



# PreK-12 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS



To schedule your program, please fill out the 'Contact Us' form found at [campfiremn.org/education/k12](https://campfiremn.org/education/k12)

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**Camp Fire**

MINNESOTA

# WELCOME TO CAMP FIRE MINNESOTA!

We are always working hard to adapt and meet the needs of Minnesota’s educators and youth. We offer in-person field trips at our 103-acre property in Excelsior and mobile programs where we come to you at your school, community center or local park, etc. Whether you are a group of homeschoolers, a public or private school, or a summer childcare program, our environmental education program offerings can be customized to fit your classroom’s learning model.

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## STATEMENT OF INCLUSION

Camp Fire believes in the dignity and the intrinsic worth of every human being. We welcome, affirm, and support young people and adults of all abilities and disabilities, experiences, races, ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, religion and nonreligion, citizenship and immigration status, and any other category people use to define themselves or others. We strive to create safe and inclusive environments that celebrate diversity and foster positive relationships. All are welcome at Camp Fire.

Discover what inclusion looks like at Camp Fire at [campfiremn.org/inclusion](http://campfiremn.org/inclusion).

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# Nature & STEM

(Science, Tech, Engineering, and Math)

SEASONS AVAILABLE



WINTER



SPRING



SUMMER



FALL

Specialty programs, indicated by an asterisk (\*), are higher cost and may be dependent on factors like group size, session time, weather, and location.

## ANIMALS & EVOLUTION



**Grades:** PreK-12

**Locations:** Camp Fire Minnesota, mobile program

There are a variety of activities that will get students thinking about animals' physical and behavioral adaptations. The selection of activities is based on a groups' age range, time available, and learning goals, but all lessons include a hands-on element such as touching bones and furs, using kinetic sand to make animal tracks, or building beaver dams. Through hands-on engagement as well as a game or craft, students will be able to explain and provide specific examples of animal adaptations.



## BIG WOODS EXPLORATION



**Grades:** PreK-12

**Locations:** Camp Fire Minnesota, mobile program

Students will explore the Big Woods emphasizing their observational skills. On-site at Camp Fire Minnesota we are fortunate to have both an old-growth and an early succession forest with hiking trails. Our property allows opportunities to spot a variety of wildlife and ecosystems, such as a bald eagles' nest, marshy wetlands, a Maple-Basswood Forest and a watershed divide.

Depending on group age, size, weather/season, and learning goals, activities may include identifying tree species, forest mindfulness, making leaf prints, learning about tree rings, or investigating the impact humans have on the forest ecosystem. Reach out to see if your school or park location is ideal for a Big Woods Exploration experience.



## BIRDS & MIGRATION



**Grades:** PreK-12

**Locations:** Camp Fire Minnesota, mobile program

Students will bird watch and explore identification through the lens of binoculars. Bird watching can happen anywhere, from Camp Fire's Big Woods to a local park, or schoolyard. While observing birds requires quiet and calm bodies, students will also have the opportunity to participate in games and activities that explore themes such as migration, identification, population, and humans' impact on birds.



## INVESTIGATING & ENGINEERING



**Grades:** PreK-12

**Locations:** Camp Fire Minnesota, mobile program

Students will become investigators, focusing on curiosity and exploration. Curated based on your group's age and learning goals, activities may include understanding renewable and non-renewable energy, looking at macroinvertebrates under a microscope, or participating in a science experiment. Depending on the activity, students will also explore scientific methods, purposeful design, and/or human impact on the environment. Specific lessons are tied to state science standards, available upon request.



## SOIL & INSECTS



**Grades:** PreK-12

**Locations:** Camp Fire Minnesota, mobile program

Soil and insects are the foundations of our ecosystems, and students will get a chance to explore this in a variety of ways. On Camp Fire's 103-acre property the soil and insect profiles change; this can be seen in our pollinator garden, the restored wetlands, lakefront and Big Woods. Depending on group age, and learning goals, as well as the weather/season, students may get the opportunity to test soil type, catch and identify insects, discover the macroinvertebrates of the wetlands or lake, or learn about the process of pollination.



## STARS & CONSTELLATIONS\*



**Grades:** PreK-12

**Locations:** Camp Fire Minnesota, mobile program

**Time required for lesson block:** Minimum 45 minutes

Using our inflatable planetarium dome, students will be shown how to recognize major constellations, stars, and the Milky Way. Students will learn about the history of some of these constellations and hear stories from several different cultures. Additionally, they may play a game or do a craft to further their understanding. Planetarium availability is based on group size and location. For your location to be eligible for the planetarium, there must be exclusive access to an indoor space with 15 ft+ tall ceilings and a 20 sq ft area to set it up. See the FAQs or reach out for more information.



# Outdoor Recreation & Skill Building

SEASONS AVAILABLE



WINTER    SPRING    SUMMER    FALL

## ADVENTURE COURSE\*

**Grades:** 3-12

**Locations:** Camp Fire Minnesota

**Time required for lesson block:** 90-120 minutes



Our Adventure Course program allows students to explore and challenge themselves on various elements such as high-ropes, rock wall faces, ladders, and/or other activities. Depending on group size, age, and time, our trained staff will develop a program that matches the needs of your participants. The number of climbing experiences for each participant varies based on factors including time, group dynamics, comfort levels, and the ability for students to follow directions. There will be a safety and instructional brief as well as teambuilding prior to the active climbing portion. By using a Challenge by Choice philosophy, we understand that stepping out of your comfort zone and overcoming challenges looks different for everyone. All comfort and experience levels are welcome at the Adventure Course.



See the chart below to estimate the number of climbs per participant in various group sizes. Please note that the example charts provided are estimates and not guarantees. Additionally, use of the Adventure Course is subject to change before or during your program due to weather or other factors. Reach out to see if your school group is an ideal candidate for the Adventure Course.

90-minute blocks	10 students	2+ climbs per student	120-minute blocks	10 students	3+ climbs per student
	20 students	1-2 climbs per student		20 students	2-3 climbs per student
	30 students	1 climb per student		30 students	1-2 climbs per student

## ARCHERY

**Grades:** 3-12

**Locations:** Camp Fire Minnesota

**Time required for lesson block:** 45-60 minutes

Students will learn the fundamentals of archery through instructional information as well as hands-on participation. Utilizing either of our on-site archery ranges, students will learn basic archery commands, safety rules, and how to shoot an arrow. The number of attempts per student will vary depending on time per lesson block, group size, and ability to follow instructions. Additionally, archery is weather dependent and subject to change based on weather guidelines.



## CANOEING ADVENTURES\*

**Grades:** 3-12

**Locations:** Camp Fire Minnesota

**Time required for lesson block:** 60-90 minutes

During this program, students will learn the basics of canoeing. Our team of lifeguards and staff will explain the structure of a canoe and encourage students to work as a team to steer, paddle, and navigate through the water. All participants will be briefed on safety and are required to wear our provided life jackets. This program is weather dependent and subject to change as we follow specific wind speed and inclement weather guidelines.



## FIRE BUILDING

**Grades:** 3-12

**Locations:** Camp Fire Minnesota

**Time required for lesson block:** 45 minutes

Our fire building program begins with an instructional portion to teach students about components of fire, safety concerns for self and others, and the impact humans and fire have on the environment. Students will then experience a hands-on program where they learn to build a contained and successful fire. This lesson is weather dependent and subject to change leading up to or during the field trip as we follow county fire restrictions.



## NAVIGATION & ORIENTEERING

**Grades:** PreK-12

**Locations:** Camp Fire Minnesota

**Time required for lesson block:** 45-60 minutes

Students will get oriented in their space and learn how to navigate and recognize the cardinal directions by using one or more navigating tools such as reading a map, following a compass, or operating a GPS. Depending on age and group size, students will be able to explore Camp Fire's different spaces and hiking trails with activities such as a scavenger hunt, creating their own maps or leading a hike.



## NATURE BASED EXPLORATION & PLAY SKILLS

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Locations:** Camp Fire Minnesota

From cooperative play to obstacle courses to building, this Nature Based Play opportunity allows young minds to create and explore while making memories in the outdoor world. This child-led play curriculum has been created around TS-Gold standards within the domains of Social/Emotional, Cognitive, and Physical development. Students will learn and collaborate through child-centered play alongside adult-led prompting to create a fun and safe environment that gives students a chance to create learning in nature.



## SHELTER BUILDING



**Grades:** 3-12

**Locations:** Camp Fire Minnesota

**Time required for lesson block:** 30-45 minutes

Students will engage in hands-on shelter-building activities that vary according to the season. Working collaboratively in teams, they will have the opportunity to construct shelters using readily available materials such as camping supplies or tents, branches, or compacted snow. These activities foster teamwork, problem-solving skills, and practical knowledge of shelter construction in different environments.



## SNOWSHOES



**Grades:** 2-12

**Locations:** Camp Fire Minnesota, mobile program

**Time required for lesson block:** 60-90 minutes

This lesson provides another opportunity to explore and have fun in the snow. Snowshoe along the Big Woods trails at Camp Fire Minnesota or in the community while learning about ecology and how snowshoes have supported people throughout history. This lesson is snow dependent.



## TEAM BUILDING



**Grades:** PreK-12

**Locations:** Camp Fire Minnesota, mobile program

**Time required for lesson block:** 45 minutes (PreK-1: 30 minutes)

Encouraging collaboration and conflict resolution, students will participate in challenges and games together that foster teamwork. Teambuilding activities are selected and modified based on age and group size. This ensures a balanced challenge that will empower students through success when they work together. Whether the group knows each other well or just met, they will gain trust and confidence in each other and themselves!



# FAQs

## Where are you located?

- Camp Fire Minnesota's 103-acre property is located at **3300 Tanadoona Dr, Excelsior, MN 55331**.
- Camp Fire is on the lands of the Dakota people.

## When are you available for programs?

- **All programs:** Tuesday – Fridays, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- **Field Trips at Camp Fire Minnesota:** September – May
- We do not accept program reservations on weekends, and we cannot accommodate visits to our site in Excelsior during the summer or during school-break days, such as MLK Day, President's Day, MEA Days, Spring Break, etc.
- **mobile program Programs:** Year-Round

## What is the minimum and maximum number of students for a program?

- We require a minimum of 10 students.
- Up to 120 students are allowed to attend a field trip at Camp Fire Minnesota. If you have more than 120 students, our team can work with you to schedule multiple field trip days.

## How much does programming cost?

- Our pricing is based on a sliding scale according to the Free & Reduced Lunch (FRL) rate of the school. To determine the FRL rate of your school, we use the [Minnesota Report Card](#). We also have a different pricing structure for home schools. The pricing breakdowns can be found in the "**Field Trip Pricing**" section.

## How does payment work?

- In order to officially reserve your date(s), we need a returned signed contract and a 50% deposit. With the high demand, failure to return the required items for your booking in a timely manner could affect your hold on your desired dates. The remaining 50% will be due after your event.
- An invoice will be emailed to the primary contact person. Payment can be made by check or credit card.
- No refunds will be issued after payment has been received. In extreme weather conditions, we reserve the right to cancel programs for Field Trip safety. You will not be charged for a field trip that we cancel.

## What does a typical field trip program look like?

- Field trips are typically 3-4 hours (occasionally up to 6 hours) and can include 1-4 different programs/activities.
- Example schedules are included in the "**Scheduling a Field Trip**" section.

## Is lunch provided?

- We do not have any food or beverage services on-site. All visitors should bring their own lunches and reusable water bottles. We do have tote bins that are used to store lunches.
- Schools are welcome to get food catered and delivered to our site.

### How much do chaperones pay to attend?

- At Camp Fire Minnesota, our staff's priority is delivering high-quality programs. Because we ask chaperones to support behavior management and actively engage with youth during activities, we do not charge them to attend.

### How many chaperones/teachers should attend the field trip?

- On-site field trips require 1 chaperone/teacher per 10 students.
- Mobile programming requires a minimum 1 chaperone/teacher per station.

### Do you provide transportation?

- We are unable to provide transportation for students; however, we do have limited funds available to reimburse bussing costs. Please email [fieldtrips@campfiremn.org](mailto:fieldtrips@campfiremn.org) to learn more about our first-come-first-serve transportation fund.

### Can you come to our school/program site?

- Yes, we can bring programming to you! Camp Fire staff travel within the 7 county Twin Cities metro area: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties.

### Do your programs meet academic standards?

- Yes, all our programs in the STEM & Animals, Plants, and Ecosystems categories support the Minnesota Science Standards.

### How far in advance should I submit my request?

- We request that groups submit requests at least one month in advance of their first-choice date. Although, we recommend submitting your field trip request form as early as possible for the best selection of available dates and programs. Our programs are extremely popular and fill up quickly! Sign up for our [mailing list](#) to get the latest updates on our school programs.

### What happens in the event of inclement weather?

- We know Minnesota weather can be unpredictable. Although we aim to lead programs outdoors as much as we can during the year, we do have ample space for indoor programs. See below for our weather plans:
- **Excessive heat means:**
  - Heat index of at least 105 degrees F for more than three hours per day for two consecutive days, or
  - Heat index of more than 115 degrees F for any period of time, or
  - Heat index of between 91-103 for three consecutive days or more
  - In any of the above instances, programs will be moved to an air-conditioned space or include cool down opportunities.
- **Cold temperatures:** We always keep students inside if the wind chill is colder than -10 degrees below zero.
- **Rain:** If the forecast shows rain, we will create an alternative plan that will happen indoors.
- **Lightning and thunder:** If lightning is detected within 10 miles or there is audible thunder, participants will seek shelter indoors until there has been 20 minutes since the last audible thunder and no more strikes within 10 miles are detected.

# Field Trip Pricing

## Field Trips at Camp Fire Minnesota

School's % of Free or Reduced-Price Lunch	Price per student	
	Regular Programs	Specialty Programs*
0-39%	\$15	\$17
40-59%	\$12	\$13
60-100%	\$0	\$0

### \*Specialty Programs

- Stars & Constellations
- Adventure Course
- Canoeing Adventures

## Mobile Programs – Our Naturalists Come to You!

School's % of Free or Reduced-Price Lunch	Hourly price per lesson	
	Regular Programs	Stars and Constellations*
0-39%	\$125	\$175
40-59%	\$95	\$125
60-100%	\$0	\$0

## Home School Field Trips at Camp Fire Minnesota

- \$10 per student
- \$12 per student if the field trip includes **one** of the following specialty programs:
  - Adventure Course (High ropes, bouldering, rock walls)
  - Canoeing
  - Archery

# Scheduling a Field Trip

## Scheduling

All program schedules are created by expert Camp Fire staff with your group's age/grade level, size, and learning goals in mind. Factors such as the weather/season and location are also considered to provide a fun and high-quality program for your group. Lessons are tied to science and/or SEL standards, available upon request.

See our **sample schedules** below to catch a glimpse into our field trip programming.

## Group Size & Chaperones

Each field trip will be split into smaller groups of no more than 30, all groups will rotate through each lesson. We require a chaperone to student ratio of 1:10 per small group, rounding up to ensure that Camp Fire staff can focus on programming while chaperones can manage supervision and behavior.

## Ready to Book?

Please fill out our [inquiry form](#) and expect follow-up communication within 3 business days to set up your program.

**EXAMPLE SCHEDULE** - Field Trip \*Schedule reflects a plan for 100 students visiting Camp Fire Minnesota

Time	Group 1: Black Bear 25 students	Group 2: Wolf 25 students	Group 3: Lynx 25 students	Group 4: Otter 25 students
10:00 AM	Welcome & Introduction			
10:15 AM	Transition			
10:20 AM	Navigation & Orienteering	Birds & Migration	Big Woods Exploration	Animals & Evolution
10:50 AM	Transition			
10:55 AM	Birds & Migration	Navigation & Orienteering	Animals & Evolution	Big Woods Exploration
11:25 AM	Transition			
11:30 AM	Lunch, Bathroom Break & Free Time *Monitored by School Staff			
12:00 PM	Transition			
12:05 PM	Animals & Evolution	Big Woods Exploration	Birds & Migration	Navigation & Orienteering
12:35 PM	Transition			
12:40 PM	Big Woods Exploration	Animals & Evolution	Compasses & Orienteering	Birds & Migration
1:10 PM	Transition			
1:15 PM	Reflection, Evaluation & Farewell			
1:30 PM	Bus Departure			

### EXAMPLE SCHEDULE – Mobile Program

\*Schedule reflects a plan for 60 students participating in a program at your school

Time	Group 1: Black Bear 20 students	Group 2: Wolf 20 students	Group 3: Lynx 20 students
10:15 AM	Arrival & Welcome		
10:30 AM	Transition		
10:35 AM	Animals & Evolution	Investigating & Engineering	Nature Based Exploration & Play Skills
11:05 AM	Transition		
11:10 AM	Nature Based Exploration & Play Skills	Animals & Evolution	Investigating & Engineering
11:40 AM	Transition		
11:45 AM	Lunch, Bathroom Break & Free Time *Monitored by School Staff		
12:15 PM	Transition		
12:20 PM	Investigating & Engineering	Nature Based Exploration & Play Skills	Animals & Evolution
12:50 PM	Transition		
12:55 PM	Reflection, Evaluation and Farewell		
1:15 PM	Bus Departure		

### EXAMPLE SCHEDULE – Field trip with Specialty Program

\*Schedule reflects a plan for 60 students visiting Camp Fire Minnesota

Time	Group 1: Black Bear 15 students	Group 2: Wolf 15 students	Group 3: Lynx 15 students	Group 4: Otter 15 students
9:45 AM	Arrival & Welcome			
10:05 AM	Transition			
10:10 AM	Adventure Course		Navigation & Orienteering	Teambuilding
10:55 AM			Transition	
11:00 AM			Teambuilding	Navigation & Orienteering
11:45 AM	Transition			
11:50 AM	Lunch, Bathroom Break, & Free Time *Monitored by School Staff			
12:25 PM	Transition			
12:30 PM	Teambuilding	Navigation & Orienteering	Adventure Course	
1:15 PM	Transition			
1:20 PM	Navigation & Orienteering	Teambuilding		
2:05 PM	Reflection, Evaluation and Farewell			
2:30	Bus Departure			

## EXAMPLE SCHEDULE - Home School Program

\*Schedule reflects a plan for 30 students visiting Camp Fire Minnesota

Time	Group 1: Black Bear 15 students Ages 7-9	Group 2: Wolf 15 students Ages 10-13
10:00 AM	Welcome & Introduction	
10:15 AM	Transition	
10:20 AM	Navigation & Orienteering	Birds & Migration
10:50 AM	Transition	
10:55 AM	Birds & Migration	Navigation & Orienteering
11:25 AM	Transition	
11:30 AM	Lunch, Bathroom Break & Free Time *Monitored by School Staff	
12:00 PM	Transition	
12:05 PM	Animals & Evolution	Investigating & Engineering
12:35 PM	Transition	
12:40 PM	Investigating & Engineering	Animals & Evolution
1:10 PM	Transition	
1:15 PM	Reflection, Evaluation & Farewell	
1:30 PM	Departure	

