

The Teacher's Role

The Environmental Station serves as a learning facility not only for your students, but also for our staff. The staff is composed of graduate and undergraduate students from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point who are focusing on environmental education as a part of their career. They have received extensive classroom instruction in environmental education and the Station provides them with the opportunity to gain practical experience.

Please join with us in providing a successful and rewarding experience for your students. You can expect our staff to do the best job possible in presenting a solid, caring environmental education program for your students. They, in turn, expect teachers to participate in the program in the following ways:

DAY AND RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Meet with CWES staff:

When your group arrives at the Station you will be greeted by our staff. The daily Practicum Director, one of our full time staff, will meet with you and your chaperones to discuss the schedule and the CWES safety procedures. This is a good time to discuss any concerns you have about your students. Meanwhile, the daily CWES liaison will be orienting the students and leading an opening activity. The daily CWES liaison will be your contact if you have any questions or concerns throughout the day.

Observe activities and assist with discipline:

We require that an adult from your school accompanies each group for added safety. Your presence and assistance during the lessons is invaluable. It provides a unique opportunity for you to observe your students' progress in an outdoor classroom. We appreciate your assistance during the lesson with those students who are physically or cognitively challenged. Also, where appropriate, support in disciplining students is helpful. Occasionally the staff might ask for your assistance during a lesson. By observing lessons first-hand you will be better able to follow up the concepts when you return to the classroom, as well as provide us with feedback on the lessons themselves.

Evaluate Instructors

The CWES staff may ask you to evaluate their teaching by filling out a form and returning it to them. Please offer constructive criticism but allow them to teach the lesson without interruption. They receive feedback from us and additional feedback from the classroom teacher's perspective is most helpful.

Medical Information

Teachers are responsible for the care and dispensing of student medications. A locked box and key will be provided to the designated teacher upon arrival. Inhalers, bee sting medications, insulin syringes, and other medication used in the event of life-threatening situations must be carried by the student or the adult assigned to the student's group. An adult certified in first aid and community cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) must be on-site during the visit. A CWES staff member will be available for day groups. Overnight groups must provide their own certified adult or contact the Station.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS ONLY

During overnight programs, you have an excellent opportunity to observe your students in a different social environment. In addition to responsibilities mentioned previously, we request that you assume the following duties:

Plan and supervise teacher time activities:

We ask that you plan and supervise your students from 4:00 pm until after supper at 6:30. At this time program staff will be meeting to debrief the day and prepare for the evening programs. Please inform the daily Practicum Director when you arrive if you need certain facilities and/or equipment during teacher time. If requested, we will schedule a time to open the Trading Post during your visit. The evening program ends around 9:00 pm. At this time, you are responsible for supervising the students until after breakfast the next day.

Dormitory Supervision:

You will need at least one male and one female to chaperone in the dormitory. There are two private rooms for adults. We request that teachers remain at the Station during their entire classes' program. You may wish to recruit additional chaperones such as other teachers, administrators, and parents.

Cabin Supervision:

If the number of students exceeds the capacity we can house in our dormitory, you will be assigned additional heated log cabins. It is the teacher's responsibility to recruit one chaperone per cabin to stay with the students.

Please feel free to discuss our program with us at any time. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Call CWES at (715) 824-2428 or email Tom Quinn at tquinn@uwsp.edu.