

CCS

7/27/2026

Environmental Ed Report 7/26



Highlights

1.

**Osprey Wild's
ELP completed!**

[ELP](#)



2.

**School Forest
Report
Completed!**



3.

**YES Team
Project &
reimbursement**



4.

**WorldStrides
Trip**





<https://yesmn.org/>

Date

ABOUT YES

OUR WORK

GET INVOLVED

MEDIA

DONATE



BECOME A YES TEAM



2025-2026 YES TEAMS



ACTIVITY CHECKLIST



RESOURCES

Mission: Empowering youth to create solutions to today's ecological challenges through hands-on action projects

Vision: The YES program is a highly successful model for both youth engagement and social change, empowering youth to drive the vision for YES towards achieving sustainable best practices in their community

Our YES team had an idea for our group project, including our community, our fellow students, our teachers, and our administration.

Our plan is to gather recyclables from our whole community, compiling them to make signs in our school to remind others to recycle, as well as to make a large collage made completely of recycled materials and plywood.

Our plan to include the younger grades is a Make-Your-Own-Bin Kit, where we take recycled or unused cardboard, take old markers and crayons and repurpose them, as well as add a random assortment of recyclables to each box. Then, we bring these down to the younger grades, and let the improvise and express their creativity- all the while making their own recycling bins and using up materials that would otherwise end up in a landfill.

So far, we've gathered over 60 gallons of recyclables from our community and schoolmates of all ages and grades:



This is only a portion of what we've gathered so far!

When its finished, there'll be more signs to advocate recycling, and a large collage in front of our school for everyone to see and enjoy- made completely by our school community. Working as a team to make art, we aim to increase recycling by 20% in our area by 2027.

Thank you!

-CCS YES team.



2024-2025
Activity
Checklist
✓ ✓ ✓

Directions:
Complete three or more items from the following checklist. Choose a minimum of two activities and one research project. Submit photos and descriptions to jake@yesmn.org and YES will supply doughnuts to celebrate YOUR Teams' accomplishments.
Deadline for checklist items: **April 15, 2025**

Animal Habitat & Health

- ☐ **Activity:** Visit Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in Spicer, Minnesota, and further expand your knowledge of Minnesota wildlife through their "Mammals" or "Eco-Connections" class.
*Virtual option available
- ☐ **Activity/Research:** Learn about wolves by visiting Minnesota's [International Wolf Center](#) located in Ely and/or sign up and attend one of their webinars.
- ☐ **Activity/Research:** Learn about bears by visiting the North American Bear Center located in Ely, Minnesota, and/or explore the center's [educational resources](#).
- ☐ **Research:** Research Keystone species in Minnesota, observe how climate change and human life has impacted their populations and discover how this has impacted Minnesota's ecosystem. Write a blog for the YES Website highlighting your findings.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- ☐ **Research:** Watch "[Minnesota Stories in a Changing Climate: Where Art Meets Air](#)"
- ☐ **Research:** Watch "[Minnesota Stories in a Changing Climate: Where Cattle Meets Climate](#)"
- ☐ **Research:** Watch "[Minnesota Stories in a Changing Climate: Where Climate Meets Community](#)"
- ☐ **Activity:** Participate and complete the five day En-ROADS Climate Workshop, an interactive group exercise guided by a trained facilitator from UMN.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

- ☐ **Activity:** Connect with your regional CERTs (Clean Energy Resource Team) representative.
- ☐ **Research:** Learn about [Energy Store](#)
- ☐ **Research:** Learn about [Energy Assessment and Benchmarking](#)
- ☐ **Research:** Learn about [Energy Efficient Lighting](#)
- ☐ **Research:** Help your local food shelf save energy, learn more [here](#)
- ☐ **Research:** Learn about [Energy Saving Equipment on the Farm](#)
- ☐ **Research:** Learn about [Reducing the Energy Burden for All Minnesota Families](#)

We just received our reimbursement check from Youth Eco Solutions (YES) for our transportation to Wolf Ridge, and project costs for \$1578.94

Date

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- ☐ **Activity:** Engage younger students through environmental education and activities.
- ☐ **Activity:** Plan a local workshop for your YES team to learn about something you are interested in, such as: water conservation, land restoration, waste reduction, climate change, green careers, environmental justice, local foods & gardening, solar energy and/or energy conservation.

GREEN CAREERS

- ☐ **Activity:** Connect with a local green career professional to mentor your YES team throughout the season.
- ☐ **Research:** Choose a green career and learn how to pursue beyond high school.
- ☐ **Activity:** Connect with YES Alumni and ask about their careers and how they got there.
- ☐ **Research:** Watch "[Green Careers for a Changing Climate Documentary](#)"

LAND RESTORATION

- ☐ **Activity:** Campus clean up.
- ☐ **Research:** Take steps in learning how to restore prairie and/or create a pollinator habitat on school grounds.

LOCAL FOODS & GARDENING

- ☐ **Activity:** Start a school garden...Raise money/volunteer at community food shelf
- ☐ **Research:** Watch "[Minnesota Stories in a Changing Climate: Where Food Meets Farming](#)"

RECYCLING & UPCYCLING

- ☐ **Activity:** Teach younger students the importance of pollinators by making bee condos out of recycled cans and paper.
- ☐ **Activity:** Study the recycling process in your school, brainstorm improvements and share with leaders.
- ☐ **Activity:** Create recycled paper.
- ☐ **Activity:** Visit the local recycling center.
- ☐ **Activity:** Schedule and participate in an Upcycling Workshop with YES Staff

SOLAR ENERGY

- ☐ **Research:** Learn about the [Simple Steps to Solar](#)
- ☐ **Research:** Learn about [Minnesota's Renewable Energy](#)
- ☐ **Research:** Watch "[The Power of Minnesota](#)"

WATER CONSERVATION

- ☐ **Activity:** Calculate daily water use at school.
- ☐ **Activity:** Start a rain water collection - using water to help local plants and/or your school garden thrive.
- ☐ **Research:** How do plastics affect local waterbodies?
- ☐ **Activity:** Dedicate a time to clean up local beaches and waterbodies.
- ☐ **Activity:** Test local waterbodies to determine quality and brainstorm ideas for improvement.
- ☐ **Activity:** Schedule and participate in an AIS Workshop with DNR expert or YES Staff.
- ☐ **Activity:** Conduct a survey of AIS in a local waterway.
- ☐ **Research:** Research aquatic invasive species in Minnesota and discover how they have impacted Minnesota's ecosystem. Write a blog for the YES Website highlighting your findings.

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Wolf Ridge Retreat



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Wolf Ridge Retreat







1. Raspberry
2. Rhubarb
3. Blueberry
4. Elderberry
5. Hazelnut
6. Strawberry

7. Yarrow
8. Horsetail
9. Mint
10. Milkweed
11. Maple
12. Mullein

Date





Best. Field Trip. EVER!!!
Your extra **change** can
help make this possible for
a student! ❤️

Raised almost
\$6,000 in funds!



PLEASE HELP

Crosslake Community School



Splash into Science! Florida 2026

**Your donation could help students learn to be marine
scientists through amazing hands-on experiences!**

Question: contact lisalaasch@crosslakekids.org













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Date



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Date





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Date





Next Steps



Osprey Wilds

- Meet as a team to review last year's ELP and the school's EE data in the spreadsheet.
- If needed, revise the 26-27 ELP to identify one or more strategy and evaluation method in each indicator area.
- Once the draft of the ELP is complete, email a link to me, Addie Mazza, via email at mazza@ospreywilds.org. Drafts of the ELP are due by **September 1, 2026.**

DNR Forest Report

Thank you for completing the annual report for the Crosslake School Forest. **You are meeting the requirements.**

It's good to see the variety of lessons happening out there. I'm sure you will get great use from the birdwatching bench and feeders. Also thanks for sending the innovative trail map with the plant id. Cool project!

I am copying your DNR forester, Steve Bartz so he can read your report and see some of the photos. You can contact Steve if you need advice about future projects in the forest. Steve can also provide free tree seedlings so you can start the next generation of trees. I'll send an email later this fall about the free tree seedlings.

Thanks for all you do to get kids outside!!
 Laura Duffey
 School Forest Program | Division of Forestry



Future YES retreat or WorldStrides Participation

Date

I would love to see what other projects we can do with the students to help impact the environment, our community and their love of science!

What projects would the school encourage and how do we get support from the Lakes Foundation?

How do we get more chaperones for Wolf Ridge?

An extraordinary field trip every other year?

WorldStrides or....
 Where else? Social Studies?

More support/chaperones welcomed!

What wonderful way to promote our school and support out students!