

Seventh Grade Devil's Lake Camping Trip Goals

In the seventh grade our big idea is "How Have Ideas Changed the World." Both John Muir and Aldo Leopold lived at different times in the setting of the "Sand Counties" of Wisconsin. We travel to Devil's Lake State Park near Baraboo, Wisconsin. We camp at the group camp sites for four days and three nights. We have activities scheduled for the two full days of our trip. Day one we have an all day hike around the perimeter of Devil's Lake. On day two we visit "The Shack" at the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the International Crane Foundation. Both are located in Baraboo.

Trip Goals:

Goal One:

Our goal is for students to directly experience the environment of "the Shack" <http://www.aldoleopold.org> in which Aldo Leopold wrote in *A Sand County Almanac* as part of our studies of environmental heroes. We will participate in a restoration activity there. Students read *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold prior to our trip. They will get the opportunity to experience first hand the place which is the setting for this important work. While there they discuss and read excerpts from the book as well.

Goal Two:

We have a field trip to the International Crane Foundation <http://www.savingcranes.org> where founders Ron Sauvey and George Archibald decided that something needed to be done to save cranes as a species. Students read *Miracle at Willowcreek* by Annette LaBox prior to our trip.

It is important for our students to experience first hand the places where others have blazed the trail. These people saw a need and found a way to make a difference in our world. Our work in service learning projects could potentially be the spark of an innovative idea that does the same. It could happen ...

Goal Three:

Around the campfire we schedule discussion topics. One evening we discuss the life of John Muir. The students will have read the book *John Muir: My Life with Nature* by Joseph Cornell.

The next evening we enjoy an oral reading of *The Lorax* by Dr. Suess. After listening to this book we discuss the different characters and elements of the book and how they pertain to our lives. This book discussion is also used as a wrap-up of our seventh grade curriculum.

Goal Four:

We are following the mission of our school by helping our students become environmentally conscious and closer with nature. Students will be away from home for four days and three nights learning about survival skills and the importance of being part of a team. Students are old enough to increase their

camping experiences/knowledge. Students in teams will build fires, cook over a fire and cleanup after meals. In addition to our evening discussions around the campfire we will also be journaling while on the trip.