

**WiRED 3/2 Backpacking Trip 2021**

## **Note to Parents**

Wilderness experiences are one of a kind. When we take youth into the wilderness for rest and retreat, we see walls break down and chains broken. This wilderness trip to the Nicolet National Forest would be a great experience for your student(s) who are looking to grow deeper in their faith as well as with the other in our WIRED youth group. Our goal is that each student will walk away from this wilderness trip with a deeper understanding of God, deeper relationships, practical camping skills, and a self confidence that transcends the trail. Most people do not take time to spend a multitude of days focusing on their spiritual life and relationships with others in the wilderness. We hope that this trip would push these students farther than they thought they could go and encourage them to do similar things often in their lives as retreat and respite is necessary for our spiritual lives.

## **Student Description**

This 3/2 Backpacking Course has been designed with you in mind. This trip is for students who want to unplug and enter deeper into the heart of God in His creation. The elements of a beautiful setting and a group of students desiring to know God deeper while unplugging from our busy society and plugging into our Creator is a great combination for transformation. Your spirit will be refreshed with Bible study, relationship, and retreat. Through solo experiences, the challenge of long hikes, and the fellowship of other brothers and sisters in Christ, you will discover how much God cares about your heart. If you are a student that has a vision of yourselves experiencing God with your fellow youth group friends in a way that is unique and rewarding, join us on this unique backpacking trip. It will be a time of community building, prayer, discovery, renewal, and of course an unforgettable experience! There is no prior outdoor experience required, just a willing heart and adventurous spirit, so come as you are and invite your friends! Northern Lakes Impact Center will provide all of your technical and group equipment and gear.

Your journey will begin at Northern Lakes Impact Center where you will work on a few technical skills like packing your backpack. Then you will travel from there to the Hidden Lakes Trails, where you will spend 3 days on the trail learning the fundamentals of living in the wilderness. As you travel through the Nicolet National Forest, your youth group leaders will teach you technical skills such as how to understand and read a map, navigate on and off the trail, prepare and cook in the backcountry, and enjoy and take care of God's beautiful creation. Each day, we will pick one student who will act as the group leader, and will be in charge of keeping up the group morale. This unique wilderness experience will create opportunities for practical leadership skills, spiritual and friendship growth, new adventures, and leading you to gain more confidence and skills useful beyond your wilderness experience.

## **Considerations**

This course has been designed with all skill levels in mind, however, it is also important to be aware of some of the potential emotional, mental, and physical challenges you may face while on this trip. Below is a list of the things to consider before signing up for this trip.

- You will be carrying a backpack with your gear and group gear in it. This pack will weigh roughly 30% of your body weight.
- You will be hiking on uneven terrain.
- You may be hiking 3 to 5 miles per day.
- Days on the trail are often long and you may be required to be up 7:00 am to 9:00 pm.
- You may be stretched emotionally, mentally, and physically through long days on the trail, working with others, and spending time with God.

## **Learning Objectives**

Though you will be participating in outdoor activities as a team daily as you living and move throughout the trip, these are not the main focus of this trip, but they are the tools and experiences being use for your own personal growth, challenge, and spiritual refinement. You will be challenged by working with others on daily tasks. You will be challenged to hike farther and longer than you think you can. You will grow personally by pushing yourself through the different challenges you face. You will grow spiritually as we discuss the lessons in the devotional provided as well as what you choose to focus on and reflect on in your own personal quiet time with God. We pray that this wilderness experience will lead you to a renewed identity in Christ, a deeper confidence in yourself, new lifelong friendships, and a gaining of leadership skills.

Skills covered on this trip include, but are not limited to:

- Trail navigation
- Camp set-up / tear down
- Backcountry cooking
- SOLO experiences
- Leave No Trace and Creation Care
- Overcoming personal challenges
- Characteristics of Christ-centered living

**Tuition Price per Student: \$50.00**

**Available Spaces: 12**

**Minimum Required: 4**

## Logistics Break Down

1. Emergency Contacts
  - a. On the Trail:
    - i. Hannah Burkhart, 616-262-0636
    - ii. Dale Haskins, 715-499-1242
    - iii. Desi Haskins, 715-367-8558
  - b. In Wisconsin:
    - i. Maria Rudesill, 608-341-0121
    - ii. Tina Gerdes, 715-437-0855
    - iii. Pastor Rod Ankrom, 641-220-0949
2. Emergency Action Plan
  - a. The lead NLIC instructor is a trained Wilderness First Responder and Lifeguard. Each additional NLIC instructor is trained in First-Aid and have completed their CPR-Pro, and a Lifeguard certifications. They will treat any treatable wound or ailment in the field.
  - b. In the case of a low risk injury, our standard protocol will be to hike to the nearest trailhead if participant is stable.
  - c. In the case of a high risk injury, we will implement our emergency action and evacuation plan. If the patient is unstable, the emergency protocol is the split into two teams. Three members of the team will hike to the vans while the rest of the team assists the injured patient to predetermined meeting point. If unable to move patient, second team remains with patient, keeping them as comfortable as possible. Any and all efforts will be made to contact EMS and guardians of patient.
3. Hospitals Near By
  - a. Ascension Eagle River Hospital
    - i. 201 E Hospital Rd  
Eagle River, WI 54521
    - ii. Tel: (715) 479-7411