



2013 Education Report

1/6/2014

Despite the cold and wet spring and seemingly short autumn season, the number of MNP’s educational programs increased again this year. The number of volunteer teachers also increased.

We hope to continue growing our educational programming in 2014 by enlisting more volunteer teachers, expanding our adult education programs, maintaining the relationships we have built with surrounding school groups as well as reaching out to new schools in our area.

SUMMARY OF EDUCATIONAL CONTACTS FOR 2013:

An “**educational contact**” is defined by MNP staff as *a personal interaction with individuals who are taught about environmental themes*. It does not include any individuals who passively interact with any displays or exhibits in the PPEC or use the preserve for recreational purposes.

2013	Total educational contacts by month	K-12 school student contacts (excludes adult programs, college volunteers, interns, story times)		
	(includes field trips, volunteers, adult classes, story time, presentations)	Total	K-12 students from the City of Milwaukee	K-12 students outside City of Milwaukee
January	146	38	0	38
February	363	119	100	19
March	262	148	138	10
April	762	364	144	220
May	1549	1257	616	641
June	985	653	509	144
July	478	265	105	160
August	234	16	0	16
September	616	399	109	290
October	1111	838	432	406
November	485	391	313	78
December	269	192	192	0
2013 TOTAL	7260	4680	2658	2022
			56.8%	43.2%

2012 Education Contact total: **6133**

Volunteer teachers actively involved in 2013: **10**

College interns assisting in teaching in 2013: **5**

SUMMARY OF ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Groups that visited this year:

35 groups from 2012 **returned** in 2013 (17 returned in 2012)
33 new organizations came for educational programs in 2013 (25 new in 2012)

Breakdown of group types :

Adult organizations/groups 5

School-affiliated groups:

Grade schools (K-8) - from the City of Milwaukee 16

Grade schools (K-8) - outside the city of Milwaukee 17

High schools (9-12) - from the city of Milwaukee 3

High schools (9-12) - outside the city of Milwaukee 5

Colleges 3

Other educational organizations:

Boy Scout troops 4

Girl Scout troops 2

Homeschool groups 2

Clubs/daycare (e.g. Boys and Girls Club, story times) 11

TEACHER FEEDBACK:

Each teacher is given an evaluation form after his or her visit in order to provide feedback about the program and staff. Below are the averages of the 61 forms returned in 2013.

- When asked what percentage of their students were actively engaged during the visit, teachers responded: **92.5%**
- When asked what percentage of their students were served equally, regardless of any special needs or abilities, teachers responded: **100%**
- When asked to rate their instructor's performance, given the following system:

1 = Needs Work 2= Average 3 = Good 4 = Excellent

Average response from teachers:

○ Enthusiasm during program 3.7

○ Knowledge of subject material 3.9

○ Effectiveness of presentation 3.6

○ Use of hands-on, models, activities 3.6

○ Interaction with students 3.6

A few of the comments from teachers/group leaders regarding their experience:

- “The nature hike through the woods was exceptional and very educational. Appreciate your sense of humor. You have created a relaxed learning environment, well-suited to middle school youth.”
- “He did a superb job working with a population consisting of urban students with special needs. The staff was impressed with his ability to present knowledge in a way that students understood and were interested.”
- “She did a great job! We wish we could have stayed longer!”
- “This went above my expectations.”
- “I was very pleased with the program. It is hard to plan activities for preschoolers and my students were engaged and enthusiastic the whole time.”
- “Amazing facilities and program. There is no other field trip a school can take as educational, fun, and cost free.”
- “Students learned by watching videos, making books, and exploring their environment.”
- “My co-leader and myself were very impressed with how Mr. Nickels took our Brownie badge requirements and exercised them in a practical setting. Our Brownies had a blast learning more about BUGS!”
- “He blew my mind away by how much he knew!” (from student, regarding to a volunteer teacher)

Plans for further improvement in 2014:

- To ensure each student is prepared for his or her visit, staff will send a letter to the teacher. (This is in addition to the confirmation email/phone call they receive.) This letter will include:
 - Confirmation of the date, times, program, etc.
 - Expectations of the teachers and chaperones
 - This information is on MNP’s website, but most teachers have not read how MNP staff would like the students dressed, adult to student ratio, and their responsibility for management of student behavior.
 - Itinerary of activities for the visit (especially the distance of the hike, as many parents have been unaware of the hike length).
- Develop better methods to quantify the “educational experience” of the students.
- Grow the core of volunteers to teach groups and lead hikes.
- Review current lesson plans and add new lessons in order to meet the curriculum standards found in the schools MNP serves.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason Nickels - Director of Education and Restoration