



Trees For Tomorrow
Environmental Education Center®

Eagle River, Wisconsin

What is Trees For Tomorrow?

- Environmental Education Center
- Natural Resources Specialty School
- Natural Resources Education Center
- Conservation Camp

What: Promoting sustainable management of our natural resources *through transformative educational experiences.*

Why: *We are preparing today's youth to be tomorrow's stewards of our natural world!*



Legacy...

Established in 1944 by nine paper and utility company executives with a focus on providing support to the forest product industry

- Provide a local self-sustaining wood supply
- Encourage landowners to plant trees and practice sustainable management techniques



Providing education workshops since 1945

- K12 Teachers and Students
- Families and Youth groups
- And many others!

Today...

Since 1967, focus on K12 Schools

- Multi-day environmental education workshops on campus
- Outreach programs at schools or nearby natural areas
- **Custom curriculum** created to complement TFT mission, Next Generation Science Standards, Academic and Career Planning, multi-day learning, and Northwoods ecology
 - *Inspired by PLT, LEAF and other existing curriculum*
 - *Goal to connect to what students are learning at school and issues in their home communities*
- Other programs for community groups, youth groups, families, etc.



A photograph of three children skiing in a snowy forest. The child on the left is wearing a brown jacket and a green beanie. The child in the middle is wearing a black jacket with green and grey stripes and camouflage pants. The child on the right is wearing an orange jacket and a red beanie. They are all holding ski poles and standing on a snowy slope. The background is a dense forest of snow-covered evergreen trees.

Forestry Education in Wisconsin

Challenges:

- Reduced program revenue for two consecutive years
- Balance of increased costs and affordable program fees
- Transportation costs for schools (\$2000+ for bussing to and from)
- Teacher turnover



Forestry Education in Wisconsin

Good news... Demand for forestry education is consistent in communities with:

- Financial support
- Understanding of long and short-term value
- Administrative support
- Willingness of teachers to coordinate out of school experience logistics



Forestry Education in Wisconsin

How can the forestry community help?

- Funding for organizations providing K12 education (teachers and/or students) to keep costs affordable
- Funding for transportation available to schools (Wheels to Woods)
- Outreach to K12 school staff – focus on value of outdoor learning experiences
- Access to local professionals to provide expert content, real-life experience, career readiness inspiration

Forestry Education in Wisconsin

How forestry educators support each other:

- Share resources
 - Educators
 - Supplies
 - Knowledge in expertise areas
- Referrals
- Larger funding opportunities (potential)





*“Coming together is a **beginning**; keeping together is **progress**; working together is **success**.”*

–Edward Everett Hale

Questions?

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