



Dear Parent:

Your child is about to embark on an exciting learning adventure that they will never forget. The staff here at Dunes Learning Center is eagerly awaiting their arrival, and will do everything possible to make this a positive experience.

Our program is interdisciplinary, comprehensive and strengthens both academic and social skills. At the Dunes Learning Center, your child will actively engage in learning experiences that promote: team building, individual discovery, problem solving, critical thinking, and decision-making skills. Moreover, the curriculum enables us to assist teachers in meeting state and curriculum standards while incorporating traditional outdoor learning activities including: campfire songs, games, night hikes, "Dance of the Dunes", and much more. At the Dunes Learning Center we strive for excellence and would like to create an opportunity for your child to explore their world by learning, appreciating, and understanding the dunes.

Our program staff consists of trained naturalists with First Aid and CPR certification, as well as training in on-trail emergency management techniques. They are committed to ensuring that your child has a fun learning experience in a safe manner.

In order to totally immerse your child in the program, we ask that you do not phone or ask your child to call home. However, in the event that an emergency has occurred and you need to reach your child, please use the phone number and address below. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact your school staff. If they are unable to address your concerns, feel free to contact the Dunes Learning Center staff.

Dunes Learning Center Address and Phone Number

Dunes Learning Center

700 Howe Rd

Chesterton, IN 46304 (219) 395-9555 M-F 8-4:30

Sincerely,

John Hayes
Executive Director

Center Overview for Parents

Welcome to Dunes Learning Center!

The Dunes Learning Center is located in the heart of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in northwest Indiana, approximately 50 miles from downtown Chicago. Our facility opened in 1998 on the grounds of the former U.S. Steel Camp Good Fellow complex. This setting blends the traditional with the modern as we incorporate the successes and memories of the former recreational summer camp with current trends in outdoor and environmental education.

The Dunes Learning Center is encircled by one of the most scenic trails in the park. The Little Calumet River Trail provides a 3.5 mile loop around the center and into the Chellberg Farm and Bailly Homestead historic sites. Woodland wildflowers abound along the river trail, and beaver activity can be witnessed while hiking through a mixed hardwood forest. The nearby Cowles Bog Trail, a 4-mile loop, winds through some of the most biologically diverse areas of the National Lakeshore – including a section of dune area along the southern beach of Lake Michigan. During their time in the Indiana Dunes, students will visit many different parts of the National Lakeshore and surrounding communities to learn about the history and diversity of the dunes through games, hikes, stewardship projects, tours, and many other exciting activities

Dunes Learning Center facilities include ten group-style cabins are available for use by participants. Each cabin accommodates eight people (seven campers with one adult Cabin Leader) and is equipped with comfortable bunk beds, bathroom facilities, and a shower. Heating and air-conditioning allow for use of the facilities year-round. Cowles Lodge is a large multi-purpose dining hall and activity center marks the centerpiece of the Dunes Learning Center cluster. This facility accommodates large groups for dining or other activities. The building is equipped with a full-service kitchen and all meals are provided to groups by our food service staff.

Dunes Learning Center curriculum is truly interdisciplinary, incorporating the arts, technology, science, math, social studies and language arts. Programs are carefully designed to complement classroom instruction, and help school meet state and national education standards.

Dunes Learning Center is committed to being a special place for all students. From the moment children step off their school bus to the moment they leave, they are part of a learning community that engages them in fun, discovery. Every day they have the opportunity to develop their relationship with the environment and become healthier, happier, and smarter in the process.

Dunes Learning Center raises funds for scholarships so that all children have an opportunity to participate. Approximately 25% of the children who attend the residential program receive assistance thanks to area foundations, businesses and individuals who help us make sure children whose families cannot afford the full fee can still participate in the program. For more information about how you can support Dunes Learning Center, call 219 395-9555, or visit our website at www.duneslearningcenter.org.

Dunes Learning Center Staff:

Dunes Learning Center Staff

John Hayes	Executive Director	Amy Workman	Education Director
Maddie King	Lead Outreach Naturalist	Ivana Pavlovic	Outreach Educator
Liz Greenwald	Administrative Coordinator	Lewis Jones	Marketing & Development Director
Rachel Sawaya	Food Service Director		

Student Expectations

These guidelines are meant to make it easier for all of us to live together and create an atmosphere where everyone feels safe and free to learn. To insure that this happens, we have one rule RESPECT:

Let's RESPECT yourself and others and keep this a safe place where no one gets injured.

- Do not climb on trees, beams, and other high structures.
- Turn in all medication to your teachers.
- Use fire safety equipment only in real emergencies and do not play with or touch the sprinkler heads.
- Wear shoes at all times while outdoors.
- Do not run indoors.
- Do not use "put downs" or inappropriate words, or tease others.
- Respect other people's belongings and materials.
- Do not fight or hit anyone.
- Stay in your own cabin.
- Only enter another room of the same sex if you are invited and an adult is present.
- NEVER enter a room of the opposite sex.

Let's make REPECT this beautiful natural area.

- Stay on the established trails.
- Do not pick any plants unless authorized by an instructor.
- Return all animals we are studying to their proper homes.
- Respect all living things.

Let's RESPECT the buildings and keep them looking great for other students.

- Do not write or carve on walls, beds or dressers.
- Pick up your trash and put it in the proper container.
- Do not bounce on beds.
- Leave all food and snacks at home. You may attract unwanted visitors to the cabins, like mice and ants.
- Help us to keep the cabins neat and clean by doing your morning.

Let's RESPCET our teachers, chaperones, and instructors and make this a fun and exciting learning experience.

- Follow all program schedules and be on time.
- Stay within the campus boundaries unless you are led to other program areas on campus by an adult, by using and staying on the paved campus trail.
- Be good listeners to your instructors and do what they ask of you.
- If you did bring something you should not have, give it to your teacher right away.
- Remember that you must be with an adult at all times.
- Always bring your PMA (Positive Mental Attitude)

If you are unable to follow these guidelines you will not be allowed to stay. Those who are not ready will be sent home.

Participant Dietary Restrictions

(complete this form ONLY if your child has dietary restrictions)

At Dunes Learning Center, we strive to accommodate special dietary needs to the greatest extent possible. **Please list dietary needs or restrictions on the permission slip and on this form.** Include food allergies, reactions to food and the appropriate treatment used. Also list any vegetarian requirements, religious restrictions, etc.

If the restriction is for a medical reason, please be very specific in describing the extent of the restriction. For example, if the participant is allergic to eggs, is it just eggs as a dish (such as scrambled eggs) or does it include casseroles, breads, cakes, etc. that include eggs in the recipe? If the participant takes medication for the food allergy, can the food be eaten as long as the medication is taken? The more information we have, the better we can meet your needs.

Food is ordered seven days in advance of your child's visit to the Environmental Education Center. In order to accommodate your needs, **WE MUST RECEIVE THIS FORM AT LEAST 2 WEEKS BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL DATE.** Please also note any restrictions on the health form that is returned to the teacher.

If you have concerns about your child's diet, please feel free to discuss the situation with the Dunes Learning Center's food service department at 219 395-9555, ext. 9.

Please send this form directly to the Dunes Learning Center.

You can fold, tape and place a postage stamp on the form and mail, fax, or e-mail it to rsawaya@duneslearningcenter.org (as soon as possible).

WE MUST RECEIVE THIS FORM AT LEAST 2 WEEKS BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL DATE

(If your child does not have any dietary restrictions, you may ignore this form. If we do not hear from you, we will assume there are none.)

Student Name:

School:

Dates Attending the Dunes Learning Center: _____

Please check this box if you would like to be contacted by our executive chef.

Parent or Guardian Name:

Parent or Guardian day time phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

Parent or Guardian email: _____

Please list dietary restrictions here:

Dunes Learning Center

700 Howe Rd., Chesterton, IN 46304

Phone: (219) 395-9555 ext. 9 Fax: (219) 395-8160

Email: rsawaya@duneslearningcenter.org

----- Fold Here -----

Place
Stamp
Here

ATTN: FOOD SERVICE

DUNES LEARNING CENTER
700 Howe Rd.
Chesterton, IN 46304

----- Fold Here -----

What to Bring

It is important to remember that you will be outdoors as much as possible during your stay at the center, so it is necessary that you come prepared. If you do not have some of the items **don't think that you need to buy them**; you should substitute, improvise, or talk to your teacher.

Prepare for the weather; it can be warm, cold, windy, rainy, sunny, or snowy in the Dunes.

Remember that you will be carrying your own luggage, so do not bring more items than you can carry.

- 1 small backpack
- 1 to 2 plastic 1-liter water bottles (can be emptied pop bottles)
- 1 poncho or raincoat (winter coat if appropriate)
- 1 hat (appropriate for season)
- warm gloves, scarf, etc. for cooler temperatures
- 4-5 pairs of socks
- 2 extra sweaters or sweatshirts
- 2-3 shirts, at least one long-sleeved
- 2 pairs long pants
- shoes that can get muddy
- extra shoes and a bag for the wet ones
- pajamas
- sunscreen
- bug spray
- lip protectant (ChapStick, Blistex, etc.)
- 1 towel and washcloth
- soap, toothbrush, toothpaste
- comb or brush
- drinking cup
- sleeping bag or rolled up blankets and pillow
- extra plastic bags for wet shoes and dirty clothes

Optional Items

- camera
- binoculars
- reading books

Students should not Bring

- snacks, food, drinks, gum, or candy
- radio, tape players, CD players, walkman, electronic games, hair dryers, curling irons, or other electrical devices
- knives or weapons of any kind



**DUNES
Learning
Center**

Please type or print (page 1 of 2)

**Dunes Learning Center
HEALTH AND PERMISSION FORM**

A Health and Permission Form must be completed for each participant attending the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center (IDELC) Programs. No participant will be allowed to participate in IDELC programs or activities without a completed and signed form on file at the Learning Center.

Name of School/group : _____ **Date of program:** _____

Participant's Name: _____

Birth Date: _____ **Age:** _____ **Sex:** M ___ F ___

Home Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Home Phone () _____ **Cell ()** _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Work Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Work Phone () _____ **Cell ()** _____

E-mail: _____

If neither parent/guardian is available in an emergency notify:

Name: _____

Work Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone () _____ **Cell ()** _____

Name of Parent/Guardian carrying health insurance: _____

Insurance Co.: _____ **Policy Number:** _____

Address of Insurance Co: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone () _____

Health History (Attach additional sheets as necessary)

Allergies: (insect stings, medications, hay fever, asthma, other. Please list severity of condition and treatment, (i.e. ice, prescription, over-the-counter medications).

Dietary Restrictions: (Please list food allergies, reaction to food, and any treatment used; also list any religious or vegetarian restriction or requirements).

Health Problems/Concerns: (Please include sleepwalking, night-time use of restroom, diagnosed behavioral or learning disabilities).

Continued on the back

Name of Camp session _____

Medications: Please list any medications and dosage schedule that will be taken while at the Learning Center.

Are vaccinations current: Y ___ N ___ Date of last tetanus shot: _____

Please list any serious or chronic medical conditions; or recent illness/surgery. Please give dates.

Has student ever required psychiatric counseling or hospitalization? Yes ___ No ___ if yes, please explain:

Name of physician: _____ Phone: _____

Name of dentist/orthodontist: _____ Phone: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE STATEMENT (agreement, indemnification, and assumption of risk)

The health history is correct so far as I know, and I hereby give permission for my child to participate in all program activities including field trips and transportation to learning sites, except as noted by me and/or an examining physician.

I hereby give permission to medical personnel selected by school or IDELC staff to order X-rays, routine tests, necessary treatment and transportation for my child. In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency; I hereby give permission to the physician selected by school or IDELC staff to secure and administer treatment; including hospitalization, injection, anesthesia, surgery, and transfusion for my child as named above. I agree to pay all costs associated with that treatment and transportation. It is expressly understood and agreed that IDELC shall not be responsible or legally liable for any losses of personnel property or for any bodily injuries, or the results thereof, incurred and suffered by the applicant or in connection with any activities or programs, unless such loss or injury results directly from the negligent or willful act of an employee of IDELC acting within the scope of his/her employment.

IDELC educational and/or adventure and recreation activities on or off IDELC premises (which may be scheduled or unscheduled, supervised or unsupervised or occur during free time), may include, but are not limited to: hiking & backpacking; camping; swimming; cross-country skiing; snowshoeing; service and research projects; and wildlife and nature observation. I acknowledge that the inherent and other risks, hazards and dangers of these activities can cause injury, damage, or other loss to participant or others.

(Please check one)

I hereby grant Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center the right to photograph my child and use the photo and/or other digital reproduction of him/her or other reproduction of his/her physical likeness for publication processes, whether electronic, print, digital or electronic publishing via the Internet.

Please do not photograph my child.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

No, I do not want to receive information about Dunes Learning Center in the future.