



**Leadership and Environmental Education Program
Camp Manito-wish, Boulder Junction, WI
Tuesday, August 24th — Friday, August 27th, 2021**

Each fall, Prairie Upper School students and faculty participate in a leadership and environmental education adventure at Camp Manito-wish in northern Wisconsin. This gives students the opportunity to get to know each other outside the classroom and fosters faculty/student relationships early in the school year. The program incorporates trust activities, group building, and collaborative leadership training with outdoor experiences, including high and low ropes courses, backpacking, canoeing, and kayaking. Manito-wish is nationally known for its programs and is used by other ISACS schools, including University Lake School and the University School of Milwaukee.

This year, participation in Camp Manito-wish is mandatory. We will depart Tuesday, August 24th at 8:30AM, leaving from Prairie's north parking lot, and return Friday, August 27th around 9:00PM.

A waiver must be signed prior to the trip, and is available in [PowerSchool](#) on the [Waivers and Forms](#) page.

Goals

- Develop skills in leadership, cooperation, situational analysis, and problem solving.
- Learn the necessity of working with others to achieve a common goal.
- Build more cohesive groups through active involvement in group activities.
- Foster skills in communication, trust, and teamwork in order to meet challenges.
- Improve individual self-image and provide opportunities for success.
- Provide an outdoor experience and develop a respect for nature.
- Promote student/student and faculty/student relationships.

Program Descriptions

9th Grade: Students stay in camp and experience the process of group building. The Manito-wish collaborative leadership model is taught through participation in trust activities and the low ropes challenge course. The experience culminates in students challenging themselves on the high ropes course.

10th Grade: Students embark on a backpacking trip in the Porcupine Mountains in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The first afternoon is used to familiarize students with their equipment. On day two the students are bused to the trail where they spend two days and two nights. Day four includes the return bus ride and equipment check-in.

11th Grade: Students experience the lakes surrounding Camp Manito-wish by means of canoes. The sequence of the four days is similar to the 10th grade backpacking trip, with the students spending two days and two nights in the field.

12th Grade: The seniors have three options for their final experience: to organize another trip, the most popular being a kayaking trip; to extend their experience in camp by working more with the ropes challenge courses; or to act as a co-leader to a 9th, 10th, or 11th grade group.

What to Bring

<p>Clothing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rain gear (jacket and pants preferable over a poncho) ● Windbreaker ● Hat with brim ● Long pants ● Shorts ● T-shirt ● Warm sweater or fleece jacket ● Swim suit ● Sneakers (not sandals) ● Underwear ● 2-3 pairs of socks (wool or synthetic preferable) ● Synthetic long underwear (polypropylene works best) 	<p>Bedding & Towels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bath towel ● Face cloth ● Pillow ● Sleeping bag ● Closed cell foam pad (optional)
	<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Toiletries ● Sunscreen ● Bug repellent ● Flashlight (optional) ● Camera (optional) ● Book (optional) ● Nalgene bottle (must be empty and packed in luggage that will be stored under the bus) ● Bag lunch for bus ride to camp

Remember: Dress for the Weather

Your time with us will be spent outside, so make sure to come prepared — temperatures in the fall can be unpredictable. Layering (wearing numerous items of thinner clothing, rather than one heavy item) traps more air, keeping you warmer, and allows you to adapt your clothing to a variety of weather conditions.

Wool and/or synthetic clothing is recommended. These fabrics do not hold much water and do not lose their insulating value when wet. Avoid cotton — t-shirts are nice to have along, but cotton is not reliable for wilderness travel when wet — and jeans.

As for footwear, sturdy boots with a firm sole provide good ankle support for backpacking. While canoeing, your feet will get wet; an old pair of hiking boots or walking shoes will work fine.