

Youth Learn Life Skills through WI Tour

Youth development is a process of mental, physical, social and emotional growth during which young people prepare to live a productive and satisfying life within the customs and regulations of their society. Life skills are abilities individuals can learn that will help them to be successful in living a productive and satisfying life.

In August of 2017 St. Croix County took 31 youth on an out of county adventure called the WI Tour. But before the fun could begin, a volunteer group of youth and adult leaders spent six months planning the trip. This planning included everything from logistics to educational activities. The three day two night experience designed for youth 5th – 8th grade had the following objectives:

- Increase knowledge and understanding of Wisconsin history and culture.
- Build awareness of state problems / concerns.
- Further develop skills in leadership and personal expression of values.
- Increase awareness of self in relationship to others.
- Share what was learned with others in your club and county.



In addition, the committee added the addition of high school aged youth counselors. The counselor's role included: assisting with the mandatory orientation, planning and teaching bus activities, leading and monitoring the youth during the trip, and serving as a good role model. In addition, the counselors each had a 20 -30 minutes' teachable moment where they were the teacher / tour guide.



Here is what a few participants said at the end of the trip:

"I enjoy traveling."

"I like meeting new people."

"I can manage my money, make friends, and be away from home."

"I can be really adventurous."

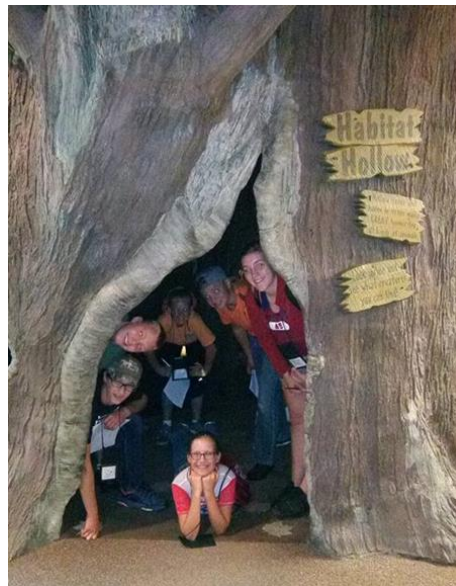
"I can make friends easily."

"I am really good at working with the troublesome kids."

"4-H takes you places."

All youth participated in a daily reflection where they could express their thoughts, achievements, concerns, and questions.

During our trip to Green Bay, youth had the opportunity to visit Heritage Hill State Park, take a tour of the famous Green Bay Packers Stadium, discover the Neville Public Museum, test their thrill level at Bay Beach Amusement Park, and discover our natural environment at the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. In addition, we joined Brown County 4-Her's to work on a service learning project.



Life Skills Learned of the WI Tour

Thinking

- Service Learning
- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Decision Making

Living

- Personal Safety
- Healthy Lifestyle Choices

Being

- Self-Discipline
- Character
- Self-Responsibility

Working

- Self-Motivation
- Teamwork

Giving

- Contribution to Group Effort
- Responsible Citizenship
- Leadership
- Community Service Volunteering

Caring

- Sharing
- Concern for Others

Relating

- Accepting Differences
- Social Skills
- Cooperation
- Communication

Managing

- Goal Setting