



Outcomes

A NEWSLETTER FOR DUNES LEARNING CENTER DONORS, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS



MIGHTY ACORNS NATURE CAMP IS MADE POSSIBLE BY ARCELORMITTAL, WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM BP, DR. SCHOLL FOUNDATION, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, THE IDNR COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PARENTS AND INDIVIDUALS.

AT MIGHTY ACORNS NATURE CAMP, CONSERVATION-MINDED FUTURE LEADERS MEET for 5 days of exploration, science, and service in and around our Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore campus. Your investment helped reduce tuition and pay for transportation to camp for more than 120 deserving kids last summer—providing new friends, new confidence, and lessons that will last a lifetime.

100%

OF MIGHTY ACORNS CAMPERS SAID THEY MADE A NEW FRIEND, AND 97% REPORTED FEELING PROUD OF THEMSELVES AT CAMP.

Your Donation at Work

“MAX LOVES SCIENCE! HE TRIES OUT SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS IN HIS FREE TIME AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME. HE IS VERY CURIOUS AND LOVES TO LEARN.”

Each Spring, Dunes Learning Center accepts nominations from teachers for summer camp scholarships, made possible by your generous support. Last year, Max and his brother Lucas were two of those nominees. Thanks to you, they had a summer learning adventure that neither will soon forget.

“They were a little quiet at first,” recalls trail group leader, Alana; “but after they found a bunch of salamanders, they got really excited and started asking questions about everything!”

The experiences that kids have at camp are more than fun—they build skills, confidence and resilience that contribute to success in school and in life. Thanks to you, a new generation is being inspired to learn from, and care for, the natural world.

YOUR DONATION IMMERSSES AT-RISK YOUTH IN NATURE AND BRINGS SCIENCE TO LIFE THROUGH HANDS-ON, INQUIRY BASED EXPLORATIONS THAT INSPIRE CURIOSITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.



DONATE NOW



duneslearningcenter.org/give



DUNES LEARNING CENTER

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New Experiences, New Opportunities

Funding enriches science, learning, and lives in East Chicago

It would be difficult to imagine a more daunting challenge than the one faced by students in East Chicago. Many have had to relocate due to contamination of water and soil. Schools have been changed, and lives disrupted. But on this particular day, students from Carrie Gosch Elementary are exploring the great outdoors; thanks to a one-year grant from Foundations of East Chicago, and donors like you.

“I’m excited to just be here,” says 6th grader, Brianne. “I want to see the plants and animals and how it looks around here. I’ve never been anywhere like this before. We don’t have any woods where I live.”

Your donations are providing field-based education experiences to communities where they are most needed—inspiring curiosity, civic engagement, and environmental literacy.



“SCIENTISTS ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT IS BETTER TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS THAN NOT KNOW THE ANSWERS,” NOTED ONE STUDENT WHILE INVESTIGATING ECOSYSTEMS ALONG THE COWLES BOG TRAIL.

“During the night hike, a 3rd grade student came to me, crying tears of happiness. He told me he had never seen so many beautiful stars. Due to light pollution, many of our students have never seen the night sky! As we admired the constellations, he pointed out the big dipper—which we had learned about in class. It is a moment I am sure he will never forget.” Linda Padilla, Carrie Gosch Elementary School



YOUR GIFT OFFERS A WORLD OF NEW EXPERIENCES TO KIDS WHO RARELY LEAVE THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD.

“I HAD SO MUCH FUN OUTSIDE,” ANSE SAYS OF HER TIME AT CAMP. “WHO KNEW THAT I WOULD ENJOY TESTING WATER?”

Anse was a 4th grade student at Westside in East Chicago when her mom told her she was going to Earth Camp. She had never been camping and knew no one else who was going. No technology, no phone, no television—Anse tried to get out of it, but her mom stood firm, and so she went.

“The experiences that I had at Dunes Learning Center definitely gave me the confidence to meet different people and challenges—just like you have to in college or at a job,” she notes.

Once a shy 4th grade camper from East Chicago, Anse is now a young woman, with a job in healthcare and a fiancé. When they have kids, she says, “they’re going to go outside and have the confidence to do new things they couldn’t imagine doing.”

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT, WE ARE:

- Educating a generation to care for our planet
- Bringing science to life in nature
- Connecting the public to their national parks

WITH INCREASED SUPPORT, WE COULD:

- Reach more youth
- Provide more scholarships
- Improve and measure the quality of our programs

“I would thank the donors for recognizing what a positive impact Dunes Camp can have for building independence and self-esteem.”

Marni arrived at camp very nervous.

It was her first time, and ADHD and learning disabilities posed additional challenges. “Each day she was a little less shy, a little more interactive, and smiled more. It was fun to see her blossom,” says Education Director, Erin Crofton, “Marni was completely supported in her experience,” mom, Ame, reported. “She LOVED her first overnight in a tent and is excited about being a returning camper this summer.”



Donor Profile: Jeannette Melcic

“No matter which students I bring, or what the curricular goal, the challenges, accomplishments, problem solving, and learning that happens here transforms my students and helps to shape their future as responsible citizens.”

A BIOLOGY TEACHER AT EGGERS MIDDLE SCHOOL, JEANNETTE HAS SUPPORTED DUNES LEARNING CENTER FROM THE BEGINNING—GIVING GENEROUSLY OF HER TIME, MONEY AND CREATIVITY. While serving on Dunes Learning Center’s board of directors alongside Michael Kobe, (an administrator for the School City of Hammond at the time), the two “dreamed up” our Science Olympiad camp—an immersive experience that brings STEM concepts to life while coaching teams to success.

“When my district offered the opportunity to give from our paychecks, I jumped on it,” says Jeannette. “I have been to Dunes Learning Center more than 30 times! I love it, and all it has done for my students.”



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

Your gift will provide deserving kids with an unforgettable learning adventure in nature.

- \$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.
- \$425 funds a full “campership” for a child who wouldn’t otherwise get to go to camp.

NAME _____

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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!

06.10.17

GET OUTDOORS DAY OPEN HOUSE & PICNIC

07.02.17

LIGHTNING BUG MUSIC FESTIVAL

09.08.17

IN OUR HANDS: A DUNES AFFAIR

Thank you to Premier Sponsor, ArcelorMittal; Sustaining Sponsors, Lakeshore Public Media and Lamar Advertising; Supporting Sponsors, BP, Enbridge, Friends of Indiana Dunes, and NIPSCO; Contributing Sponsor, Mark J. Mihalco D.D.S Family Dentistry; Event Presenter, Republic Services; and Event Patrons, Schepel Cadillac, and Thorgren Tool & Molding Co. Arts activities made possible, in part, with support from the Indiana Arts Commission, South Shore Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Dunes Learning Center is a proud partner of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Mark Your Calendars!

FROM FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS TO GALA FUNDRAISERS Dunes Learning Center offers opportunities throughout the year for the public to experience and support hands-on environmental education in the dunes. Details, registration, and sponsorship opportunities are now available at www.duneslearningcenter.org/events.



Your investment today, planting seeds for the future.

HOW ARE WE PREPARING STUDENTS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF A CHANGING WORLD? Environmental literacy starts with a strong connection to nature, an appreciation for diversity, and an understanding of the interconnectedness of all things. Trail hikes, nature games, ecosystem investigations, and stewardship activities all teach lessons that contribute to a healthy and sustainable tomorrow.

Alaina had never hiked prior to coming to Dunes Learning Center with her class. In fact, Alaina told her trail group leader, Anthony, she was doing a lot of things for the first time during her visit—like be outside for an entire day. “She described it as a coming of age experience where she was on her own in a new setting and becoming an older person,” he recalls. “The experience was clearly personal and meaningful to her.”

When you support environmental education in your parks, communities and schools, your donations inspire tomorrow’s leaders and problem solvers—an investment that will pay dividends for generations to come.

“Through the experiences offered by Dunes Learning Center, students realize this land is their’s to take care of and make better.”



SPORTING SUNGLASSES FOUND DURING A BEACH CLEAN UP, ALAINA TAKES A MOMENT TO RECORD IMPRESSIONS FROM THE DAY.



Partner of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore