



WOLF RIDGESM
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

**S.E.A.K Program
Scientists Eagerly Acquiring Knowledge
2014 High School Science Immersion Program**



Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center
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218-353-7414
www.wolf-ridge.org

What is Wolf Ridge?

Loons call. Waves lap. The wilderness beckons. Nestled in Minnesota's Northwoods, Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center offers an unparalleled opportunity in Summer Academic Programs. Wolf Ridge is an accredited residential environmental education school for persons of all ages and abilities. We are located on 2000 acres of land, which includes Wolf and Raven Lakes, nearly a mile of the Baptism River, and a half mile of Sawmill Creek. Trails, covering rugged terrain, lead to many overlooks, lakes, streams, and activity sites. The main buildings are located on a plateau overlooking Lake Superior. Each year we serve 14,000 school children and about 3000 families, elders and summer youth program attend Wolf Ridge. Our programs are based upon observation and participation in outdoor experiences and focus on ecology and science, human culture and history, personal growth, group building and outdoor recreation.



What are the High School Credit Programs?

High School students (entering grades 10 - 12) can earn semester, trimester or quarter science elective credits in three weeks at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. The credit program is designed for students at all levels of education, from beginning to advanced.

Is the Program Accredited?

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center is an accredited school by the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation and the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, enabling us to provide credited programs.



How Can Four Weeks Be the Equivalent of a School Year?

Each four week session offers a minimum of 180 hours of instruction, two-90 hour sessions for each elective. This number meets or exceeds the minimum criterion for one unit of credit as determined by the State Boards of Education across the United States. Instruction is conducted in Freshwater Ecology and Environmental Ethics.

Students are immersed in the environment for 15 hours a day for four weeks, and much of the learning occurs outside the official 180 hours of instruction. The instruction hours may include, but are not limited to, formal classroom instruction, presentations, arts and crafts, student developed projects, research opportunities, peer teaching, field studies and reflective activities.

S.E.A.K Classes Offered

Wolf Ridges' hands-on, skill building summer academic program combines outdoor summer fun and adventure with serious learning! The summer academic program offerings challenge the mind and pique a young person's interest in a variety of ways.

Academic classes offered include;

Freshwater Ecology
Environmental Ethics

The experiential nature of the curriculum compels students to apply the knowledge and skills gained in the "classroom" to real life situations. They will study the natural history of the north shore from both an ecological and social perspective and participate in various field research techniques and projects. Throughout the courses, students will take field trips to various areas, including a canoe trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and a backpacking trip on the Superior Hiking Trail, to study the ecology and land use of those highly visited areas. Students will engage in discussions with individuals to gain an understanding of environmental issues that are present in northern Minnesota. They should be prepared to learn about specific flora and fauna of the region, geology, societal uses of the land, environmental issues and the structure of our ecosystem.

Through this approach, students develop the skills necessary to be



life-long learners, strong and able leaders and positive change makers. Our facilities are unbelievably beautiful and we use the out-of-doors as our classroom at every possible opportunity! When not engaged in classes, students select from a variety of supervised recreational activities offered both on and off campus, creating a summer-camp like atmosphere.

Grade Level

For students entering grades 10 - 12 in the fall of 2013 to earn High School Science Credits and the opportunity to earn college credit through Lake Superior College if you are entering grades 11 - 12 and have completed your Accuplacer test.

Dates

- Will include weekly classes at your high school - Patrick Henry High School or Roosevelt High School
- 2 weekends at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center on
 - February 7 - 9, 2014
 - April 25 - 27, 2014
- Three weeks at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center on June 22 - July 12, 2014 (please plan to attend these weeks. As this is where your official credit is earned)

What Does the Participant Receive?

An official letter grade, a percentage grade, a written evaluation of the students proficiency and a course framework/syllabus are sent with the students to give to their school. Students themselves have a portfolio to document their abilities and progress.



What Do High Schools Do With the Credit?

Most schools accept the transfer of full credit for your work done at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. Check with your school to see their policies and procedures regarding the transfer of credit.



How Do You Get College Credit?

All participants who would like to receive college credit, need to complete and pass the ACCUPLACER test. The ACCUPLACER test is a suite of tests that determines your knowledge in math, reading and writing as you prepare to enroll in college-level courses. This test is offered at multiple locations around the country. For more information, please contact Wolf Ridge at 218-353-7414.



What are the Curriculum, Methods and Materials?

Guided by the Minnesota Graduation Standards, the United States Department of Education Academic Standards and the National Science Education Standards, Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center creates an experiential, hands-on, inquiry based program. Classes are small, typically around 12 students, so the instruction can be customized to fit the needs of an individual student. Curriculum and materials have been carefully developed to meet the needs of the program. Materials including, text books, journal articles, books, magazines, audio, video, websites, brochures, newspapers and first hand experiences are used. Wolf Ridge provides programs that are hands-on, provide direct experiences in nature and promote the values of personal growth, conservation, stewardship, social understanding, respect and cooperation.

How are Students Assessed?

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center is committed to performance assessment and assessment occurs on a regular basis. Students document their progress in a student created portfolio that includes materials such as written work, reflections, a journal, projects, research data, photographs, videos, and/or computer disks/cd's.

Who Are The Teachers?

The teachers are carefully selected and have a strong background in teaching and science. They are secondary school teachers, researchers, or have advanced degrees. All have a wealth of experience in their field. In addition to these "formal teachers" the group has additional staff who possess a strong background in science and environmental education. The credit program is supervised and directed by Individuals with advanced degrees and years of teaching and research experience in the science fields.