

# Youth Learn Life Skills through WI Tour

Youth development is a process of mental, physical, social and emotional growth during which young people prepare to live a productive and satisfying life within the customs and regulations of their society. Life skills are abilities individuals can learn that will help them to be successful in living a productive and satisfying life.

In August of 2018 St. Croix County took 28 youth on an out of county adventure called the WI Tour. But before the fun could begin, a volunteer group of youth and adult leaders spent six months planning the trip. This planning included everything from logistics to educational activities.

The three day two night experience designed for youth 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade had the following objectives:

- Increase knowledge and understanding of Wisconsin history and culture.
- Build awareness of state problems / concerns.
- Further develop skills in leadership and personal expression of values.
- Increase awareness of self in relationship to others.
- Share what was learned with others in your club and county.

In addition, the committee added the addition of high school aged youth counselors. The counselor's role included: assisting with the mandatory orientation, planning and teaching bus activities, leading and monitoring the youth during the trip, and serving as a good role model. In addition, the counselors each had a 20 -30 minutes' teachable moment where they were the teacher / tour guide.



Here is what a few participants said at the end of the trip:

*"I made a new friend."*

*"I am more independent than I thought I was."*

*"There are a lot of cool things to do in Wisconsin."*

*"An Indian Reservation is like entering its own country. They have their own laws."*

*"Our theme of farm to table food was really fun to learn about."*

*"4-H takes you places."*





All youth participated in a daily reflection where they could express their thoughts, achievements, concerns, and questions.

This year we traveled north to Hayward, Ashland and Spooner. On the experience, youth had the opportunity to test their culinary skills at the Farm Table in Amery, learn the history of the lumberjack, visit the world's largest Muskie, volunteer on the Bad River Indian Reservation, take a ride on the Spooner Pizza Train, and discover our natural environment at the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center. In addition, we stayed on campus in dormitories at Northland College just like real college students.



## *Life Skills Learned of the WI Tour*

### **Thinking**

- Service Learning
- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Decision Making

### **Living**

- Personal Safety
- Healthy Lifestyle Choices

### **Being**

- Self-Discipline
- Character
- Self-Responsibility

### **Working**

- Self-Motivation
- Teamwork

### **Giving**

- Contribution to Group Effort
- Responsible Citizenship
- Leadership
- Community Service Volunteering

### **Caring**

- Sharing
- Concern for Others

### **Relating**

- Accepting Differences
- Social Skills
- Cooperation
- Communication

### **Managing**

- Goal Setting