

Whitefish Dunes State Park

School Field Trips

Whitefish Dunes offers the following naturalist-guided programs correlated to Wisconsin Model Academic Standards.

Cultural Heritage and the Arts Programs

People of the Dunes

Groups of people occupied Whitefish Dunes during four different periods. While exploring three mock village sites, students will "meet" some of these people and discover why each group came to this area. And, they will learn the importance understanding past cultures has to the present day.

Grades	3-4
Time of Year	April - November
Length of Program	1 hour
Maximum Number of Students	20
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/15

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Science: G.4.1
- Social Studies: B.4.10, B.4.2, E.4.11

Native American Games

Playing games has been an important social activity throughout history. Through discussion, students will discover the similarities and differences between today's games and those enjoyed by past generations. And, they will play some Native American games to learn about their materials, tools, and techniques.

Grades	3-4
Time of Year	April-November
Length of Program	1 hour
Maximum Number of Students	25
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/15

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Science: G.4.5
- Social Studies: B.4.4

From Plant to Cord

Rope, or cordage, was used in many different ways by native peoples. In this hands-on activity, students will learn to identify native plants that can be used to make cordage, and they will experience the challenges of making rope by hand.

Grades	5-6
Time of Year	August-October
Length of Program	1 hour
Maximum Number of Students	25
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/7

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Social Studies: A.8.10, A.8.8, B.8.8

The Games People Play

Playing games has been an important social activity throughout history. Through discussion, students will discover the similarities and differences between today's games and those enjoyed by past generations. They will play some Native American games to learn about their materials, tools, and techniques. Then, students will put their knowledge to work by developing a game of their own using natural objects.

Grades	5-6
Time of Year	April - November
Length of Program	1 hour
Maximum Number of Students	25
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/15

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Social Studies: A.8.8

People of the Dunes

Groups of people occupied Whitefish Dunes during four different periods. While exploring the tools and work of an archaeologist, students will "meet" these people through artifacts and reconstructed village sites. They will also discover why each group came to this area. And, they will learn why garbage plays an important role in understanding past cultures.

Grades	5-7
Time of Year	April - November
Length of Program	1 hour

Maximum Number of Students	25
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/15

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Environmental Education B.8.12, B.8.22, B.8.5, B.8.9
- Science: B.8.1
- Social Studies: A.8.9

Tying Naturally--Making Nettle Cordage

Rope, or cordage, was used in many different ways by native peoples. In this hands-on activity, students will learn to identify native plants that can be used to make cordage, and they will experience the challenges of making rope by hand. Students will identify ways that cordage was discovered and used in everyday life.

Grades	7-8
Time of Year	August-October
Length of Program	1 hour
Maximum Number of Students	25
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/7

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Social Studies: A.8.10, A.8.8, B.8.8

People of the Dunes

Groups of people occupied Whitefish Dunes during four different periods. While exploring the tools and work of an archaeologist, students will "meet" these people through reconstructed village sites and discover why each group came to this area. And, they will learn why garbage plays an important role in understanding past cultures. Through artifacts, students will try their hand at identifying different periods of culture.

Grades	10-12
Time of Year	April-November
Length of Program	1 hour
Maximum Number of Students	25
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/15

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Environmental Education: B.12.10, B.12.11
- Science: B.12.1, B.12.3

Earth Science Programs

Fossils

Let's go on a fossil hunt! Students will search for fossils, discover how they are formed, and use this knowledge to understand what once lived here. Students will also learn the three major rock types.

Grades	1-2
Time of Year	May-October
Length of Program	30 minutes
Maximum Number of Students	15
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/7

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Science: D.4.1, E.4.1

Sandy Stories

Where did all of this sand come from? Students will discover how rock breaks down into sand and how it moved by glacier to Whitefish Dunes. They'll identify the types of rock in the sand by color. And, they will investigate swash lines and the effects of waves on sand. By using a magnet, students will discover another magical rock type found in the sand.

Grades	1-2
Time of Year	May-October
Length of Program	30 minutes
Maximum Number of Students	15
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/7

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Science: A.4.5, D.4.2, D.4.5, E.4.1, E.4.3

Hiking Through Geology

The Whitefish Dunes landscape has changed dramatically over time. As students hike through the park, they will discover signs of these changes as they learn about ancient seas, fossils, glaciers, lake levels, and sand movement.

Grades	3-4
Time of Year	May-November
Length of Program	1 1/2 hours

Maximum Number of Students	20
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/10

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Science: A.4.5, D.4.4, E.4.1, F.4.4

Geology Rocks!

Become geologists to discover the history of the land now known as Whitefish Dunes State Park. Students will examine local rock types, find fossils, discover signs of an ancient sea, look at causes of erosion of rocks, and create sand dunes.

Grades	3-4
Time of Year	May-November
Length of Program	1 1/2 hours
Maximum Number of Students	20
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/15

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Science: D.4.1, D.4.2, D.4.3, D.4.5, E.4.1

Rocky Trails and Sandy Tales

The Whitefish Dunes landscape has changed dramatically over time. As students hike through the park, they will discover signs of these changes as they learn about ancient seas, fossils, glaciers, lake levels, and sand movement. They will discuss how these changes affect life today at the park.

Grades	5-6
Time of Year	May-November
Length of Program	1 1/2 hours
Maximum Number of Students	20
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/10

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Science: A.8.6, E.8.2, E.8.3, E.8.5

Dune Geology

Become geologists to discover the history of the land now known as Whitefish Dunes State Park. Students will examine different rock types, find fossils, discover signs of an ancient sea, study the effects of the glacier, look at causes of erosion of rocks, and create sand dunes.

Grades	6-7
Time of Year	May-October
Length of Program	1 1/2 hours
Maximum Number of Students	20
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/15

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Environmental Education: B.8.2
- Science: A.8.6, D.8.6, E.8.2, E.8.4, E.8.5

Geology of Whitefish Dunes

Become geologists to discover the history of the land now known as Whitefish Dunes State Park. Students will examine different rock types and how each are created, find fossils, discover signs of an ancient sea and what lived there, study the effects of the glacier on the land and effects of post glacier period, look at causes of erosion of rocks, and create sand dunes.

Grades	10-12
Time of Year	May - October
Length of Program	1 1/2 hours
Maximum Number of Students	20
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/15

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Science: D.12.12, E.12.2
- Social Studies: A.12.1

Ecosystem Programs

Wetland Wonders

Wetlands play many important roles in our environment. In this activity, students will use various tools to investigate a wetland and discover its animal and plant inhabitants. They will examine wetland functions and the causes and effects of destroying wetlands.

Grades	1-2
Time of Year	April-June, September-October
Length of Program	1 to 1 1/2 hours
Maximum Number of Students	20
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/8

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Environmental Education: B.4.4, B.4.6
- Science: C.4.1, C.4.5, F.4.1, F.4.2

Dunes

Come and explore the park's famous dunes! Students will build a sand dune using their hands, and they'll discover the importance of plant roots to dune stability. They'll learn four new plants and find out how each plays an important role in dune ecology. Finally, students will investigate ways they can protect the dunes.

Grades	1-2
Time of Year	May - October
Length of Program	30 minutes
Maximum Number of Students	15
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/7

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Science: D.4.5, E.4.1, E.4.3, F.4.4

Fossils to Dunes

Take a journey through time at Whitefish Dunes! Students will discover fossil clues to an ancient sea, study the effects of the glacier, and learn how sand dunes form. They'll look at the dune ecosystem and the plants that live there, and they'll learn to identify the endangered dune thistle. Students will also gain an appreciation for the fragility of this ecosystem and discuss ways that they can help protect the dunes.

Grades	3-4
Time of Year	May - October
Length of Program	1 1/2 hours
Maximum Number of Students	20
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/15

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Environmental Education: B.4.6, E.4.2
- Science: D.4.4, D.4.5, F.4.2, F.4.4

Habitat Hike

Whitefish Dunes State Park is home to four different habitat types. Students will learn what a habitat is and identify, compare, and contrast the habitat types as they hike through the park.

Grades	3-4
Time of Year	May - October
Length of Program	1 1/2 hours
Maximum Number of Students	20
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/10

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Environmental Education A.4.2, B.4.4, B.4.5
- Science: E.4.3, F.4.1, F.4.4

Getting the Scoop on Wetlands

Wetlands play many important roles in our environment. In this activity, students will use various tools to investigate a wetland and discover its animal and plant inhabitants. They will examine wetland functions and the causes and effects of destroying wetlands. Students will work in small groups to develop ways to save wetlands.

Grades	3-4
Time of Year	May-June, September-October
Length of Program	1 to 1 1/2 hours
Maximum Number of Students	20
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/8

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Science: G.4.1
- Social Studies: B.4.3, C.4.1, C.4.5, F.4.1, F.4.4

What About Wetlands?

Wetlands play many important roles in our environment. In this activity, students will use various tools to investigate a wetland and discover its animal and plant inhabitants. They will examine wetland functions and the causes and effects of destroying wetlands. Students will discuss actions that their communities are able to initiate.

Grades	5-6
Time of Year	May-June, September-October
Length of Program	1 1/2 hours

Maximum Number of Students	20
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/8

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Environmental Education: B.8.3
- Science: B.8.1, F.8.10, F.8.2, F.8.9

Habitats of Whitefish Dunes

Whitefish Dunes State Park is home to four different habitat types. Students will learn what a habitat is and identify, compare and contrast the habitat types as they hike through the park. Through exploring different habitats, students will develop an understanding of how different animals can live in one or many habitat types.

Grades	5-6
Time of Year	April - September
Length of Program	1 1/2 hours
Maximum Number of Students	20
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/10

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Environmental Education: B.8.4, B.8.6
- Science: C.8.6, F.8.2

How to Make a Sand Dune

Take a journey through time at Whitefish Dunes! Students will discover fossil clues to an ancient sea, study the effects of the glacier, and learn how sand dunes form. They'll look at the dune ecosystem and the plants that live there. After investigating the endangered dune thistle and four other dune plants, students will experiment with constructing root systems that can hold the sand in place. Students will also gain an appreciation for the fragility of this ecosystem and discuss ways that they can help protect the dunes.

Grades	7-8
Time of Year	May-October
Length of Program	1 1/2 hours
Maximum Number of Students	20
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/15

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Environmental Education: B.8.2, B.8.5, E.8.1

- Science: D.8.6, F.8.2
- Social Studies: A.8.8

From Ancient Life to Modern Life at the Dunes

Take a journey through time at Whitefish Dunes! Students will discover fossil clues to an ancient sea, study the effects of the glacier, and learn how sand dunes form. They'll look at the dune ecosystem, find the plants that live there, and discover the important roles these plants play in stabilizing the dunes. We'll identify the endangered dune thistle and four other specially adapted plants found at Whitefish Dunes. Students will also gain an appreciation for the fragility of this ecosystem and discuss ways that they can help protect the dunes.

Grades	10-11
Time of Year	May - October
Length of Program	1 1/2 hours
Maximum Number of Students	20
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/15

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Environmental Education: B.12.2, B.12.3, B.12.5
- Science: D.12.12

Land Use Programs

Who Saves the Dunes?

Protecting the park's dune ecosystems is vitally important. In this "hands on" and "minds on" activity, students will build a sand dune to discover how different forces affect the sand. Then, they'll investigate the positive and negative impacts that humans have on the dunes and role-play to create a solution to a related issue.

Grades	7-8
Time of Year	Year round
Length of Program	1 to 2 hours
Maximum Number of Students	30
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/15

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Environmental Education: D.8.1, D.8.5
- Science: G.4.1
- Social Studies: A.8.6, D.8.6, G.8.5

How to Run a State Park

Managing a state park means considering the views of many different people. Through discussion and role-playing, students will develop an understanding of these different viewpoints and how each affects the others. They will work to resolve an issue, present their solutions, and collaboratively develop an action plan.

Grades	10-12
Time of Year	Year Round
Length of Program	Two 1-hour programs
Maximum Number of Students	40
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/20

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Environmental Education: B.12.10, B.12.13, B.12.21, D.12.1
- Science: H.12.3

Plant Programs

Endangered and Threatened

The park's dunes are home to several endangered and threatened plants and animals. By actively studying one species, students will develop an action plan to help in its protection.

Grades	7-9
Time of Year	August - early September
Length of Program	1 1/2 hours
Maximum Number of Students	205
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/15

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Environmental Education: A.8.2, B.8.8, C.8.2, D.8.5, E.8.1
- Science: G.8.5

Wildlife Programs

Winter Tracks

Animal tracks tell stories about which animals have visited an area, what they're doing, and where they're going. Students will learn to identify four animal tracks and will use their new skill to study animal track "stories" on the beach.

Grades	K-2
Time of Year	November-March
Length of Program	30 minutes
Maximum Number of Students	15
Preferred Adult/Student Ratio	1/5

This program addresses the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

- Environmental Education: A.4.1, A.4.2
- Science: C.4.2

More Information

Call the park and ask for the naturalist at least two to four weeks before the desired date. Due to the high demand for programs in May and June, you must register for these months by April 15. If you call after the April 15 deadline, registration will be determined by the availability of the naturalist. To register for a program, reserve dates, or find out about the fee policy, contact:

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Whitefish Dunes State Park
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Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Phone (920) 823-2400
Fax (920) 823-2640 Visit www.wiparks.net and search for "Teachers' Guide."