

Your visit to Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge is a privilege. It is our goal that you will gain an understanding of the importance of this Refuge and its valuable resources during your visit. Teachers are encouraged to plan a field trip to the Refuge that is curriculum based and relate a course of study with the resources of the Refuge, i.e., wetland ecology, prairie ecology, ecosystems, wildlife communities, etc.

Teachers please review these guidelines with your chaperones and students prior to your visit to the refuge.

Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge encourages all visitors, school groups and others to practice the Leave No Trace principles of Outdoor Ethics when involved in outdoor activities on the refuge.

1. Teachers, youth leaders, etc should contact Refuge staff prior to their visit to find out about closed areas, special regulations, where to park vehicles or buses, where they can picnic or congregate and other activities.
2. **Know before you go** – Be prepared. Don't forget appropriate clothing, protective gear such as sunscreen or ball caps and plenty of water to drink. The better prepared you are, the more fun you will have.
3. **Choose the right path** - Use existing trails, roadways, or mowed grass areas to protect nature unless a group leader instructs you.
4. **Leave What You Find Behind** – Leave plants, animals and animal remains, rocks, and historic artifacts as you find them. Leave them for others to discover and enjoy.
5. **Trash your trash** – put litter in trashcans or carry it home. Pack it in, pack it out.
6. **Respect Wildlife** – Watch wildlife from a distance and never approach, feed or follow them. Human food is unhealthy for all animals and feeding them starts bad habits.
7. **Use your inside voice outside** – Make sure the fun you have in the outdoors does not bother anyone else. Respect others and avoid making loud noises or yelling. Listen to nature and do not disturb it. Do not yell or scream.
8. If you are using the roadways to move from one location to the next, be aware of cars and bicycles. Try to walk single file and don't block the roadway.
9. School groups wishing to come inside the refuge office must come in small groups and need to be accompanied by a chaperone.
10. **At least 1 adult for every 10 students is required, more adults are encouraged.** Adults will be responsible for assuring the above guidelines are followed and disciplining the students if necessary.
11. **Remember ticks, biting flies, other stinging insects, and poison ivy are present on the Refuge** – please be away and take proper precautions.
12. **Students are encouraged to drink plenty of fluids while participating in outdoor activities.** Water bottles are welcome – but please do not leave empty bottles behind.
13. **Dress for weather** – when field trips are planned, all students are required to dress appropriately for weather conditions. Students not dressed appropriately will not be allowed to participate.
14. **Treat your presenter with respect** – presenters are not the student disciplinarians. Teachers and chaperones will be responsible for misconduct by students should that occur. Presenters have committed their time and talents to making your field trip a quality experience.
15. **If you have any questions, comments or concerns** – please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Johnson-Edeler, Refuge Park Ranger at 608/539-2311, ext. 6 or by email at stephanie_n_johnson@fws.gov

Thank You for your cooperation and have an awesome visit to the Refuge!