA, and more.

- Educator network of 540
- Estimated student reach over 30,000

Learning Objectives What is an adaptation? Skull Exploration Carnivores Herbivores Omnivores Review Explore: Animal Adaptat →



For many animals, survival means hunting. Let's talk about carnivores.

LEARN

Explore elements of the natural world through the lens of Minnesota's pristine wilderness. Discover natural phenomena and scientific concepts in the Boundary Waters with easy-to-follow content.

Classroom visits:

- 6,324 students reached in classroom visits
- 7,747 program experiences provided
- 95% of teachers indicated they believed these programs encouraged their students to spend time outdoors
- 100% would recommend the program to others



“It was just a great feeling seeing my students engaged during the whole lesson: listening intently to the instructors' discussion of the BWCA, collaborating on the Venn diagrams.

BUT the magic happened when we got outside. My students were FULLY engaged and analyzing trees with great precision. They loved it.”

Science teacher from Willow River, MN





Canoe Trips

- 226 participants on overnight trips to the BWCA
- Groups from 11 different schools or youth organizations
- Doubled participations from 2022 to 2023
- 311 day trip participants



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Providing Positive Wilderness Experiences

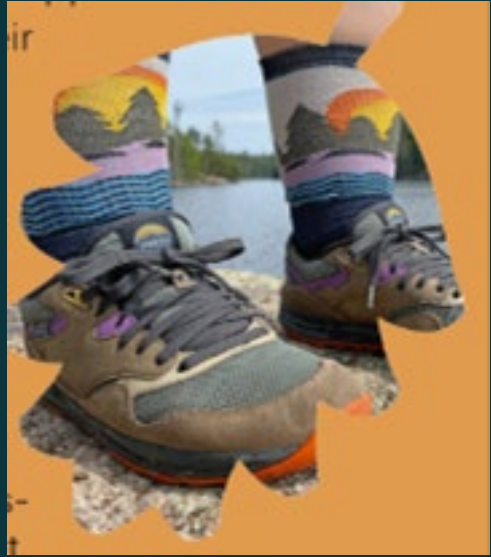
Preparation: Trip meetings, goal setting, BWCA Workshops

Quality Borrowed Gear: Raincoats, bug nets, and headlamps





Gear to Keep: Wool socks, water bottle, chapstick, wicking shirt, trail journal.



Geographic Reach

Trip participants:

Twin Cities / Metro 45%

Northeast 36%

Northwest 9%

Central 9%





Trip partner profiles

All groups came from schools where at least 25% of students qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch. Half of the groups came from schools at 70% and above. Scholarship dollars are allocated to be used where there is greater financial need in the community.

Over half of the trip groups were from organizations or schools that specifically serve BIPOC students.



“My favorite moment was when all the students cooked together. It showed how well we got along and could collaborate.”

Mauricio, 9th grade

“Swimming in the pure and unpolluted water was a great experience.

Just seeing the purest form of nature was great.”
Nou, grade 10.



“Going on this trip makes you realize that there is more to life than the city and your phone.” Jina, 9th grade



“We all supported each other through all the tough moments, through portaging and canoeing.” Ireme, 7th grade.



“One of my most favorite moments is that everyone and everything felt like home.”
LaiChai, 10th grade

Students in the tripping program reported:

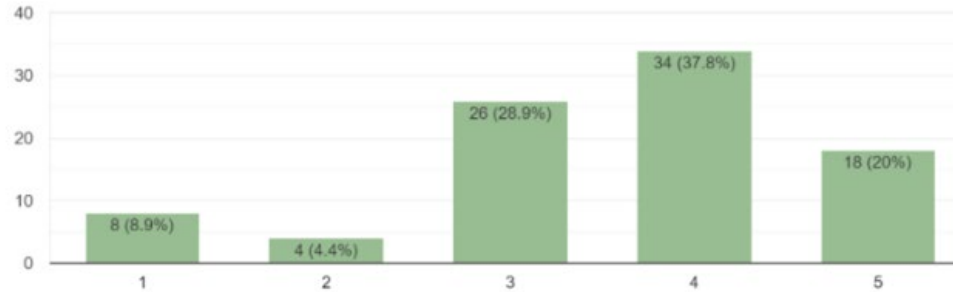
- Increased comfort in:
 - paddling and steering a canoe
 - being away from their phone
 - problem solving with their group

- They also reported that they knew others better in their group and felt more connected to nature after their trip.

Pre-trip Evaluation:

How well do you know others in your trip group?

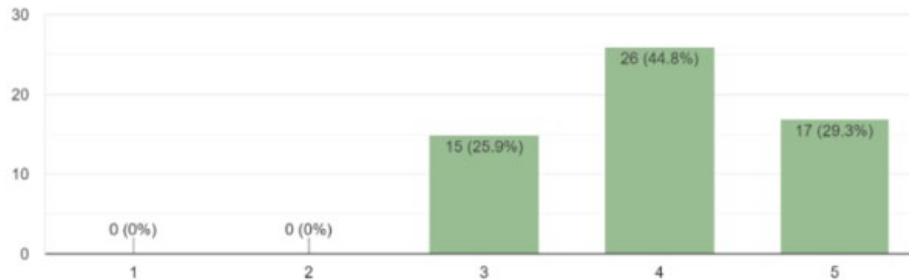
90 responses



Post-trip Evaluation:

How well do you feel you know the others in your trip group?

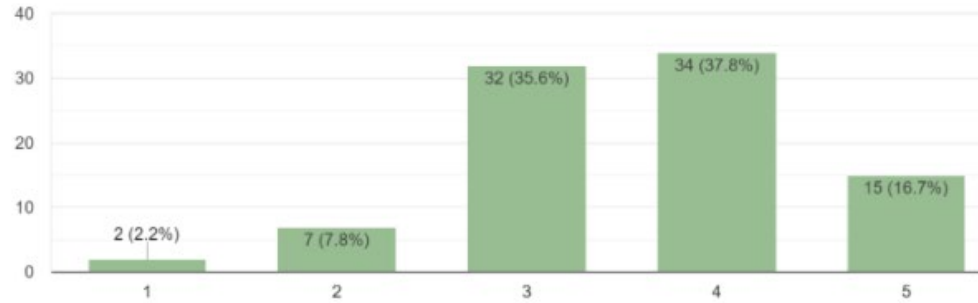
58 responses



Pre-trip Evaluation

On a scale from 1-5, how connected do you feel to nature right now?

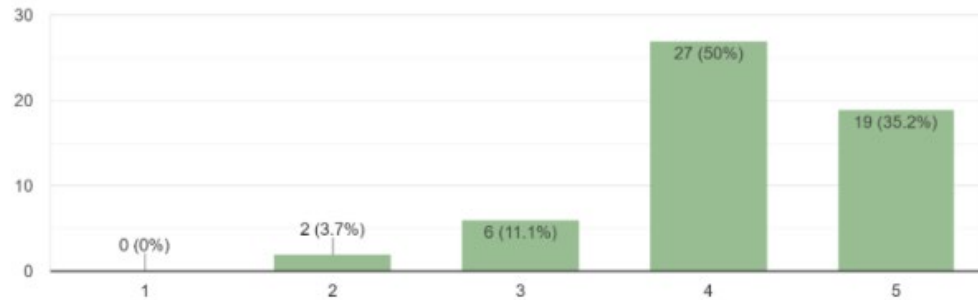
90 responses



Post-Trip Evaluation:

On a scale of 1-5, how connected do you feel to nature right now?

54 responses





Partners Engaged

- Wilderness Inquiry
- YMCA Camp Menogyn
- Big City Mountaineers
- Spirit of the Wilderness
- Northern Tier
- Wilderness Canoe Base
- Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board
- Three Rivers Parks
- Project Success
- True North Maps
- Hippy Feet Socks

From 2020-2023:

- Over 7,000 program experiences provided
- Over 6,000 students reached
- An estimate audience of over 30,000 for online resources.
- 226 overnight participants and over 300 day trip participants.

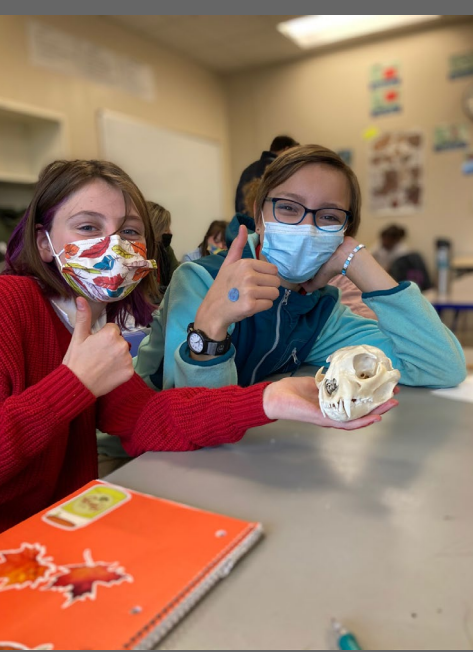




What's next?

Thanks to another generous grant from LCCMR in 2023, we look forward to reporting on our next phase of this program in the next few years. Featuring:

- Geographic growth and increased staffing
- Increasing depth of experience with paddle experiences for preparation
- Leadership program





**ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
TRUST FUND**

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