

Outcomes

A NEWSLETTER FOR DUNES LEARNING CENTER DONORS, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS



YOUR DONATION PROVIDED INSPIRING EXPERIENCES IN NATURE FOR STUDENTS OF ALL ABILITIES.

2,746

DESERVING STUDENTS BENEFITED FROM \$185,000 IN TUITION ASSISTANCE LAST YEAR—THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT.

“This was my first time being in a canoe. It was a little scary at first, but that’s why it was my favorite part!”

READ INSPIRING STORIES OF LIFE-CHANGING LEARNING ADVENTURES MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR SUPPORT: DUNESLEARNINGCENTER.ORG/BLOG

Every Kid in a Park

Diversity, inclusion and 24’ canoes—your donation at work

IN A YEAR THAT LAUNCHED THE EVERY KID IN A PARK INITIATIVE, YOUR SUPPORT HAS KEPT DUNES LEARNING CENTER PROGRAMS AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE. Our public lands are a living classroom, providing opportunities and lessons for all. With your help, Dunes Learning Center provided 11,356 individuals with inspiring experiences in nature last year. Programs reached into underserved communities, providing life-changing experiences to children in poverty as well as those with differing abilities.

“Because no matter who you are, no matter where you live, our parks, our monuments, our lands, our waters—these places are your birthright as Americans” PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

When a student holds a salamander or canoe paddle for the first time, or gains confidence while hiking under a night sky, your investment pays dividends in healthier, happier, and smarter kids. On behalf of the children who benefit from your generosity, THANK YOU!

MORE THAN 3,600 PEOPLE EXPLORED THEIR PUBLIC WATERS FROM THE SEAT OF A 24’ VOYAGEUR CANOE IN 2015, THANKS TO A BROAD COALITION OF PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS.

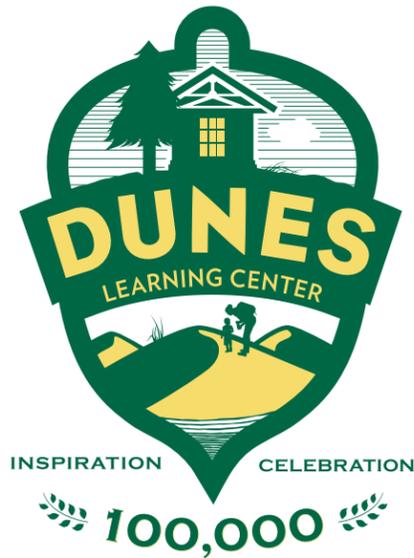


“Everyone was excited and engaged in learning! One of our students has significant special needs in the areas of behavior, self-control, and peer interaction. I’ve never seen him that happy or relaxed in the classroom.”

DONATE NOW



duneslearningcenter.org/give



100,000 Inspiration Celebration

While our friends at the National Park Service and Indiana State Parks are celebrating centennial anniversaries, Dunes Learning Center is celebrating a milestone of our own—100,000 students inspired by hands-on learning in the dunes, thanks to your support.

“My experiences at Dunes Learning Center helped to foster an appreciation for local wildlife which eventually lead to two degrees in biology and a career working with wildlife.”

NICOLE HARMON, MORAINÉ RIDGE WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER

Connecting kids with nature is a crucial first step in creating the next generation of critical thinkers and problem solvers. Studies show that today’s environmental scientists, engineers and conservation leaders were inspired by formative childhood experiences in the outdoors.



“This trip allows city kids who would otherwise never go outside of a four or five block radius of their house, to see a whole different world. This may be the springboard these children need to overcome a vicious cycle of dropping out of school and becoming part of the system.”

Nearly 20 years have passed for our first group of students who visited in 1998. Those young campers have chosen disparate paths for their lives, but still recall the first time they walked through the forest at night, heard an owl, held a salamander or persevered through a 4 mile hike and saw Lake Michigan from atop a dune that seemed too high to climb.

The experiences that your donations make possible today will inspire a lifetime of success.

Join us on Friday, September 16, for a gala celebration of inspiration, culminating in the presentation of the 2016 Green Apple award at *Walk Through Time: A Dunes Affair*.

Live music by the Corey Dennison Band, an extended cocktail hour, sumptuous hors d’oeuvres, and a silent auction featuring one-of-a-kind items and experiences will make for a night to remember. Don’t miss this opportunity to help build for the future as we celebrate 100,000 students inspired by hands-on learning in the dunes! Visit duneslearningcenter.org/events for ticket and sponsorship details.

THANKS TO EVENT SPONSORS: 1ST SOURCE BANK, ARCELORMITTAL, BP, ENBRIDGE, LAKESHORE PUBLIC MEDIA, NIPSCO AND REPUBLIC SERVICES



“Whether it is the campfire, learning how to take care of nature, catching a salamander or just sleeping in a cabin, this experience will be forever etched in their memories. My oldest is 22 and still talks about it—as do my 18 year old and 14 year old. Keep up the great work!”

SUE DRES, PARENT CHAPERONE, UNION CENTER ELEMENTARY, VALPARAISO



MAJOR FUNDING FOR THE NORTHWEST INDIANA MIGHTY ACORNS PARTNERSHIP PROVIDED BY ARCELORMITTAL.

Your Donation: Inspiring the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards and Problem Solvers

Outreach programs, Mighty Acorns®, Earth Force and Calumet is My Backyard, build environmental literacy and promote civic engagement through advocacy and stewardship activities. More than 2,900 students will benefit from these programs during the 2015-16 school year. Thanks to your support, 55% of residential program participants and nearly 100% of outreach participants, are inspired by valuable learning opportunities in their communities at little or no cost.

“These experiences are not just additive and cumulative, but multiply our students enthusiasm to learn.”

PETE LEKI, ECOLOGY PROGRAM FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, WATERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CHICAGO

Donor profile: Whitman Kosak

Eight year old Critter Camper, Whitman Kosak, loves camp. So much so, that he chose to do something we’ve never seen at camp before—make a donation.

“He had never volunteered a charitable contribution before,” said surprised mom, Erica, when we called to let her know. “This is a significant milestone in his development.” Erica matched Whitman’s donation, doubling the impact of his gift. “Thank you for the programs that you provide. We are big fans and want every child to get a chance to go to camp.”



Your gift today will provide the region’s neediest kids with a summer they’ll remember forever.

- \$40 buys a cookout at the beach for ten campers, plus s’mores!
- \$100 provides bus transportation to the Cowles Bog trailhead for a day-long hike.
- \$399 funds a full “campership” for a child who wouldn’t otherwise get to go to camp.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Donate online at www.duneslearningcenter.org/give

Dunes Learning Center is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your contribution may be tax-deductible. Does your employer match gifts? Submit your donation to multiply your impact!

Save the Date!

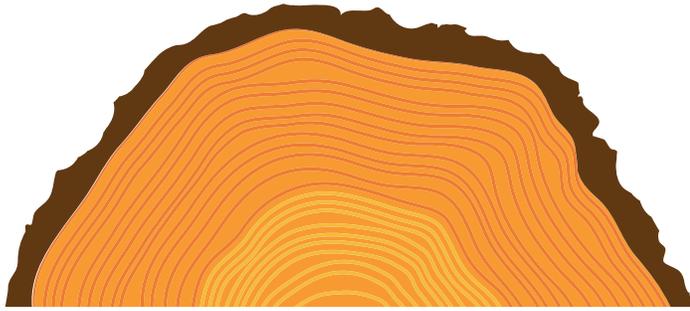
6/11/16

GET OUTDOORS DAY OPEN HOUSE & PICNIC

9/16/16

WALK THROUGH TIME: A DUNES AFFAIR

Thanks to event partners & sponsors: *Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, 1st Source Bank, ArcelorMittal, BP, Culligan of Valparaiso, Enbridge, Friends of Indiana Dunes, Lakeshore Public Media, Lamar Advertising Company, Moraine Ridge Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, NIPSCO, Northwest Indiana Paddling Association, Prism Science & Technology Republic Services and The Nature Conservancy. Funding for Get Outdoors Day provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Lake Michigan Coastal Program. Arts activities made possible with support from the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.*



A Dunes affair

... WALK THROUGH TIME ...

INSPIRATION 100,000 CELEBRATION

TICKETS & SPONSORSHIPS AT DUNESLEARNINGCENTER.ORG/EVENTS

Summer Fun Benefits Everyone

Your campership donations provide critical skills and lasting memories.



TEN YEAR-OLD TRISTAN ENJOYED HIKING TO THE BEACH AND LEARNING ABOUT DIFFERENT KINDS OF TREES, BUT SAVED HIS HIGHEST MARKS FOR CAMP FOOD, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS, "YUMMY."

Summer camp offers a safe environment, healthy activities, positive relationships and opportunities to develop skills that promote resilience. The successes that kids experience at camp can be built upon long after they return home.

Immersed in nature, campers gain confidence, build independence and try new things. Through shared adventures, they begin the process of defining their own purpose and identity. Unfortunately, practical and cultural barriers limit access to these life-changing experiences for many children.

Last year, your donations provided more than \$100,000 in "campership" funds benefiting 209 campers.

In her nomination, Tristan's teacher called him, "a hardworking, intelligent, and extremely curious 10 year old," who "would benefit greatly from attending camp." One of 5 adopted children, your support provided this promising young student with a chance to learn and grow.

His mother reports that the experience taught Tristan responsibility and independence. "To see him running around making new friends and talking about seeing them next summer was very gratifying. I had a sense of accomplishment as a parent knowing that I had made a great choice and am so grateful for the generosity of Dunes Learning Center donors who gave my son this opportunity."

93%

CAMP HELPED ME GET TO KNOW KIDS WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM ME.

92%

CAMP HELPED ME FEEL GOOD ABOUT MYSELF.



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