



Natural Resources
FOUNDATION
of Wisconsin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An Adventure for Everyone

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin announces 263 Field Trips exploring Wisconsin's special outdoor places

[ACROSS WISCONSIN - March 20th, 2023] Many of us are just hoping for a “normal” summer this year. But what if this summer could be *better* than normal? Full of exploring Wisconsin's hidden gems and trying new outdoor activities?

Haven't hiked much and not sure where to start exploring? Always wanted to pick up a paddle but don't own a canoe or kayak? Never felt like you “belonged” hunting or fishing but want to give it a try? Or have you been feeling particularly “bird-curious” lately? There's an NRF Field Trip for you this year.

NRF has [just announced their 30th season of Field Trips](#) exploring Wisconsin's lands, waters, and wildlife with expert leaders. The 263 trips take place [all across the state](#), including familiar places like Door County and the Apostle Islands, or more hidden natural gems that are not usually open to the public. Hiking, biking, train rides and paddling, they offer a myriad of opportunities to connect with nature in a meaningful way.

This year, many trips are geared towards beginners in the hopes that people will feel comfortable trying a new outdoor activity, or exploring a new place.

Christine Tanzer, who has been leading the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin's Field Trip program for the past 25 years, is excited about getting new people out in the field. “Whoever you are, whatever your background, we have a Field Trip for you. We welcome beginners and ‘old hats’ alike.”

And with 263 trips this year, there's something for everyone. Many of the hiking trips are less than 2 miles on easy terrain, perfect for people new to hiking. Thirteen trips are geared towards beginner paddlers, with canoes/kayaks provided and an easy/medium difficulty level. Many trips are family-friendly – 73 to be exact – and as one 2022 participant said, “Our son told us that the NRF Field Trips were the best thing we did as a family.”

There are more [accessibility options](#) this year, as well. More than twenty trips are standard wheelchair accessible, four have an all-terrain outdoor wheelchair available for use on site, and many more can be attended by reserving an all-terrain outdoor wheelchair for free through our partners at [Access Ability Wisconsin](#).

Examples of beginner-friendly trips:

- Intro to Foraging (6/3, 8/26, and 10/7 in Dane County)
- Learn to Fly Fish (6/10 in Dane County)
- Intro to Field Sketching (6/24 in Calumet County)
- Intro to Wetland Monitoring (7/7 in Milwaukee County)

- Intro to Hunting and Fishing for Beginners of all Backgrounds (8/5 in Dodge County)
- Beginning Rock Climbing (9/10 in Sauk County)
- Birding for Everyone (9/15 in Dane County)

For the extreme adventure seekers among us, there are also challenging trips. Steep, off-trail guided climbs to view sweeping vistas, remote long-distance paddling adventures, rock climbing, and tree-climbing using a rope pulley system to name a few.

People who sign up for trips in 2023 won't be the first to use Field Trips as an excuse to try new things. One participant from last year said, "I tried fat tire e-biking in Door County, beginning fly fishing at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve, elk bugling in Winter, WI, learned about Rock Lake, and had a great time learning to ID waterfowl on the Mississippi River. All the trips were fantastic, the leaders knew their topics, and their passion for conservation was contagious!"

Tanzer says the ultimate purpose of the Field Trips is to connect people to nature and to conservation efforts in our great state. "When you get out there and feel the sun on your face, and do or see something you never have before... it changes you. People tell me all the time that a Field Trip made their summer – or even changed their lives. After people have these experiences, they get revved up about getting more involved with wildlife and conservation."

She added, "This is the year for us all to listen to the curiosity inside us and get out in nature. I hope people try something new, and I think they will."

To learn more and see this year's full list of trips, visit [wisconservation.org](https://www.wisconservation.org). Registration opens at noon on Tuesday, April 4th.



Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin (NRF) helps protect our state's lands, waters, and wildlife by providing strategic funding, leading conservation partnerships, and connecting all people to nature. NRF invests over \$1 million each year into conservation and environmental education and leads several diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts for Wisconsin's conservation community. NRF also helps people explore the outdoors by coordinating 250+ expert-led Field Trips each year to Wisconsin's most special places and hosts The Great Wisconsin Birdathon, the state's largest fundraiser for bird conservation. Learn more and get involved at www.wisconservation.org.

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