



Outcomes

A NEWSLETTER FOR DUNES LEARNING CENTER DONORS, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS



What did you like best about your overnight camp experience?

"Being outside, hiking and seeing the beach for the first time."

"The whole trip was amazing! When we went hiking at night it was kind of scary, but I held it in and really, really enjoyed it. I learned a lot of new things that I never knew before."

"Just spending time standing in the oak savanna and seeing how beautiful nature is!"

"My favorite part was eating food because I didn't know a lot of people in my group, and when we ate, I got to talk and get to know my group."

"I got to see a blue jay in person. I never saw a bird so blue!"

"I got to be in a cabin with my friends, and we had a lot of fun. We got to be in funny skits at the campfire and roast marshmallows. The food was very good."

Connecting Young People with Nature for 20 Years!

With your help, Dunes Learning Center brings classroom learning to life in the dunes and natural areas throughout the region for more than 12,000 students annually! Many of these young people receive need-based scholarship support or participate free-of-charge thanks to donors like you.

"We wanted to send our thanks for your generosity, and to let you know that without help from people like you, our students would otherwise not be able to afford such a trip."

—The 5th grade teaching team at Central Elementary in Portage

"Thank you for the money for the trip. It was the best field trip I have ever had. We went on hikes and learned new games . . . we had delicious meals and smores . . . on our night hike we learned an owl call, heard lots of animals and got a turn to walk alone for a little part of the trail. We did a lot of fun things, but the solo hike was number one on my list!"

—With all the thanks in the world, Avery



DONATE NOW



duneslearningcenter.org/give



DUNES LEARNING CENTER

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Your Donation at Work:

Thanks to you, diverse groups from across the region benefit from the opportunity to learn and explore outdoors with Dunes Learning Center. **Here are just a few magical moments when our staff realizes that these programs have a real impact on the kids:**

“We saw four snakes on Cowles Bog. One of my students, Ellie, was pretty scared of snakes, especially the first one we found. But by the end of the hike, she was right by my side when I caught one. She even made herself touch it. When I asked her what her favorite part of the hike was, she said seeing the snakes because she wasn't afraid of them anymore.”

“Halfway through the day my whole trail group started gushing about how much they were enjoying themselves. They said they were remembering everything so much better because they could SEE it.”



On campus, your support makes it possible for our professionally-trained naturalist interns to teach and inspire young people surrounded by scenic trails, historic sites and one of the most biologically diverse National Parks in the world.

Residential Program by the Numbers:

\$147,033

in need-based scholarship support awarded to

2,131

campers

School Year

78 groups

3,675 participants

14,030 meals served

44,092 hours spent outdoors

Summer Camp

7 weeks

406 campers

4,882 meals served

18,676 hours spent outdoors



“Tyrese had never been to the beach before, so this was his first experience seeing such a large body of water. I always ask my students to share the first words that pop into their head when they see Lake Michigan. When I got to Tyrese, he just kept repeating “OH MY GOSH!” He was so amazed.”

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

Reflections from the Spring Trail

In the community, you make it possible for our outreach educators to connect students of all ages and functional needs with the natural world, including encounters with the animals at Chellberg Farm and the opportunity to paddle a canoe in partnership with Wilderness Inquiry.

Outreach Program by the Numbers:

6,433 students*

Calumet Is My Back Yard/CIMBY (grades 9-12)	298
Canoemobile	3,101
Citizen Science (grades 6-8)	134
Dunes To You (preschool-adult)	283
Mighty Acorns (grades 3-5)	2,617

4,500 hours of stewardship**

- 13 separate sites
- 10 acres of natural habitat

CIMBY students from Michigan City High School study and restore an area of Ambler Flatwoods each year. When the little



bridge that heads over a flowing stream was destroyed by a fall storm, they worked together to apply what they just learned about “ecostructures” to replace it. During their spring trip, they were pleased to see it was still intact.

Elliot is a 5th grade Mighty Acorns student at South Haven Elementary in Portage. While he really enjoys the learning activities and games during his trips, he was most impressed by the impact his group made at Imagination Glen this year removing invasives. **“I am exhausted, but it is the good kind of exhausted because I did real work that’s making a difference in the world.”**



**Grant funding and donations underwrite the cost of community-based program development and delivery, including major support from ArcelorMittal for Mighty Acorns, Citizen Science and CIMBY. **In partnership with Shirley Heinze Land Trust.*

Your gift will provide an unforgettable learning adventure in nature.

- \$50 helps feed and care for the animals at Chellberg Farm.
- \$125 funds a student's overnight camp experience during the school year.
- \$400 provides a full week of outdoor summertime fun for a deserving child.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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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!**

06.09.18

GET OUTDOORS DAY OPEN HOUSE

07.01.18

LIGHTNING BUG MUSIC FESTIVAL

09.14.18

A DUNES AFFAIR

10.05.18

HOMECOMING

Looking for an outdoor family adventure?

Learn more about community education and family overnights: duneslearningcenter.org/public

Mark Your Calendars!

Celebrate 20 years of environmental education in the dunes. Event proceeds help get more kids outdoors to explore and learn. Details, registration and sponsorship opportunities at www.duneslearningcenter.org/public.



Thank you to event sponsors ArcelorMittal, BP, Cargill, Enbridge, Franklin Pest Solutions, Friends of Indiana Dunes, Lakeshore Public Media, Mark Mihalo Family Dentistry, NIPSCO and Wickcraft Boardwalks. Arts activities made possible with support from South Shore Arts, the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Summer Camp Starts June 5th

Thanks to donors like you, **221 deserving students** have the opportunity to attend summer camp this year for little or no cost to their families. Beginning in January, Dunes Learning Center asks teachers to nominate students who receive Free or Reduced Lunch benefits for summer camp scholarships. Families are offered the opportunity to register on a first come, first served basis while funds are available.

With your support, Hassan and Mariana will enjoy a full week of outdoor adventure this summer:

“Hassan is a bright student that tries hard in third grade. He deserves a chance to experience this wonderful opportunity, which can lead to success in science.”

“Mariana is a delightful student who loves the outdoors and is inquisitive. I have first hand knowledge that Mariana would not be able to attend without this assistance. Her mom lost her job this year and has not been able to secure new employment.”

2018 registration to date:

59% returning campers

41% new campers



Partner of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore