VISITOR INFORMATION

SUMMER VISITOR HOURS: 8 A.M. to 3 P.M. Wednesday through Sunday, Memorial Day through Labor Day. The Education Center is Closed Mondays and Tuesdays, EXCEPT open summer holidays. Please call 2 weeks ahead to schedule group tours of 10-30 and allow minimum 1-1/2 hours to 2 hours for the hatchery tour and activities.

LEADER’S GUIDE TO HATCHERY EDUCATIONAL GROUP TOUR & ACTIVITIES

1) HATCHERY INTRODUCTORY POWER POINT & FIELD WORK VIDEO - photos of the old and new hatchery facilities showing what we do at the hatchery (spawn fish, hatch, raise and stock them in Wisconsin waters).
2) EXPLORE HANDS-ON EXHIBITS and two 300-gallon aquariums in Education Center, including simulated fish exploratory lab, fish identification, aquatic invasive species and aquatic habitat requirements.
3) TOUR OF NEW COLDWATER HATCHERY guided by WDNR Staff. (Take van/school bus 1/4 mile North to new Coldwater Hatchery with WDNR Guide.) Hatchery Guide takes visitors to viewing room to look inside hatchery. Capacity: raise over 200,000 fingerlings in 40 circular tanks; incubate 5.2 million salmon and 7.2 million trout eggs.
4) VIEWING BROWN TROUT IN HISTORIC PONDS - You will see the oldest and biggest Wild Rose Brown Trout in our historic raceways. You may feed fish with our feeding dispenser located on the picnic shelter. PLEASE DO NOT FEED FISH ANY HUMAN FOOD. PLEASE DO NOT THROW STONES IN RACEWAYS AT FISH.
5) INTERACTIVE, EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES: (Group Leaders may choose one activity)
a) FISH MIGRATION game reinforces concept of trout and salmon moving from Lake Michigan to streams to spawn.
b) HABITATS and requirements of aquatic ecosystem,
c) FISH MIGRATION STORY (for PreK-4th grade)
d) EGG STAGES of Development samples and Wild Rose story of "Eggs in and Fish out."
e) FOOD WEB game to learn the importance of balanced ecosystems, and the significant role that Wild Rose Hatchery has in Wisconsin’s 3-billion dollar sport fishing/tourism industry.
f) FISH CASTING game "Match your Catch" to identify Wisconsin fish to get them excited about fishing in Wisconsin.
g) Testing water quality/chemistry, if supplies available. (Usually jr. high or students in water studies i.e. DO, pH.)

The conference room and visitor viewing room in the new Coldwater Hatchery accommodate up to 30 people. Due to bio-security practices and chance of contamination, visitors do not go inside Hatchery work facilities. Tours are held “rain or shine” as we can do most activities indoors, except viewing oldest “retired” brown trout in historic ponds outside. Plan to bring weather appropriate clothing. Please take care of restroom needs before arriving for tour since we only have one restroom.

If you would like your group to feed brown trout in historic ponds, bring 25 cents for the fish feed dispenser (the machine takes quarters only). The feed is composed of ground up fish, and other nutrients, so your hands will smell fishy. Plan to bring hand wipes or hand sanitizer. Do not rub eyes or put fingers in mouth after feeding fish. Wash hands after handling fish feed. Note: We do not allow anyone to feed bread or other human food to fish.

FISHING IS NOT ALLOWED ON HATCHERY PROPERTY.

Please complete the Group Tour Reservation form on the next page and return to me as a Word Document. If you have any other questions, please contact me. I look forward to showing you and your group the new Wild Rose Hatchery facilities.

Joan Voigt, Naturalist Educator
Wild Rose Fish Hatchery
joan.voigt@wisconsin.gov
GROUP RESERVATION DATE OF REQUEST: ______________________

Please complete this form to schedule a group tour of the facility for 10-30 people. This will help us prevent overlap and ensure that the Naturalist can give your group full attention. You may mail, email, or FAX this form to the Naturalist at the Wild Rose Hatchery Education Center prior to your tour date.

Summer Visitor Hours are 8 A.M. to 3 P.M. Wed-Sunday. Regular tour times begin at 10 A.M. and 1 P.M. Please note if you need to begin at a different time.

DATE OF VISIT: _______________________  Second Choice: ____________________________

ARRIVAL TIME: _______________________ DEPARTURE TIME: _________________________
Length of time for you can spend at the hatchery: tour: _____ 1 hour; _____ *1-1/2 hours; _____ 2 hours

SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION: __________________________________________________________

CONTACT PERSON: ____________________________

EMAIL: ____________________________

PHONE: Work/Home ______________________ cell #: (for contact on tour day): ______________________

CITY: ____________________________ STATE: _____________ ZIP CODE: _____________

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: _____________ NUMBER OF CHAPERONES: _____________

(Groups over 30 will need to be divided to accommodate facility space and require your adults to supervise activity.)

GRADE LEVEL: ________________________ Age Range: ________________________

If you would like to choose one or two Educational activities, list them here: 1. ______ 2. ______

(Naturalist will select one or two based on your group and the time you are at the hatchery if you don’t select.)

a) FISH MIGRATION game reinforces concept of trout and salmon moving from Lake Michigan to streams to spawn.

b) HABITATS and requirements of aquatic ecosystem,

c) FISH MIGRATION STORY (for PreK-4th grade)

d) EGG STAGES of Development samples and Wild Rose story of “Eggs in and Fish out.”

e) FOOD WEB game to learn the importance of balanced ecosystems, and the significant role that Wild Rose Hatchery has in Wisconsin’s 3-billion dollar sport fishing/tourism industry.

f) FISH CASTING game “Match your Catch” to identify Wisconsin fish to get them excited about fishing in Wisconsin.

g) Testing water quality/chemistry, (High school age)

Does your group have any special needs? ________ If yes, please explain: ____________________________

To Schedule your group tour, please call or email Joan Voigt, Naturalist Educator, 2 weeks in advance at (920) 622-3527, Ext. 209 or Email: joan.voigt@wisconsin.gov

If you would like other lessons or activities to be supplemented, please discuss this when making your reservation. We will be happy to incorporate related topics that you may be doing in the classroom. Please allow more time at the facility if requesting additional lessons.

If you would like to enjoy a picnic lunch at the hatchery, we have picnic tables next to the education center parking area and along the historic raceways. Please plan ahead to take your picnic waste with you, as we do not have waste pick up services at the hatchery. Thank you!

_____ Group tour confirmed
_____ E-Calendar
_____ Desk Calendar
_____ Special Requests

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