

October 26, 2012

Mr. Harold J. Friestad  
Chairman  
Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy  
PO Box 580  
Williams Bay, WI 53191



Dear Mr. Frestad,

My name is Neal Prokop and I am creating a program called the *Youth Outdoor Participation Project* for Holiday Home Camp located in Williams Bay. The objective of the program is to create a safe environment where children can learn from challenging experiences within a natural setting. We will facilitate activities that allow for growth and development with the intent that each activity takes place outdoors, thus creating a stronger relationship between child and nature. Despite the success that I believe a Y.O.P.P. will have at Holiday Home Camp, our facilities are limited. After researching options for an off-camp facility, Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy is a top choice. I have learned how a partnership can be a valuable tool in the success of any program and I believe that the Y.O.P.P and Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy can mutually benefit each other.

At Holiday Home Camp we serve primarily disadvantaged youth, with many of our campers coming from urban areas in low-income neighborhoods. Nearly all of our campers have never been outside of their city, or in some cases their respective neighborhoods. HHC in many cases is their first exposure to a natural setting outside of these urban environments. The Youth Outdoor Participation Project aims to enhance the outdoor experience for these kids and in doing so I believe we provide them more tools for success. The Youth Outdoor Participation Project will be run directly under my supervision and our two main goals are to provide experiences in which children can learn through their own actions, and to improve the relationship between our campers at HHC and the outdoors. The opportunity for success of a Y.O.P.P. is high. All of our activities are modeled after the belief that kids learn best through play. It is through this principle that these kids will learn the essential life skill needed to contribute to family, school and community.

As I stated before we have access to the facilities at Holiday Home Camp for Y.O.P.P., however with the distractions of camp and the developed area around camp, Y.O.P.P. needs an area that is not marked by human use. This is what I think the Nature Conservancy can provide, as Kishwauketoe offers the perfect opportunity for lessons and activities on the unique ecosystems within the boundaries of your Conservancy. Our lessons will cater to both the age group of the campers and tasks needed to operate. On your website you have volunteer days in which you delineate tasks such as take wildlife inventory, collect seeds, weed beds, remove invasive species, and pick up litter. We would like to assist you in these tasks to help preserve the area. It is my desire to turn these activities into learning opportunities for the project. We would ask that these activities would be held separate from your volunteer days. I

would need to coordinate with your staff on days and times and I would need to know ahead of time what particular activities are needed to be accomplished so that I can create a relevant lesson plan. Our camp works holds 8-day camp sessions, so scheduling this activity will not be consistent with a normal 7-day week. In addition the camp only is in full operation during the summer months, roughly from late May to early August, so those would be the times we could help.

Like you, we are a not for profit organization and almost all of our kids come to camp on scholarship. Our income is almost exclusively derived from donations. Unfortunately, I cannot offer reimbursement in the form of currency for the use of your facilities. However through access to your facilities and our lesson plans, we will be helping maintain and hopefully improving the Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy. In addition, the Kishwauketoe website mentions that there are guided walks once a week and my staff will be available when they are not working with the youth to lead or assist in these hikes or other events. We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to partner with you in helping our campers to develop a healthier connection to nature. It is my hope that they will not only learn from their experiences out the Conservancy, but also have a connection and attachment to the Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy, which would lead to increased support throughout the years.

It is my goal to have the *Youth Outdoor Participation Project* ready for the upcoming summer camp season. I would like to meet with you within the month to further discuss the possibility of a partnership between our organizations. Feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail if you or the board have any questions regarding my program or partnership proposal. I will call you next Friday to discuss this proposal and look forward to our conversation. Thank you for taking the time to read this proposal and consider a partnership with my program.

Sincerely,

Neal Prokop  
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Cc: HHC Board Of Directors