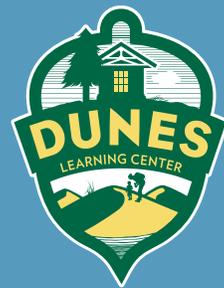


Program Guide

Planning Your Dunes Program



Partner of
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

THE
NORTH
FACE

Frog in the Bog

Program Planning Guide

Welcome.....	4
Education Goals.....	6
Residential Program Operational Policies and Guidelines.....	7
Your Responsibilities	11
Dunes Learning Center Food.....	12
Appendix 1: Administrative Tools.....	13
Appendix 2: Chaperone Materials.....	28
Appendix 3: Parent Materials.....	22

FUNDING PROVIDED BY:



Welcome to Dunes Learning Center.

We are excited to have you and your group visit our outdoor classroom inside Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. If this is your first visit, we welcome you as the newest members of our growing family of participants. If you have visited before, welcome back!

Located near the southern end of Lake Michigan, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is truly a natural treasure, providing a unique look at plant ecology and succession. Ecologist, Henry Chandler Cowles, recognized this quality more than a century ago. His research and writings brought world-wide attention to the area and began a tradition of learning in the dunes that continues today.

Dunes Learning Center's campus rests in the heart of the national lakeshore's 15,000 acres. Upon entering this classroom without walls, students become part of Cowles' legacy of exploration, discovery, and learning. As much as Henry Chandler Cowles sought scientific connections in the natural world of the dunes, programs at the Dunes Learning Center seek to guide students toward a personal and beneficial connection to the world around them.

While planning for your stay at Dunes Learning Center, please observe the following guidelines:

- Read the entire Program Planning Guide.
- Use the Checklists and information in the appendices to help you.
- Complete and submit forms in the time frame requested.

The staff at Dunes Learning Center is here to ensure that participation in our program meets your goals and exceeds your expectations. When the time comes to depart from your world in the dunes, we hope you will share what you have learned and experienced.

Respectfully yours,
Dunes Learning Center Program Staff





Education Goals

- **Develop** an understanding of the need for conservation and protection of natural resources.
- **Provide** opportunities for safe outdoor learning experiences, which promote positive relationships with the natural world.
- **Promote** awareness of the historical and current human relationships with the land and how those relationships have changed over time.
- **Respond** to the educational needs of participants from diverse communities and backgrounds.
- **Serve** as an institutional role model for environmental stewardship, sustainability, and environmental equity.
- **Operate** as a national role model for excellence in residential environmental education.
- **Integrate** program activities with the National Park Service’s environmental education standards and programs; fostering an awareness of the role of the National Park Service in protecting and preserving natural areas and cultural resources for the enjoyment and education of this and future generations.



Residential Program Operational Policies and Guidelines

These policies are designed to make your visit to Dunes Learning Center a safe and pleasant experience for teachers and students.

- **Minimum/Maximum Numbers**

Accommodations include 10 cabins housing 8 people each. The maximum capacity of Dunes Learning Center is 80. Each cabin must have a minimum of 1 adult chaperone. The required ratio of students to chaperones is 7:1. Additional campers and lodging arrangements must be approved by Dunes Learning Center prior to the visit. All cabins are gender specific.

In an effort to maximize participation in Dunes Learning Center Programs, your school may be scheduled with another school at the same time.

To exclusively reserve Dunes Learning Center, schools must pay for at least 70 students.

- **Contracts**

A signed contract must be received to hold your dates.

- **Cancellation**

We hold dates firm after receiving signed contracts. If cancellation is unavoidable, please contact Dunes Learning Center in writing as soon as possible.

A penalty fee is charged if there is a cancellation, as indicated on the contract.

If your school closes due to weather conditions, we will negotiate the fee based on the length of your stay. We cannot guarantee substitution dates.

If cancellation occurs for any reason other than school closing, within 7 days of your stay the penalty fee will increase to 90% of your estimated bill.

- **Billing**

Refer to your contract for the fees per student.

One adult for every 7 students that you bring may attend free of cost. All additional adults are charged the full program fee.

Schools will be billed based on the number of students indicated on the contract.

Early departures made for any reasons do not receive a refund.

- **Supervision**

We require that schools provide one adult supervisor per 7 students (one adult per cabin). During daytime hours one adult must accompany each of the teaching groups during daytime and evening activities. One adult per table is required during meal times.

The school must have professional staff on site at all times.

It is the school's responsibility to provide adequate supervision in the cabins.

We recommend that adults who work with the program remain on site for the entire stay.



- **Discipline**

Dunes Learning Center will work cooperatively with school professionals to ensure a safe and positive learning environment for all students.

Any event of unacceptable behavior will result in the following:

Strike 1: Dunes Learning Center staff, teacher or adult chaperone talks to student

Strike 2: The student and the adult issuing the strike talks to the lead teacher and Dunes Learning Center's Lead Naturalist or Education Director. The student receiving the strike makes a call home to parents or guardians under the supervision of the school's lead teacher or Dunes Learning Center's Lead Naturalist or Education Director.

Strike 3: The student is withdrawn from activities and the lead teacher or Dunes Learning Center's Lead Naturalist or Education Director notifies parents or guardians to pick them up. It is the school's responsibility to arrange for transportation for these students.

Serious infractions such as fighting, having weapons, or illegal substances will result in immediate dismissal and possible prosecution.

The strike policy is Dunes Learning Center's basic discipline policy. However, we advise all teachers and chaperones to develop a behavioral code of conduct agreement with students prior to visiting Dunes Learning Center. ***Teachers, please review this policy with parents, chaperones and students before attending Dunes Learning Center.***

- **Insurance**

Dunes Learning Center carries liability insurance for program activities at the Dunes Learning Center. Student illness is not covered under the Dunes Learning Center's liability insurance.

- **Health and Medical Procedures**

All students and adults must complete and submit a Participation Form **3 WEEKS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL**. Student and Adult Participation forms can be found online at duneslearningcenter.org/documents.

All Dunes Learning Center staff are trained and certified in First Aid and CPR.

Emergency medical assistance is available 24 hours a day through National Park Service (NPS) dispatch (Communication Center). Emergency phone numbers are posted at phones that are available to guests.

All medications are the responsibility of the school staff.

Dunes Learning Center policy prevents Dunes Learning Center staff from administering any medications that are not basic First Aid in nature.

Refrigeration is available and a medical room is provided to secure medications.

Asthma inhalers and epi-pens should be carried by the student or adult with that student.

Dunes Learning Center requires the school have one vehicle on-site.

- **Arrival and Departure Times**

Due to our busy schedule, ***Dunes Learning Center cannot guarantee we can accommodate early arrivals or late departures.*** Please refer to your contract for arrival and departure times.

- **Night Hours**

Park "Quiet Hours" at Dunes Learning Center are 10:00 p.m. to 7:30 a.m.

Any school-planned activities after the evening program or before 8:00 a.m. must be approved in advance by the Dunes Learning Center Lead Naturalist or Education Director.

After the evening program, students should return immediately with their teachers and chaperones to the assigned cabins in a quiet manner and prepare for bed.

Students are not allowed to leave the cabins during "Quiet Hours".

- **Emergencies**

In the case of a medical emergency please call 911. All other types of emergencies should be directed to NPS park dispatch at 1-800-PARK-TIP (1-800-7275-847). Emergency procedures will be explained upon your arrival.

- **Smoking and Alcohol**

Smoking is not permitted. Alcoholic beverages are illegal on Dunes Learning Center's Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore campus.

- **Telephones**

A telephone is provided for teachers in Cowles Lodge. Cell phone reception at Dunes Learning Center can be intermittent depending on your carrier. Please do not use cell phones during program in sight of students. Students are asked not to bring electronics or cell phones.



Your Responsibilities

Your partnership is an important part of this exciting adventure. Together we can provide your students with a challenging and fun learning experience. We need you to **maintain a one-to-seven adult-to-student ratio at night**, and one adult for every trail group during the day. To make the program work smoothly, we require assistance with the following:

- Inform and prepare parents, teachers and chaperones by distributing information and documents found in the appendices of this guide well in advance of your scheduled visit.
- Ensure that all required forms are completed and submitted prior to arrival and according to schedule.
- Attend the teacher and chaperone orientation presented upon your arrival at Dunes Learning Center.
- Supervise cabin times, or oversee adult chaperones in this role.
- Take a leadership role with any free time scheduled each day.
- Take students to their activities and meals on time according to the schedule.
- Assure table and weather helpers are scheduled and at Cowles Lodge 15 minutes before meal times.
- Assist Dunes Learning Center instructors with trail groups during the day. Offer your insights, comments, and abilities.
- Help with student discipline.
- Provide support and supervision during evening programs and meal times.
- Handle students' daily medications.
- Alert Dunes Learning Center staff to children with special physical, emotional, or behavioral needs.
- Evaluate our efforts at the end of your stay.

Free Time

Each day there may be "free" times where there are no specific activities scheduled. Dunes Learning Center staff are preparing for the next set of activities during these periods. We ask that school staff and chaperones provide leadership and supervision of students during free time. Optional activities include rest time in cabins (with adult supervision), journal time inside or outside of the cabins, or recreation in the cabin circle area. Whatever students choose to do, it is important that activities are monitored by school staff and chaperones.



Dunes Learning Center Food

Students at Dunes Learning Center will be engaged in physical activity in varying weather conditions. Our menus are designed to replenish nutrients to the body. At Dunes Learning Center, kids have the chance to experience healthy food options.

Meals are enhanced by your participation and guidance during your visit to Dunes Learning Center. Our staff will provide instruction at each meal regarding set up, clean up and everything in between. Dunes Learning Center challenges your group to have zero food waste during your visit. The Food Waste Challenge helps create an awareness of the energy and resources put into bringing food from the farm to your plate. Our staff will introduce the challenge at the first meal and discuss how to make wise dining choices in order to succeed. At the end of each meal, food and liquid waste will be collected, reported and documented in a chart. Groups with zero food waste for every meal will receive the Karner Blue Butterfly award.

Food Allergies and Special Dietary Needs

In order to provide a safe environment for individuals with food allergies, Dunes Learning Center maintains a nut free facility. Nut free snacks may be brought in to supplement provided meals and snacks. We will provide an area in Cowles Lodge where food items can be stored. Please note that no food is allowed in the cabins. Individuals with food restrictions and special dietary needs should submit a Dietary Restriction Form 3 weeks in advance of arrival. This form can be found online at <http://www.duneslearningcenter.org/documents/>. No outside meals may be brought in without this form and Dunes Learning Center approval.

Appendix 1: Administrative Tools

Program Preparation Checklist

This checklist will help you to ensure that all of the critical details are covered. Please review this checklist and have all aspects completed BEFORE ARRIVAL. We look forward to providing you with an exceptional learning experience in the dunes.

9–12 MONTHS AHEAD:

- Secure dates and return signed contract.
- Upon receipt of your signed contract, you will receive access to your online workbook.
- Arrange an orientation visit to Dunes Learning Center (recommended for first time groups).

3 MONTHS AHEAD:

- If needed, arrange a time for Dunes Learning Center staff to present an orientation program to parents at your school by phoning (219)395-9555.
- Make sure all School District requirements for trip approval and insurance are met.
- Begin informing parents and students about the upcoming program dates and meetings.
- If you need additional planning support, schedule a meeting with Dunes Learning Center Staff.
- Read through Dunes Learning Center Program Policies & Guidelines.

2 MONTHS AHEAD:

- Make all transportation arrangements. Most *Frog in the Bog* programs have scheduled arrivals at 10:30 a.m. Departure times may vary, but most *Frog in the Bog* groups are scheduled to depart at 10 a.m. (please check your contract for specific arrival times). Because of our busy schedule, Dunes Learning Center cannot guarantee we can accommodate early arrivals or late departures.
- Distribute hand-outs from this Program Planning Guide to students: *Student Expectations*, *What to Bring List for Students*, the *Dear Parent* letter and the *Center Overview for Parents*.
- Set a date at least three weeks before arrival for all Student (and Adult) Participation Forms to be submitted. ***Forms can be found online at duneslearningcenter.org/documents.***
- Sign up and confirm teacher/parent chaperones to provide adult coverage for each trail group, free time, and night time cabin supervision. Supply all chaperones with *Guidelines for Cabin Supervisors* and the *Meal Procedures* information and ask them to complete and submit an Adult Participant form.

4 WEEKS AHEAD:

- Collect program fees and initiate a purchase order or necessary paperwork for payment. Dunes Learning Center will send a quote prior to your arrival and invoice shortly after your visit. We prefer a single check from your organization as payment.
- Use your web workbook to divide students into trail groups (refer to Dunes Learning Center staff to determine the number of trail groups). Trail groups should be co-ed (unless there is some reason that prevents this)
- Use your web workbook to assign students to cabin groups. Inform students of their trail and cabin groups before arrival (refer to Dunes Learning Center staff to determine the number of cabins). Cabin groups should be single-sex, seven students and one adult chaperone.
- Review your program schedule with Dunes Learning Center staff.

3 WEEKS AHEAD:

- Review your Student Participant Form responses to ensure they have all been submitted. *Follow up with participants who have not yet submitted their forms and urge them to do so now.*
- Complete the Meal and Lodging tab in your workbook.
- Complete Trail Group, Cabin and Table assignments in your web workbook.
- Make and distribute copies of the student journal.

2 WEEKS AHEAD:

- If desired, have students and adults make name tags, which include their trail group and cabin name.
- If possible, host a meeting with all chaperones to discuss schedules and responsibilities. Make sure chaperones have been given the *Guidelines for Chaperones Form*.
- Assign students as **Table Helpers** (to report to Cowles Lodge 15 minutes prior to each meal).
- Assign students as **Weather Helpers** for the meal times (to report to the Cowles Lodge 15 minutes prior to each meal). You will not need to assign a student for the first meal as Dunes Learning Center's Naturalists will demonstrate so that the students can see how it is done.

DAY OF ARRIVAL:

- Collect and organize all medications from students and give them to the adult chaperone that will be in charge of medications for your school.
- Load Busses. Students and chaperones should be dressed in outdoor clothing and footwear appropriate for the day's weather conditions. Participants will be outdoors and starting activities before moving into cabins.
- Have your final payment (check or purchase order) with you to present to Dunes Learning Center staff on the first day of your program.
- Bring your school calendar for the next year so you can provide possible dates for next year's trip.

FORM CHECKLIST

Forms are linked from our website at duneslearningcenter.org/documents. You will receive a link to your web workbook once your dates are confirmed and your contract is signed.

- Student Participant form
- Adult Participant form
- Meal, Lodging and Group Information (in your web workbook)
- Trail Group Assignments (in your web workbook)
- Table Assignments (in your web workbook)
- Cabin Assignments (in your web workbook)

It is also important for you to read the rest of this planning guide. If you have any questions, please call us at (219) 395-9555.

Speak with our registrar at (219) 395-9555, x1, about program registration, billing, final group numbers, and other logistics. Direct program questions to our Lead Naturalist at (219) 395-9555, x 5.



Your Web Workbook

Once you have received a confirmed date from us and returned your signed contract, you will receive a link providing access to a web workbook set up specifically for your trip. This workbook will be populated with participant data provided by your classroom's parents and chaperones. Additional sheets will be formatted to accommodate a variety of group assignments. **It is critical that these assignments be completed before your arrival at Dunes Learning Center:**

MEAL AND LODGING SUMMARY—MUST BE COMPLETED 3 WEEKS PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL

Use this sheet to confirm the details of your visit such as the number of participants, arrival and departure times, goals, birthdays, etc.

STUDENT AND ADULT PARTICIPANT FORMS

Use this sheet to view completed participant forms. When the form is completed online the data goes into a master datasheet. The individual forms are manually transferred from the master to the respective workbook, therefore you will not see the form instantly. There is a 24-48 hour delay. Please feel free to contact the Lead Naturalist or Education Director prior to notifying participants of missing forms.

TRAIL GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

Use this sheet to divide your group into co-ed trail groups of 10-12 students. Check with Dunes Learning Center staff to determine the number of trail groups assigned. You must have at least one adult assigned to each trail group.

TABLE ASSIGNMENTS

Use this sheet to divide your group for meals. Each table seats a maximum of 8 people. We suggest that you make table assignments the same as cabin assignments. If you choose to do it differently, use this form to assign students to tables before they arrive. You should assign a Table Helper and Weather Helper from each table/cabin for each meal except the first meal. Please note that you do not need to assign Weather Helpers for the first meal. Dunes Learning Center staff will do the first one to show the students how it is done.

CABIN ASSIGNMENTS

Use this sheet to assign students to cabins prior to arrival. Each cabin holds a maximum of 8 occupants (typically 7 students and 1 chaperone). Additional campers and lodging arrangements must be approved by Dunes Learning Center prior to the visit. All cabins are gender specific.

SCHEDULE

Please review the schedule and contact the Lead Naturalist if you have any questions.

Appendix 2: Chaperone Materials

Dear Chaperone,

Thank you for volunteering to participate in our environmental education program at Dunes Learning Center. Without your support and enthusiasm, we could not provide our students with this valuable experience.

Your first stop should be www.duneslearningcenter.org/documents. Please complete an Adult Participant form as soon as possible. This form is due 3 weeks prior to your arrival. No individual may participate without a completed form on file.

The program begins immediately upon arrival. Following an opening activity, students are oriented to the program and the rules. Teachers and chaperones have a separate orientation. If you have questions or concerns, this orientation is the ideal time to voice them.

You should be aware of the following program specifics.

- You will be responsible for supervision of students in the cabins and on trails. Gentle discipline of students may be required during the program and/or evening hours when Dunes Learning Center staff are not available. If you are prepared for this it is generally easy to prevent problems before they start. Discipline procedures are clearly defined in both orientation meetings, so that there should be no disagreement about what constitutes appropriate or inappropriate behavior.
- Safety procedures in case of emergency will be discussed during the adult orientation meeting. Emergency services are located within two miles of Dunes Learning Center and are available 24 hours per day through the National Park Service. When students are in residence at Dunes Learning Center, the facility is given top priority by National Park Service rangers. Instructions for what to do in case of emergency are clearly posted in each cabin and in Cowles Lodge.
- Your enthusiastic participation throughout the program is essential to its success. Immersion in the dunes ecosystems will allow students to absorb an amazing amount of information and to have fun while doing it. Your encouragement and assistance in this experience will help students get the most out of the program.

Once again, thank you very much for generously volunteering your time. If you have any questions, please contact your school or Dunes Learning Center at (219) 395-9555. The staff of Dunes Learning Center is looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Dunes Learning Center Program Staff

Dunes Learning Center
700 Howe Road, Porter, IN 46304

(219) 395-9555 during the hours of 9am–5pm
1-800- PARK-TIP (7275-847) during the hours of 5pm–9am

Guidelines for Chaperones

Thank you so much for volunteering to supervise students at Dunes Learning Center. Without your commitment and effort, we would not be able to offer this learning opportunity to your children. Below you will find guidelines that we hope will make your job much easier. These guidelines are designed to keep students safe, secure, and add to their learning experience:

Children are to be supervised by an adult at all times.

You may want to call a student meeting in your cabin at the first opportunity to go over do's and don'ts. This is a good time to talk with students about issues like shower time and medication procedures.

For safety concerns, do not permit rough play, running, or rowdy behavior in the cabins.

Food is not allowed in the cabins in order to discourage rodents and other unwanted guests. Snacks brought by the school may be stored in Cowles Lodge.

Please help us keep the students from writing or carving on beds, walls, or dressers. The cost of any damage will be passed on to your school or to the student's family.

Students are expected to respect other people's belongings and materials. Make sure there is no fighting or hitting, which may result in immediate dismissal of a student. Students should stay in their own cabin and never enter the cabins or rooms of the opposite sex.

Students should enter and exit cabins only through the front door. Please have students remove soiled boots and shoes in this area. All other doors are for emergency use only and should not be used by students.

Do not tell or let other students share ghost stories or other scary stories. These work against our goals and reinforce unhealthy fears and anxieties.

Quiet time is from 10:00 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. We discourage letting students stay up later or getting up earlier, as a lack of adequate rest works against the educational goals of the learning center and makes it more difficult for adults and youth to take full advantage of their time here. Groups should never leave the cabin during "lights out" even if an adult is with them.

Help us conserve energy by turning down thermostats and making certain all lights are off when cabins are not in use.

Assign children who have problems with sleep walking and bed-wetting to lower bunks. (Note: the school leader may have done this already.)

Each morning before breakfast, students will be asked to do some housekeeping chores to keep their cabins clean. Brooms can be found in the bathroom closet of each cabin.

Be aware of other rules as indicated in the Student Expectations and your school's administration.



Telephones are to be used by adults only. Instructions and emergency numbers are posted by each phone. Do not let students call home unless approval has been given by your school's leader or a Dunes Learning Center staff member. Our experience indicates that a student calling home is disruptive and not helpful.

Please remind students who are scheduled for table or weather helpers to meet their leaders 15 minutes before each meal.

Remember to bring an alarm clock (cell phones can be used for this purpose).

Evening supervisors who aren't staying for the daytime program should arrive by 6:30 p.m. and stay until 8:00 a.m.

All medications for adults and students must be stored in first aid room.

Smoking/Alcoholic beverages are not permitted anywhere on Dunes Learning Center's campus or during any part of the program during your visit.

If you have problems with the facility, please notify Dunes Learning Center staff.

Leave your car parked in the designated lot unless you are loading or unloading. Cars that are not parked appropriately are subject to ticketing by the National Park Service Law Enforcement Rangers.

Chaperone Packing List

Our programs are conducted mostly outdoors. Please come prepared to spend days outside. If you do not have some of the items you may substitute, improvise, or in some cases, borrow equipment from Dunes Learning Center. **Prepare for the weather, it can be warm, cold, windy, rainy, sunny, or snowy in the dunes.** Remember that you will be carrying your own luggage, so do not bring more items than you can carry!

- 1 small backpack
- 2 reusable water bottles
- 1 poncho or raincoat (winter coat if appropriate)
- 1 hat (appropriate for season)
- warm gloves, scarf, etc. for cooler temperatures
- Warm socks
- Sweaters or sweatshirts
- Shirts, at least one long-sleeved
- 2 pairs of long pants
- Shoes that can get muddy, plus extra shoes to change into
- Pajamas
- Lip Protectant (ChapStick, Blistex, etc.)
- Sun screen
- Bug spray
- Towel and washcloth
- Soap, toothbrush, toothpaste and other toiletries
- Comb or brush
- Sleeping bag or rolled-up blankets and pillow
- Plastic bags for wet shoes and dirty clothes

Optional Items

- Camera
- Binoculars
- Reading books
- Cabin games for kids
- Head lamp or flashlight (for inside the cabin ONLY)

FOOD AND DRINK ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE CABINS AT ANY TIME.

Appendix 3: Parent Materials

Dear Parent:

Your child is about to embark on an exciting learning adventure that they will never forget. The staff at Dunes Learning Center is eagerly awaiting their arrival, and will do everything possible to make this a positive experience.

Dunes Learning Center's program is interdisciplinary, comprehensive and strengthens both academic and social skills. Your child will actively engage in learning experiences that promote: team building, individual discovery, problem solving, critical thinking, and decision-making skills. The program itself is designed to assist teachers in meeting state and curriculum standards while incorporating traditional outdoor learning activities like campfire songs, games, night hikes and much more.

Dunes Learning Center program staff consists of trained naturalists, each possessing First Aid and CPR certification, as well as training in on-trail emergency management techniques. They are committed to ensuring that your child has a fun learning experience in a safe manner.

You have an important role in preparing your child for this opportunity. Please read the materials in this package carefully. Help your child pack and make sure that they have everything that they are prepared for the weather—and please do not include food or electronic devices. **Complete and submit the required Student Participant Form found online at duneslearningcenter.org/documents as soon as possible. Your child will not be allowed to participate without it.**

In order to totally immerse your child in the program, we ask that you do not phone or ask your child to call home. You are encouraged to “Like” us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram. We do our best to post photos during each program. In the event that an emergency has occurred and you need to reach your child, please use the phone number and address below. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact your school staff. If they are unable to address your concerns, feel free to contact Dunes Learning Center staff.

Sincerely,

Dunes Learning Center Program Staff

Dunes Learning Center
700 Howe Road, Porter, IN 46304

(219) 395-9555 during the hours of 9am–5pm
1-800- PARK-TIP (7275-847) during the hours of 5pm–9am



Partner of Indiana Dunes
National Lakeshore

Overview for Parents

Welcome to Dunes Learning Center!

Located in the heart of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in northwest Indiana, Dunes Learning Center is approximately 50 miles from downtown Chicago. Our facility opened in 1998, on the grounds of the former U.S. Steel Camp Good Fellow Youth Camp, inside Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Dunes Learning Center is encircled by one of the most scenic trails in the park—The Little Calumet River Trail—providing a 3.5 mile loop around our campus and into the Chellberg Farm and Bailly Homestead historic sites. Woodland wildflowers abound along the river trail and beaver activity can be witnessed while hiking through a mixed hardwood forest. The nearby Cowles Bog Trail, a 4.6-mile loop, winds through some of the most biologically diverse areas of the National Lakeshore—including a section of dunes along the southern edge of Lake Michigan. During their time in the Indiana Dunes, students will visit many different parts of the National Lakeshore and surrounding communities to learn about the history and diversity of the dunes through games, hikes, stewardship projects, tours, and many other exciting activities.

Dunes Learning Center facilities include ten group-style, modern cabins, each accommodating eight people (seven campers with one adult Cabin Leader) and equipped with bunk beds, bathroom facilities, and a private shower. Heating and air-conditioning allow for year-round use.

Cowles Lodge, a large, multi-purpose dining and activity hall, sits at the center of our campus. This facility accommodates groups for dining or other activities. The building is equipped with a certified full-service kitchen, where all meals are prepared by our professional food service staff.

Dunes Learning Center's curriculum is truly interdisciplinary, incorporating the arts, technology, science, math, social studies and language arts. Programs are carefully designed to complement classroom instruction and to meet state and national education standards.

Dunes Learning Center is committed to being a special place for all students. From the moment they step off their school bus to the moment they leave, students become part of a learning community that engages them in fun, hands-on discovery. Every day they have the opportunity to develop their relationship with the environment and become healthier, happier, and smarter in the process.

Dunes Learning Center raises funds for scholarships so that all children have an opportunity to participate. Approximately 25% of the children who attend the residential program receive assistance thanks to area foundations, businesses and individuals donors. For more information about how you can support Dunes Learning Center, call 219-395-9555, or visit our website at www.duneslearningcenter.org.

Student Expectations

These guidelines are meant to make it easier for all of us to live together and create an atmosphere where everyone feels safe and free to learn. To ensure that this happens, we have one rule: RESPECT.

Let's RESPECT yourself and others and keep this a safe place where no one gets injured.

- Drink plenty of water.
- Eat enough, but not too much, at meals.
- Get plenty of sleep.
- Wear appropriate clothing for the weather and be prepared for the next activity.
- Do not climb on trees, beams, or other high structures.
- Turn in all medication to your teachers.
- Wear shoes at all times while outdoors.
- Do not run indoors.
- Do not use "put downs" or inappropriate words, or tease others.
- Respect other people's belongings and materials.
- Do not fight or hit anyone.
- Stay in your own cabin.
- Do not enter cabins without adult supervision.
- No "horse-play" or rough housing inside cabins or other buildings.

Let's RESPECT this beautiful natural area.

- Stay on the established trails.
- Do not pick any plants unless authorized by an instructor.
- Return all animals we are studying to their proper homes.
- Do not harm or scare wildlife.

Let's RESPECT the buildings and keep them looking great for other students.

- Do not write or carve on walls, beds or dressers.
- Pick up your trash and put it in the proper container.
- Leave all food and snacks at home. They attract unwanted visitors like mice and ants to the cabins.
- Use emergency exits in cabins ONLY in the event of an emergency and follow instructions.
- Keep doors and windows shut and lights off to conserve energy.

Any damages will be paid for by the school or student.

Let's RESPECT our teachers, chaperones, and instructors and make this a fun and exciting learning experience.

- Follow all program schedules and be on time.
- Stay within the campus boundaries unless you are led to other program areas by an adult.
- Be good listeners to your instructors and follow instructions.
- If you did bring something you should not have, give it to your teacher right away.
- Remember that you must be with an adult at all times.

Always bring your PMA (Positive Mental Attitude)!

Those who do not follow these guidelines, will not be allowed to participate in the program at Dunes Learning Center.

What to Bring

Our program activities are conducted mostly outdoors, so it is necessary to come prepared. If you do not have some of the items **don't buy them**; you may substitute, improvise, or talk to your teacher. **Do prepare for the weather! it can be warm, cold, windy, rainy, sunny, or snowy in the dunes.** Remember that everyone will carry their own luggage. Do not pack more than your student can carry!

- 1 Small Backpack
- 2 Reusable Water Bottles
- Poncho or Raincoat (Winter Coat if Appropriate)
- Hat (Appropriate for Season)
- Warm Gloves, Scarf, Etc. for Cooler Temperatures
- Several Pairs of Warm Socks
- 2 Sweaters or Sweatshirts
- Shirts, at least one Long-Sleeved
- 2 Pairs of Long Pants
- Shoes that can get Muddy
- Extra Shoes
- Pajamas
- Lip Protectant (ChapStick, Blistex, etc.)
- Sun Screen
- Bug Spray
- Towel and Washcloth
- Soap, Toothbrush, Toothpaste and other Toiletries
- Comb or Brush
- Sleeping Bag or Rolled-Up Blankets and Pillow
- Extra Plastic Bags for Wet Shoes and Dirty Clothes

OPTIONAL

- Camera
- Binoculars
- Book to read before bed

FOOD AND DRINK ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE CABINS AT ANY TIME. PLEASE DO NOT BRING FOOD, GUM, CANDY, HAND-HELD ELECTRONICS, CELL PHONES, KNIVES OR WEAPONS OF ANY KIND

Directions to Dunes Learning Center



From the West: Take Interstate 94 East to Exit 22B, Porter at U.S. Highway 20 East. Alternatively, take the Indiana Tollway (Chicago Skyway), I-90 East, to Interstate 94 East to Exit 22B, Porter at U.S. Highway 20 East. Once off the interstate, continue east on U.S. Highway 20 for 1.6 miles to Mineral Springs Road (Mineral Springs Road is just past the metal bridge at the second blinking light, opposite the sign for the Spring House Inn). Look for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore signs directing you to Bailly/Chellberg Farm.

Turn north or left on Mineral Springs Road and continue for 0.4 mile to Oak Hill Road.

Turn left or west on Oak Hill Road and continue 0.4 mile to Howe Road.

Turn left or south on Howe Road. After another 0.2 mile, the Learning Center entrance will be on your right. Enter through the stone gateway and follow the drive past the old Good Fellow Lodge, keeping right at the fork to the camper drop off area before proceeding to the parking area just past Dunes Learning Center's Cowles Lodge.

From the East: Take Interstate 94 West to Exit 22 B, Porter at U.S. Highway 20 East. Alternatively, take the Indiana Tollway, Interstate 80/90 West, to Interstate 94 East to Exit 22B, Porter/U.S. Highway 20 East. Once off the interstate follow the above directions. Mineral Springs Road will be 1.4 miles east on U.S. Highway 20.

From the South: Take Interstate 65 North to Interstate 94 East and follow the above directions from the west.



INDIANA ARTS
COMMISSION
MAKING THE ARTS HAPPEN



Partner of Indiana Dunes
National Lakeshore



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