

## Wisconsin youth conservation camp opportunities announced

Two unique conservation summer camp opportunities are available for middle and high school students this summer in northern Wisconsin. Upper Peninsula youth are also welcome.

Middle school youth entering 6-8th grade in fall are invited to attend Sand Lake Conservation Camp at Camp Bird near Crivitz from June 20-22. The fee is \$100 (\$150 after May 18) and includes room, board, t-shirt, and all activities/programs. Visit [www.marinetecounty.com](http://www.marinetecounty.com) (search for "Sand Lake" or "Conservation Camp") for more information. Registrations not accepted after June 1 and are first-come, first-served; space is limited, and camp usually fills quickly.

High school youth entering 9-12th grade in fall, age 17 or under, are invited to participate in the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Youth Conservation Camp, June 18-22 at the North Lakeland Discovery Center in Manitowish Waters, Vilas County, [www.discoverycenter.net](http://www.discoverycenter.net) Wildlife programs,

The registration packet is available online, or you can request it via mail. For more information or to request registration materials, please call Anne Bartels, Education Specialist/Camp Director, at (715) 732-7784 or email [abartels@marinetecounty.com](mailto:abartels@marinetecounty.com).

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habitat restoration projects, daily field trips, teambuilding activities, and hands-on activities provide an in-depth look at natural resources management and careers. Registration fee is \$250 and covers all programs, meals, snacks, lodging, and a t-shirt. The deadline is June 1. Register online at: <http://wisconsinlandwater.org/events/youth-conservation-camps> or contact Kim Warkentin at the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association at 1-(608) 441-2677 or email [kim@wisconsinlandwater.org](mailto:kim@wisconsinlandwater.org).

These camps provide fun outdoor experiences, help foster an appreciation

for nature, and introduce a variety of opportunities in natural resources and conservation careers. Natural resource professionals present programs on wildlife, habitat, water quality, fisheries, forestry, outdoor skills, and more. Engaging speakers and interesting topics give campers an opportunity to participate in hands-on activities, learn outdoor skills, make friends, participate in typical 'summer camp' experiences, and enjoy Wisconsin's beautiful Northwoods. Contact your local county Land and Water Conservation or UW-Extension office for any available scholarships offered.

## Counting cranes: Sign up to help monitor populations in your county

**Sarah Giddings**

Each year in mid-April, over 1,000 volunteers travel to their local wetlands and favorite birding locations to participate in the International Crane Foundation's Crane Count. This annual survey of sandhill and whooping cranes spans over 90 counties in six states including Wisconsin and portions of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota.

The 2018 Crane Count is planned for Saturday, April 14 from 5:30 am to 7:30 am.

In 2017, a total of 11,055 sandhill cranes and 17 whooping cranes were counted throughout Wisconsin. In Forest County, 33 sandhill cranes were spotted at 11 observation sites. The most cranes were found in Winnebago County, with 1853 sandhills, and the lowest number observed was in Milwaukee County where a lone sandhill was counted.

Florence County has not held a count in the past several years and for several years prior no cranes were observed at the time of the count. Over the past years, several pairs have made the county their home, however. If you are interested in getting involved in counting cranes in Florence County, contact the International Crane Foundation's Crane Count Coordinator at (608) 356-9462 or email [cranecount@savingcranes.org](mailto:cranecount@savingcranes.org).

This year, a pair of cranes that make their summer home in a field on Brule Dam Road in Florence County came back from their southern migration only to be hit with a spring snow storm. They left for friendlier weather for the time being, but we are eagerly awaiting the return of the elegant creatures and their strange, primeval calls.

In a 2011 article by Kent Van Horn, the DNR's migratory game bird ecologist with the Bureau of Wildlife Management, the sandhill crane population is currently large and widespread, but this was not always the case. As Euro-

pean immigrants pushed across North America in the 18th and 19th centuries, unregulated hunting, wetland drainage and habitat loss caused a significant reduction in the sandhill crane population.

Sandhill cranes were commonly harvested for food until the last century. In an account published in 1622, Edward Winslow and William Bradford noted that during the Pilgrim's first year in North America a "fat crane" was a welcome addition to the dinner table. From this and other information, many have suggested that sandhill crane was likely to have been on the original Thanksgiving dinner table, either in place of, or alongside the turkey.

The harvest of cranes and other wildlife species grew into unregulated market hunting during the early period of our country and exceeded a sustainable harvest level. At the same time, the productive soils of many shallow marshes were drained and farmed, reducing breeding habitat.

In 1916 the Migratory Bird Treaty Act halted hunting of migratory birds, including sandhill cranes, unless a regulated harvest and monitoring of their populations was established.

Gradually, appreciation for wetlands grew, and habitat important to the cranes and many other wildlife species received protection. These conservation steps set the stage for sandhill crane recovery.

The sandhill crane likely reached its lowest population level in the 1930s. In 1936 President Franklin D. Roosevelt called the first North American Wildlife Conference to assess the status and stimulate conservation of many wildlife species. At this conference, Franklin S. Henika of Madison estimated that there were only about 25 nesting sandhill crane pairs in Wisconsin along with a few small breeding populations in other Great Lakes states. These were undoubtedly greater sandhill cranes.

From the population low, the sandhill recovery

# EMBRACE Faith



These area houses of worship invite you to join them for their services. It could be the start of a beautiful relationship.

If you would like your church listed in this directory, please call for details: (715) 528-3276

### First Ev. Lutheran Church

1210 S. Stephenson Ave., Iron Mountain  
906-774-0133

#### Worship times

Thursday 6 p.m. • Sunday 10 a.m.  
Sun. School 9 a.m. • Bible study Wed. 2 p.m.  
Sunday nursery 9-11 a.m.  
Organized Aug. 7, 1881 as  
"Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church"  
Pastor James Lindgren

### St. John's Lutheran - WELS

524 Olive Ave., Florence 715-528-3337  
[stjohnsflorencewi.com](http://stjohnsflorencewi.com)

St John's Florence - Sunday 9 a.m.  
Sunday School - 10 a.m. Wednesday Devotion 6:30 p.m.  
St Paul's Tipler - Sat. 4:30 p.m. Columbus Street  
St. Mark's Iron River, MI Sun. 11 a.m. 116 N 4th Ave.

### St. Norbert Catholic Church

P.O. Box 101

3402 State Hwy 139, Long Lake, WI. 54542  
(directly opposite the Long Lake public beach)  
[www.stnorbertlonglake.org](http://www.stnorbertlonglake.org)  
Sunday Mass 10:45 a.m. (Weekly)

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church - ELCA

Corner of Norway St. and Olive Ave.  
in Florence (715) 528-4851  
Sunday Worship 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

### St. Mary's Catholic Church,

308 Florence Ave., 715-528-3310  
Florence, WI, All are welcome!

Sunday mass 8 a.m.  
Eucharistic Adoration -  
Thurs. 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Parish website  
[www.stmaryflorence.org](http://www.stmaryflorence.org)

### Fence Bible Church

Highway C & Memory Lane  
(715) 336-2194  
Worship Schedule: 10 -11:15 a.m.

### Cornerstone Community Church

617 South Stephenson Ave.  
Iron Mtn., MI, Between "B's" Café &  
151 Thai Bistro (Entrance in back of building)  
Office 906-779-9055  
Sunday Worship at 9:45 a.m. (nursery)  
Sunday School for all ages 8:30 a.m.

### Aurora Free Church

1 1/2 miles south of Co. Hwy N on  
Co. Hwy B (715) 589-4192  
Sunday School at 9 a.m.  
Worship Service at 10:15 a.m.  
Youth Group Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

### Long Lake Community Bible Church

Corner of Maple St. and Main St., Long Lake  
Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m.  
(nursery available) Pastor Gary White

### Homestead Baptist Church

8 1/2 Miles South of Florence on Cty. N  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.  
Seiya Asanuma, Pastor

### First Presbyterian Church

Corner of Norway St. and Lake Ave. in Florence  
(715) 528-4851  
Sunday Worship: 8 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m.