



Creek Freaks Program Leaders Training

**Saturday and Sunday, October 6-7, 2012
9am-5pm (lunch provided)**

**Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center
2815 American Blvd. East, Bloomington, MN 55425**

Have you always wanted to start an outdoor education program but don't know where to start? Are you looking for exciting hands-on activities for an existing youth program? Have you been looking for a way to share your love of the outdoors with kids in your community? We have the answer – attend the Creek Freaks Program Leaders training!



Creek Freaks are middle school students making a splash to help the environment. Each session takes students outside to explore local streams and learn how healthy trees, shrubs, and grasses protect clean water and wildlife. Students are then empowered as local stream experts and are encouraged to continue advocating for and working to improve water quality.

Following the workshop, you will be qualified to:

- Connect children with nature using streams as living classrooms.
- Set up a Creek Freaks program for your own Izaak Walton League chapter or other organization. We suggest you bring several volunteers or staff from your chapter or organization to the workshop for training.
- Incorporate exciting hands-on stream exploration activities whenever you engage middle school students in stream studies or other outdoor education programs.



The training will include a basic overview of stream ecology, guidance on how to manage the logistics of conducting on-going youth programs, and hands-on training in conducting activities from the Creek Freaks curriculum. We also will review how to use www.creekfreaks.net to allow participating children and volunteers to post data, photos and videos about their streams to share with the community.

Registration and Questions

A \$25 registration fee includes lunch each day and training materials, including the Holding onto the Green Zone guide (Creek Freaks curriculum), Watershed Stewardship Action Kit, Guide to Aquatic Insects and Crustaceans, and Field Guide to Aquatic Macroinvertebrates. To register, visit <http://creekfreaksminnesota.eventbrite.com>. If you have other questions, please contact Leah Miller at leah@iwla.org or 301-548-0150 x. 219 or John Siekmeier at john.siekmeier@state.mn.us or 651-291-1829.

This program is a partnership of the Izaak Walton League of America, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, and U.S. Forest Service.