

Rooted by Memories



I loved hearing my grandpa's stories and couldn't wait to have my own some day.

My dad marked safe trees for climbing that didn't have dead limbs or weak branches.



The kids loved to splash in the creek, turnover rocks, and play with sticks.



Wandering through the hills, valleys, and woods was the best way to pass the time.

We kept a journal in the shed that we would write in about our visits to the woods. It's so fun to look back and read now.

Reflect on why you own woodlands. Did your passion stem from a deeply rooted memory?

Take time to record your favorite woodland memories and activities. Help your next generation create their own positive memories in your woods.

Creating Tomorrow's Woodlands Today



WVOA's mission, since 1979, is to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the beauty and utility of

the woodlands. However, managing woodlands sustainably only addresses part of that mission. Educating and exposing the next generation to the importance and value of woodlands is key to successfully reaching WVOA's mission. Through your actions, the passion for sustainable forestry will continue to grow through the generations.

P.O. Box 285
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715-346-4798

wisconsinwoodlands.org
www.facebook.com/WisconsinWoodlands



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Growing Your Legacy

A guide to engaging your next generation with your woodlands.



Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association

"We want to help our kids learn to understand, enjoy and benefit from the land as we have."

-Ernest Brickner, First WVOA President

Make Work Days Fun



If work days are the typical times your next generation visits your land, ensure they are a positive experience.

- ◆ Treat work clothes and personal protective equipment as fun and fashionable.
- ◆ Teach them new skills with new tools.
- ◆ Explain the value and purpose of the work you're doing.
- ◆ Incorporate games and challenges into the day.
- ◆ Schedule rest breaks with plenty of food and water to keep energized.
- ◆ Treat everyone afterward with a meal, ice cream, or hot cocoa.
- ◆ Take before and after pictures of the area.
- ◆ Create your own work day traditions!



Helpful Hints

- ◆ The earlier the exposure to the woodlands, and the more often, the better.
- ◆ Ask and answer questions. If you don't know something, look up the answer together in a book or online. Learn from each other.
- ◆ Guide their curiosity by pointing out and discussing the forest features with them.
- ◆ Learn their interests and incorporate them.
- ◆ Don't be exclusive; you never know who will take interest in what. You may be surprised!
- ◆ Gather annually and year round to enjoy seasonal changes together.

Integrating Interest

Acer is the scientific name of maple trees. Like a maple sapling, it takes time and resources to grow a relationship between the next generation and your woodlands. Start small and use the **ACER guidelines** to keep the relationship growing strong over time.



Awareness. Share stories and photos of your land with them and spend time making new memories together.



Comfort. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing for conditions. Enjoy simple, fun activities. Treat the woods as an open area to spend time with loved ones.



Experience. Help them incorporate their interests into the time they spend in the woods. Use words like "our" and "we" to assign collective ownership and responsibility.



Relation. As their interest matures, include them in conversations and be open to listening to their ideas about the land.

The Forest as a Playground

Kids: Plan a treasure/scavenger hunt, press/rub leaves, name landmarks/trails, build forts, keep a nature collection/journal, explore with all 5 senses, make crafts from twigs, leaves, rocks, feathers, etc.



Teenagers: Track animals, sit and reflect, hunt, use game/trail

cameras, look for antler sheds, fish, practice wood working, take photos, trap, craft, journal, ride bikes or ATVs.



Fun for everyone: Take family hikes, sled, cross country ski, snowshoe, ride horses, set up a camp, have a campfire, climb trees, watch/listen for birds/wildlife, tap for maple syrup, practice plant identification using a book or phone app, build a bench, plant trees, gather wild foods and prepare a dish, watch the sunrise/set, stargaze, go on night hikes with flashlights.



Additional Resources

- ◆ WWOA's Website: wisconsinwoodlands.org/growing-your-legacy
- ◆ EEK! WI DNR: dnr.wi.gov/eeek
- ◆ Smokey Bear: smokeybear.com
- ◆ Search LEAF or CWES at www.uwsp.edu
- ◆ Project Learning Tree: www.plt.org
- ◆ My Woodlot: mywoodlot.com
- ◆ Oregon State University: tiestotheland.org
- ◆ US Forest Service: discovertheforest.org or www.fs.fed.us
- ◆ Environmental Education in WI: eeinwisconsin.org
- ◆ Local nature centers