



United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service
Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge
W28488 Refuge Road
Trempealeau, Wisconsin 54661-7246



Dear Educator,

The staff of Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge welcomes you and your class. The information enclosed in this packet is designed to assist you in preparation for your visit to the Refuge. It is our hope that you will find it to be a memorable and quality educational experience. Please read the information carefully and feel free to contact Park Ranger, Jennifer Lilla for further details.

Your visit to Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge is a privilege. Currently, environmental education activities contribute well over 2500 visits each year to the Refuge. The Refuge is pleased to offer a variety of educational programs and will strive to tailor fit a program if requested in advance. Environmental education programs focus on national wildlife issues including wildlife, history, archaeology, culture, and habitats. Wildlife ecology programs address a number of wildlife conservation issues including wetland and prairie conservation, migratory bird management, invasive species, habitat restoration, and endangered species conservation. Programs also involve development of outdoor skills which enhance appreciation of wildlife and their habitats.

Teachers are encouraged to plan a curriculum based field trip to the Refuge and relate a course of study to the resources of the Refuge. When considering a Refuge field trip, ask this question...will a field trip to Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge fulfill or enhance a course of study in my curriculum? As one of the six priority public uses of the Refuge system, environmental education is encouraged when compatible with the purposes of the Refuge. Educating students of all ages about the resources and challenges of the Refuge is an important way to influence the future well-being of the Refuge and the river. Only through understanding and appreciation will people be moved to personal and collective action to ensure a healthy Refuge for the future.

Program reservations for the school year (September – May) are accepted all year long. It is recommended that you call a minimum of two weeks in advance if requesting a ranger-led program to insure the availability of personnel for your group. Whether you are participating in a ranger-led program or a non-Refuge sponsored program, we ask that you check in prior to your visit so the staff can advise you of any Refuge closures or other activities that may conflict, and provide guidance for your group and chaperones. Refuge facilities which support environmental education are currently very limited. Facilities include a small visitor contact station, one observation deck, two hiking trails, biking trails, and an auto tour route.

Below is a summary of the Mission and Goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Your awareness of our role as the leading conservation agency in the world and where we fit into your classroom will create a quality educational experience and potentially promote future land stewards for a lifetime.

Mission and Goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System

Mission

The mission of the System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

Goals

- a. To fulfill our statutory duty to achieve refuge purpose(s) and further the System mission.
- b. Conserve, restore where appropriate, and enhance all species of fish, wildlife, and plants that are endangered or threatened with becoming endangered.
- c. Perpetuate migratory bird, interjurisdictional fish, and marine mammal populations.
- d. Conserve a diversity of fish, wildlife, and plants.
- e. Conserve and restore, where appropriate, representative ecosystems of the United States, including the ecological processes characteristic of those ecosystems.
- f. ***To foster understanding and instill appreciation of fish, wildlife, and plants, and their conservation, by providing the public with safe, high-quality, and compatible wildlife-dependent public use. Such use includes hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation.***

Enclosed in this packet you will find; Guidelines for Groups, General Refuge Information Brochure, Teacher checklist, and some other mission related U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service brochures. Thank you for your interest in Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge and we look forward to serving you and your students in the near future. If you have questions, want to plan a field trip or need assistance with an environmental education program; please contact Jennifer Lilla at 608/539-2311, ext 16 or by email at jennifer_lilla@fws.gov

Have a great day and Let's Go Outside! Today!

Sincerely,

Jennifer R. Lilla
Park Ranger
Jennifer_lilla@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Trempealeau/>

Let's Go Outside!