

MEQUON *Nature Preserve*

The Mequon Nature Preserve (MNP) staff members are pleased that you have chosen to visit us! We ask that you help your group to have a great experience by going over these rules before visiting MNP. Thank you and we look forward to your arrival!

TEACHER AND CHAPERONE EXPECTATIONS:

1. MNP programs are ***field studies***, not just a ***field trip***. Please let your students know that they are here to learn, ask questions, explore, and enjoy what nature has to offer!
2. ***Discipline is the responsibility of the students' teachers and chaperones***, not MNP staff. Proper respect for fellow students, adults, and MNP staff and volunteers is expected at all times.
3. ***MNP staff members and volunteers are trained in the environmental education field*** and have much to offer your group. They are expected to treat all visitors with respect and consideration. In return, students, teachers, and chaperones are expected to treat MNP staff and volunteers in the same manner.
4. ***Teachers and chaperones are expected to be active participants in the MNP programs***. Often larger groups come to MNP for programming and one MNP staff member or volunteer simply cannot work with each student. Teachers and chaperones are asked to help facilitate activities, exercises, inquiries, discoveries, and maintain group control.
5. ***Ensure that an appropriate student to adult ratio is planned***. Based on prior experience, MNP staff members suggest the following ratio of students to adults to keep students actively engaged: Grades K-2: 8 students/adult, Grades 3-5: 10 students/adult, Grades 6-8: 12 students/adult.
6. ***Communicate to the children the appropriate clothing for outdoor activities***. *ALL VISITS will include some outdoor component. MNP has a limited amount of rubber boots, winter boots, rain ponchos, winter jackets, hats, and gloves. Staff will do its best to outfit students appropriately for the weather conditions if they come underdressed.
7. ***Have all appropriate forms and emergency contact information on hand***. MNP staff and volunteers will be carrying cell phones and first aid kits in case of an emergency.
8. ***Name tags for the students are recommended***. Being able to call on a student by name is a very effective way for a MNP staff member or volunteer to engage your student.

GENERAL GROUND RULES FOR ALL VISITORS: (Please relay these to your students before the visit)

1. ***Do not pick or damage any plants or animals. Ask before touching***.
2. ***Students should stay close to and behind their group leaders at all times*** and refrain from leaving the trail without permission.
3. Please keep voices low and feet quiet when walking the trails. The wildlife is very aware of our presence but will stay longer if the group is quiet. ***Pointing at something interesting and asking questions in nature is appropriate; yelling or screaming when at MNP is not appropriate. Harming wildlife in unacceptable***.
4. Unorganized or disrespectful groups and those not following the before-mentioned rules may be asked to leave and/or not return.
5. The only bathroom facilities on the property are in the Education Center.
6. As per City of Mequon ordinance, there is no smoking allowed on MNP's grounds.

Questions? Contact:

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Information about expectations can be found online: mequonnaturepreserve.org/education/expectations/