

Think Outside with the Ice Age Trail Alliance!

Join us on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail – one of Wisconsin's premier outdoor classrooms – for fourth grade field experiences!

Frequently Asked Questions

How will my school get the transportation reimbursement?

Once the post report is received, along with necessary transportation invoices to the Ice Age Trail Alliance office, a reimbursement check will be issued and mailed to the school contact name and address we have been given.

Funding is first-come, first-serve based on school registration date.

Can we take our 5th grade class (or another grade) on the hike as well?

The transportation funding is available for only 4th graders. If the trip includes other grades, for example 3rd or 5th, the transportation funding will cover the percentage equal to the number of 4th graders.

What kind of questions will be asked in the post report?

Report will ask for number of students, teachers, parents involved, hike location, miles hiked, testimonials, and two high resolution photos that have been approved to be used publicly. It is an electronic report.

How long do I have to complete the post report?

The report is due 2 weeks after the field experience is complete.

Who gives the classroom presentation? How long is it?

An Ice Age Trail Alliance representative will give the presentation and it will last approximately 45 minutes. We ask the school to provide necessary AV – a projector, screen and microphone (if needed) as well as a room that can accommodate all the students.

When does the classroom presentation take place? Where?

Ideally, the pre-trip classroom presentation would occur 1-2 weeks before the hike. If there are multiple 4th grade classes going on the hike, we ask that all students be in assembly to attend the presentation at once. The presentation will take place at the school – in a class room or assembly hall.

Do we have to have a classroom presentation?

No. We would like to have a classroom presentation before as many field experiences as we can, but we know it may not be possible for every school to have one. If an in-person classroom presentation cannot be scheduled, we can provide classroom resources for teachers to cover with all students going on the trip that connect with the Academic Standards.

When does the one-day field experience take place?

It's up to you when you want to complete your field experience but it has to take place between now and July 31, 2020 to receive reimbursement funding.

If you are interested in hiking this **Fall**, we suggest hikes scheduled between October 1 – December 15. If you are interested in hiking next **Spring**, we suggest hikes scheduled between April 1 – June 15. You can also plan a hike during summer school.

We recommend planning a rain date right away in case of unsafe hiking weather.

How long is the field experience?

Plan for the field experience to be a one-day trip.

The Ice Age Trail Alliance will pass along a hike destination that is within 30-45 miles of your school. The hike will be on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and will be between 2-4 miles long. The hike options will be on the "beginner" side and have a lower rate of difficulty.

Where does the field experience take place?

On the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Specific location depends on where you are coming from, but we hope it will be within 30-45 miles of your school.

Teachers will receive a toolkit with valuable resources, including geology features, lesson plan activities, recommended hike location, maps, directions, terrain, parking information, and facilities available.

What if we have a student that physically or mentally cannot hike?

Teachers and school districts are responsible for the safety and well-being of their students. The IATA will provide useful information, such as terrain and trail difficulty but we expect teachers to have a safety net in place for discipline of students who are not cooperating.

How do I get my school and/or 4th grade class involved?

Sign up! Please register on the website.

Questions? Contact Amy Lord, Outreach and Education Manager with the Ice Age Trail Alliance, 608-798-4453 x233, amy@iceagetrail.org