

GET TO KNOW THE AUDUBON CENTER

The Audubon Center is a *RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER (RELC)*, wildlife rehabilitation facility, and [retreat](#) center [located](#) in east-central Minnesota on the shores of Grindstone Lake. We strive to provide some of the best environmental experiences for the thousands of K-12 students who come to our center from across the state.



We also serve as a field campus for many [teacher training opportunities](#) through Hamline University's *Center for Global Environmental Education* and offer graduate courses tailored to educators seeking either a Certificate or Master's Degree in Environmental Education. In addition, we are also a field campus for [Northland College](#), [Inver Hills Community College](#) and other post-secondary institutions.



The Audubon Center also sponsors a number of Minnesota Charter Schools. Through these sponsorships we are able to work with the schools to provide the students with the best educational experience possible and deliver our mission on a more effective and progressive basis. Our current sponsored Charter Schools are: Riverway Learning Community - Minnesota City, [Great Expectations](#) -Grand Marais, [Voyageur Expeditionary High School](#) -Bemidji, [Swan River Montessori](#) -Monticello,

The Audubon Center, in conjunction with [Elderhostel, Inc.](#), offers Elderhostel Programs designed for people 55 and older including Intergenerational Elderhostels, creating the opportunity for grandchildren to have fun with their grandparents in the north woods.

Our diverse 535 acre sanctuary includes a variety of habitats, including old-growth red and white pines, hardwood forests, restored wetlands and prairies. We offer a great variety of environmental learning experiences for people of all ages, with programming in natural history and science, team-building, adventure programming, and outdoor/environmental education.



Our center features a mixture of historic as well as newly constructed facilities that can [accommodate](#) up to 150 participants. Our participants have the opportunity to experience a wide range of learning environments including our wildlife barn, yurt, log cabin, formal science classroom, and of course, the great outdoors!

We welcome visitors to explore our trails, visit our raptors, shop our Nature Store, or to stop and just say "Hi" to the North Woods!

BRIEF AUDUBON CENTER HISTORY

- ♦ In the 1800's, the Audubon Center property was used by local Ojibwe families for hunting and gathering.
- ♦ Portions of the forest were logged prior to the Hinckley Fire (1894), and the land was farmed under the Schwyzer family ownership for the first half of the twentieth century.
- ♦ In 1968 this land was bequeathed to the [National Audubon Society](#) by Dr. Marguerite Schwyzer. The land was then transferred to the Audubon Center of the North Woods, a separate private, 501(c) non-profit organization. Since that time, the Audubon Center has served as a residential and day use education facility for small groups of international students, college students, adults, and school groups

K-12 SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Audubon Experience

The Audubon Center is accredited by the North Central Association and offers residential environmental education experiences to schools. Our dormitories and dining room complex can accommodate up to 150 people.

Conveniently [located](#) six miles from Interstate 35, 90 miles north of the Twin Cities and St Cloud (about 1 1/2 hours) and 70 miles south of Duluth (about 1 hour), and about 90 miles from Brainerd, we are the perfect "overnight field-trip" distance from anywhere. Save time and money on travel costs and mileage and spend more time learning!

Some highlights of our program include:

- Terrific food
- Full array of adventure programming
- Modern dorm facilities with bathrooms in each room
- Our wildlife barn has rehabilitation animals for viewing and for programs
- Evening programs included in every package
- Dedicated and fun staff
- Central Minnesota location
- AN OVERALL GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Our 535 acre site includes a variety of wetlands, forests and prairies. Staff uses the outdoors as the primary classroom and students are outside for the majority of classes. In addition to the great outdoors, we feature a variety of indoor areas including a wildlife classroom, wetlands cabin, science and international classrooms and a yurt. All of these are utilized to enhance the outdoor learning experience. Some other facility highlights include:

- Maple syruping shack
- Bird banding station
- Wetlands boardwalk and bird blind
- Ojibwe tipi and wigwam for cultural studies
- Adventure ropes (high and low), climbing wall and group initiatives course
- Wildlife barn



Taking the "High Ropes Challenge"

The Center is open year around for 3-7 day residential experiences for K-12 students. While most resident experiences happen with students in grades four through six, we are happy to work with any grade. We also have extensive experience with college age students.

ACNW combines a diverse sanctuary, 30 years of experience, and a staff that includes the [K-12 Programs Coordinator](#), a [Wildlife Coordinator](#), [Adventure Coordinator](#), and professional naturalists and [interns](#) from the U.S. and around the world.

Our Mission:

To protect, improve and promote the enjoyment of the natural environment through formal and informal education programs and research; to assist and encourage environmental education programs, centers, and careers.

Our Vision:

The environment is the blackboard for the Center's educational programs; the common ground that brings us together with the natural world and people from around the globe to share our concerns for one another and the future. It is through positive and shared experience that we hope we can affect the values and actions of our people to create a world of harmonious diversity.

Audubon Center of the North Woods

(Located just 90 miles from Duluth, Twin Cities and St. Cloud)

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