

"The only problem with this program is that they don't want to come home." - Guardian

Wilderness Wind has been leading outdoor adventures for people with disabilities since 1993. Participants from 18-60 years of age with varying levels of disabilities (including the use of wheelchairs) have enjoyed the opportunity to venture into the natural setting of Northern Minnesota.

Wilderness experiences offer people with disabilities:

- an empowering experience that allows them to challenge themselves and learn within a safe environment.
- satisfaction that they have done something that few others have done.
- a step away from our "doing" culture into one where skills of relationship building and "being" are affirmed.

"It is my favorite week at camp. Sometimes the participants are not able to speak, but the extreme joy that they express in the course of the week is actually indescribable. "

- Wilderness Wind staff

Two programs available:

Boundary Waters Canoe Trip:

This experience is a combination of discovery and outdoor activities. Campers and Staff paddle into the Boundary Waters, set up a base camp and, from there, take day trips. Campers:

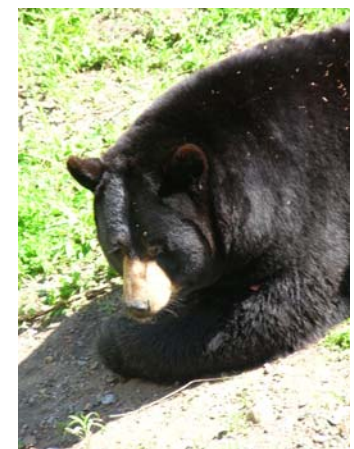
- stay in tents.
- see and learn about wildlife and waterfowl close to their campsite.
- experience the wilderness.
- have many opportunities to swim, fish, hike, explore, look at the stars, draw, etc.
- are matched with staff/caregivers at a 1:1 ration (2:1 if physical abilities allow).



Lakeside Cabins:

This residential experience focuses on educational experiences and relaxation. Campers:

- stay in cabins where a bathhouse is within walking distance.
- visit the International Wolf Center, the Bear Center, the Soudan Mine, and/or see sled dogs.
- enjoy the town of Ely by listening to music or enjoying ice cream.
- have time to swim, fish, relax, play games, etc.
- are matched with staff/caregivers at a 3:1 or 4:1 ratio.



"Each year my son comes back smiling more, singing more and communicating more." - Parent