



Senior leadership training brings students to the Rocky Mountains

## 26 Acts of Kindness

Wildlands strives to give their students the best education possible. Part of the experience that Wildlands staff offers their students throughout their journey here at Wildlands is the opportunity to participate in various community service acts. One of the core values at Wildlands is giving back to our community, and we are constantly at work finding ways to achieve that. For the past three years, Wildlands has taken part in the 26 Acts of Kindness movement. Throughout the school year, Wildlands sets a goal of accomplishing 26 random acts of kindness, in honor of the 26 lives that were lost in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting on December 14th, 2012.

Wildlands students have recently volunteered at Kids in the Kitchen, a program that sponsors field trips for elementary schools in Eau Claire. The kids go to Forage, a small business located in Banbury Place, and participate in hands-on activities such as arts and crafts, yoga, and cooking. In addition, students have once again buddied up with the 3rd grade students from Augusta Elementary School. Every month, Wildlands students visit their buddies and read with them, share about what they are learning in school, ask questions, and complete fun projects with them. They also have buddy books, in which students write back and forth to learn more about each other. This is a tradition at here at Wildlands, and is rewarding for both the Wildlands and the Augusta students.

Wildlands also sponsored a family for Christmas this year. They collected donations and then went shopping for their family, purchasing what the family needed. Then they brought the gifts

back and had students wrap them before dropping them off in Augusta. This is the first time Wildlands has sponsored a family for Christmas, and we are hoping to help a family in need again next year.



Students have also volunteered at the Eau Claire Community Table multiple times this year, and most recently, we volunteered at Toys for Tots, helping organize and sort gifts at the Salvation Army. In the near future, Wildlands is scheduled to participate in the Polar Plunge, more Community Table visits, and Kids in the Kitchen among other things.

Students look forward to these events and love being able to make an impact in their community.

-Zoe P. (11th grade)

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WILDLANDS SCHOOL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AUGUSTA  
AUGUSTA HIGH SCHOOL  
AUGUSTA, WI 54722

**Wildlands** **SCHOOL**

## Summer 2015 Senior Leadership Training

Wildlands is excited to share the opportunities that the 2016 senior class experienced this summer on their trip to the Rocky Mountains. Nine students and two instructors spent ten days traveling to and through the Wind River Mountain Range. There was also an additional week of course work prior to the trip. This



course work not only prepared students for the physical and mental demands of the trip, but also set the tone for the expedition. This trip served as a Leadership Seminar in the natural world, enabling seniors to reach their full potential as student leaders and mentors this school year. The group focused primarily on the concept of “The Leader Who Is Hardly Known”, and Servant Leadership.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, the group set out from Wildlands in two school vehicles, driven by Mr. Fields,



our outdoor education instructor, and female chaperone, Ashley. Eight hours later, Byre Lake Campground in Kennebec, South Dakota became home for the night. The next day brought the group to Lander, Wyoming, where two days were spent distributing gear, becoming closer as a group, and visiting the NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) in Lander. NOLS takes students of all ages on remote wilderness expeditions and teaches technical outdoor skills, leadership, and environmental ethics. The seniors of Wildlands were lucky to receive a tour of the NOLS Rocky Mountains facility, meet the staff, and purchase new gear.



On the 26<sup>th</sup>, the group put on trail at Roaring Forks Trailhead. The next five days were spent acquiring new skills as a group, discussing expectations as a senior at Wildlands, and focusing on leadership development. After five days on trail, twenty-five miles of hiking, and four wilderness campsites, students were surprised with a stay at The Inn At Lander, and a dinner at the Gannet Grill to celebrate the accomplishment. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, after a night at a campground in South Dakota, the group arrived back at Wildlands. The following are a few personal narratives from the seniors who participated in the trip.

-Felicia D. (12th grade)



## Personal Narratives from the Seniors

As a first time backpacker, I went into this trip with almost no expectations or context, and despite all of the prep work and explanations, nothing had prepared me for the incredible experience that I was a part of. As another student and I got up and watched the sunrise on the second day in the wilderness, the feeling of discordance about being “cut off” from civilization disappeared and left only amazement at the opportunity I had been offered.

-Andy L.



Unlike many of my peers, I had never experienced a backcountry backpacking trip. The thought of being in the wilderness for 5 days and 4 nights was a little bit unnerving at first, but I will never forget how I felt when I saw those beautiful mountains for the first time. No prep courses and pep talks could really prepare me for actually being on trail in the bear country. I learned so many things about backpacking, and how to be a better senior leader in the upcoming school year. Overall, my experience in the Rockies was absolutely one of the best memories I have experienced in my life so far.

-Helen B.



For me, hiking got easier every day we went. While we were on the trail, we learned about leadership. One of the things I learned was that a leader should not act like a dictator. He should help do the work, give credit to others, and should be humble.

-Daniel W.



This trip was my fourth backpacking trip, but my first real mountain trip. The senior class got a chance to really bond and prepare ourselves for making this school year as smooth and productive as possible for the younger students. Being in the mountains has an amazing effect to draw you closer together as a group, which definitely helped us get on the same page for our leadership training. I think being in the Rockies prepared me for leisure trips that I plan to take in the future, and gave me countless memories of the fun times with my classmates and chaperones.

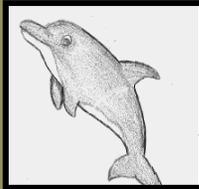
-Felicia D.



## Project Updates

I have been involved in an art group at school. The idea is to research different art forms and practice them. The group first focus was on painting and now we have moved on to pencil sketching. We are mid way in the project and I am enjoying learning more about art and all the different styles there are.

-Rylee K. (9th grade)



This year, I am building a quadcopter. A quadcopter is a remote control device kind of like a remote control helicopter, but with four propellers instead of one. When it's fully built, I want to put a camera on it and automate it.

-Daniel W. (12th grade)

About two weeks ago four freshmen, Marissa, Karissa, Rylee, and Lilly, took a short trip across the field to watch the middle school's mock trial. While they were there they took notes about what the class did, and got inspired to start their own project. After long conversations with Mrs. Seubert they finally had a clear idea of what they wanted to do. The girls decided on splitting up the ideas into different parts to work towards a bigger goal. In the end their goal is to stage a crime scene, and make a "to scale" model of human organs. To start they researched the procedure of an autopsy, and the location, weight, and purpose of 10 different organs. Their next goal is to learn about different DNA tests and the procedures to do the different tests.



-Marissa B. (9th grade)

The Wildlands Walleye Team is still tracking eight walleye on Lake Eau Claire. After the Lake Eau Claire Association put fifteen aerators on the west side of the lake this spring, we started to find the walleye frequenting those locations. Now that the lake has turned over, the aerators have been shut off and the walleye have been very sporadic with their locations. Soon the lake will start to freeze and we will have to postpone our tracking due to unstable ice conditions. Once the ice is solid we plan to get out there every week just as we have been doing.

-Dom F. (12th grade)

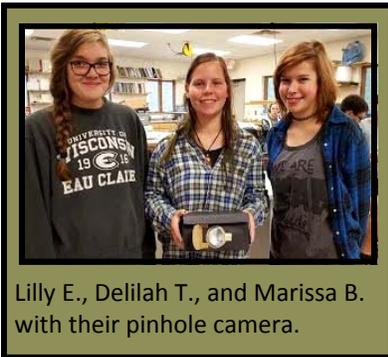
## SPONSOR WILDLANDS SCHOOL ON OUR UPCOMING WASHINGTON D.C. GOVERNMENT TRIP!

Students will have the opportunity to go on a trip of a lifetime! Help this dream become a reality for us by donating to our bus fund.



## Pinhole Camera

Kendra Feathers, our student teacher for the first ten weeks of school this year, lead a few different projects during the first quarter of the school year. One of my favorites was the pinhole camera project. We started by building our pinhole cameras and learning how they work. We learned about how light travels in through the pinhole “lens” and hits the back of the inside of the camera where a light sensitive paper would be mounted. It was very important to make sure there was no light seeping into the camera. This would cause the paper to become overexposed to light and the image would come out black. We had to make sure to



fully light-proof them so the only place light could come through would be the pinhole “lens.” Now that the cameras were ready, we turned the closet into a dark room for photo develop-

ment. Finally, we were ready to start taking

photos. Our first few photos turned out all black, which would infer light overexposure. Eventually we discovered the problem and discovered a solution. After trial and error, we started to get more successful pictures. From there, we played with the exposure time to find the perfect amount of time to have the camera open. We wanted to get a clear picture without overexposing the photo paper to the light. The amount of time the shutter had to be open for the picture to turn out clear changed from day to day.

I learned a lot through this project. I learned how pinhole cameras worked, about exposure time, and even some of the basics of developing photos. This was a great project, and my teammates and I really enjoyed it.

-Nick W.  
(11th grade)



## Sign Language

This year has been filled with lots of new projects. Lilly E., a freshman this year, started a sign language project. When Lilly was in the Wildlands middle school, she decided to start learning sign language with one of her classmates, Ellie T-S. She decided to continue this project into high school. Karissa W., Jenna R., Delilah T., and I decided to join in her project.

The goal of this project is to learn some common phrases and words, as well as the alphabet in sign language. Then, when the group decides that we are ready and have learned enough words, each person in the group will take a turn being silent for a whole day. They will use sign language all day at school and another group member will be their interpreter for them.

So far, the group is still in the learning stage. We are trying to learn more words and phrases before we start putting the knowledge to use. This way, we won't need to spell out everything we want to say. So far, we have learned a total of forty-five words and phrases, and that isn't even counting the 26 letters of the alphabet that we have memorized!

It has taken a lot of work to get this far, and we hope to continue their combined efforts in this project. We will try our best and get this done for a very fun and promising day of sign language ahead of us.

-Teaera F. (10th grade)

## DNA of Small Mammals

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This year, Wildlands has again offered some amazing opportunities to students. In a continuation of our ALU Genotyping project from last year, Bret, Leo, and I will be performing a small mammal cataloging study using the Cytochrome B gene. We will be collecting hair follicles from different mammals and running Polymerase Chain Reaction (or PCR) amplification to identify and catalog their species. PCR amplification uses an enzyme solution to create millions of copies of a sample of DNA so it can be viewed with the naked eye. Currently, we are running a simple PCR amplification lab to become more familiar with the process and to cut down the time needed to perform it. The entire process can be completed in less than a day. This is a huge improvement from the nearly three days that the process took when we started. We also hope that we can use the artifacts from this lab to secure a partnership with the DNR or other company to help offset the cost of lab materials

and receive help with the live trapping of mammals for hair follicle collection. We have currently run three successful PCR amplification labs and believe that we are ready to move onto the next phase of our project. This phase will involve live trapping rodents and other small mammals for hair follicle collection, and then building a genetic catalog so that they can later be identified using only a hair sample and PCR amplification. Everyone involved is very excited about this project and we can't wait to see how this project progresses.

-Andy L. (12th grade)



## Winter Camping

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At the end of the summer, myself and another senior had the opportunity to co-lead the Orientation Trip for incoming high school students. As experienced campers, we were not only excited to take part in another adventure, but also excited to learn how to lead a trip. We had recently gained leadership training on the Senior Leadership Seminar to the Rocky Mountains (see page two and three). This experience co-leading led us to want to involve younger students in more camping trips, and share our passion for the outdoors with others. This was the inspiration for our senior project.



Every year, Wildlands seniors are asked to create a big project to end our high school career with. For my senior project, I've partnered with Felicia D., my fellow senior, and we are going to blaze the trail for the first winter backcountry camping trip

Wildlands has ever taken. We will have to learn everything from scratch, so the first half of this project will be a lot of collecting background knowledge in the classroom and in the field. After we feel we have a firm understanding of how to stay safe in the backcountry, we will start our adventure. Our plan for now is to take several students for one night on Beaver Creek Reserve to test our knowledge and skills. The purpose of doing this on the reserve is to test our skills in a safe environment, should anything go wrong. Later, we will head out to the Ice Age Trail to take a two-night trip with those same students to actually use our new understanding in more of a backcountry setting. The goal of these trips is to not only lead the way for Wildlands to start going on more winter trips, but also to inspire younger students to take leadership in the outdoor opportunities we have here.

-Summer V. (12th grade)

## Did you know?

Go to [GoodSearch.com](http://GoodSearch.com) and add [Wildlands Charter School](#) as the charity you want to support. Each search you make through GoodSearch donates money to Wildlands.



## Wish List

### Large Goals

Cabinets for lab  
 10 more large camping backpacks  
 Full size 10" table saw  
 Portable wire feed welder  
 5 iPads  
 Lockable storage cabinets  
 Good road bikes for PE (goal of 12)

### Always in need of...

Hot pad holders  
 Kitchen Towels and Wash Cloths  
 Measuring cups for kitchen  
 Measuring spoons for kitchen  
 New Dry Erase Markers  
 Kleenex  
 Paper Towels  
 Duct Tape  
 Electrical Tape  
 Masking Tape  
 General Office Supplies

## On the Horizon

12/23-1/1: No School  
 1/12: Ski Trip  
 1/13: Early Release  
 1/15: Ski Trip  
 1/18-21: High School Finals  
 1/22: No School  
 1/26: MS Ski trip  
 1/28: Community Table  
 2/3: MS Winter Retreat  
 2/10: Ski Trip  
 2/11: Early Release  
 2/12: Teacher in Service  
 2/17: HS Vertical Endeavors  
 2/24: MS Vertical Endeavors

**Check the Wildlands Calendar for more information!**

## SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS DOING THE POLAR PLUNGE

Contact us at [info@wildlandschool.net](mailto:info@wildlandschool.net)



FEBRUARY  
 26<sup>TH</sup>

## Wildlands Supporters

**Special thanks** to the following individuals and families whose generous contributions help make Wildlands School successful year after year.

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Joe Smith	Ron & Cathy May
The Plewa-Cummins Family	Kate & Eric Hartopf
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If you would like to see your name appear here please make a donation of any amount. For more information see donation form on the back page.



Visit us online at [www.wildlandschool.net](http://www.wildlandschool.net)

### 2015-2016 Wildlands Newsletter Team

-Lilly E. (9 <sup>th</sup> grade)	-Roman B. (11 <sup>th</sup> grade)
-Lauren L. (10 <sup>th</sup> grade)	-Zoe P. (11 <sup>th</sup> grade)
-R.J. R. (10 <sup>th</sup> grade)	-Maddy M. (12 <sup>th</sup> grade)
-Abe T-S. (11 <sup>th</sup> grade)	



Check us out on YouTube to see the videos students have made.

[www.youtube.com/wildlandschoolvideo](http://www.youtube.com/wildlandschoolvideo)



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# Help Support



General Donation

- \$10
- \$20
- \$25
- \$50
- Other

### Indicate how you'd like your donation to help Wildlands!

- Equipment/Supplies
- Wildlands Can Decide
- Student Scholarships
- D.C. Trip Bus Fund

Your donation to Wildlands School will provide students with up-to-date research equipment, support field work opportunities, fund local fieldtrips, or support our senior scholarships. Anyway you look at it, the money directly helps our students.

### Wildlands needs your support.

Wildlands has established a 501c(3) non-profit organization to support student research and activities. If you would like to help us provide students with unique learning opportunities please use the form below. All donations are tax deductible.

### **Benefits of supporting Wildlands:**

**With a donation you will be recognized as a contributor in our Wildlands' Newsletter.**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Contributor(s):**

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