



## **Lakeside Living and Wilderness Ethics:**

The two foundational tenets of Wilderness Wind revolve around the importance of spirituality and creation. Just as we are spiritual beings and need to care for our relationship with God, we are also beings that were created in the context of a community of creation. In the creation account, God pronounces all things very good at the end of the sixth day. At Wilderness Wind, we believe that all things created by God can lead us to, and teach us about, God. We invite you to think about yourself as a part of the north woods community that is very good and interconnected.

It is important to us that all campers keep their eyes open to the love of God in all things. It is also important that we pass this understanding on to future generations. As we go about our lives in the north woods, we are directly confronted with the fact that human actions, good and bad, have an impact on creation and the many ecosystems that we are a part of and come in contact with.

As you stay at Wilderness Wind, we ask you to participate in caring for creation in the following ways.

- 1) **Fire:** If you decide to build a fire for cooking, etc, please keep the fire small. Use the fire wood that is provided and if you need to gather kindling, only use that which is dead and down. All layers of bark have an important function for the life of a tree. Though birch bark is a great fire starter, please leave it on live trees and use that which is on the wood pile. Douse the fire and coals with water so that the coals are cold. During times of drought, the forest service will put on a fire ban. Please do not start any fires at these times.
- 2) **Noise:** Be aware that noise travels well across open water. Noise and activity affect the movement and activities of wildlife. Please keep in mind that you are in their wilderness home.
- 3) **Fauna and Flora:** Wilderness Wind is beginning to restore the Waterfront property to the original woodland fauna and flora. To encourage habitat restoration and ongoing rejuvenation, please do not pick live vegetation or flowers unless you can find 15 or more of the same flower/plant in a 9 square foot area. If you are able to, feel free to pick what you need, making sure you leave at least 10 of the plants alive and as you found them.
- 4) **Fish:** If you catch fish, please clean them at least 100 feet from any of the cabins or waterways. Bury the fish remains at least 4 inches into the ground. Studies have proven that when fisher folk move into an area, the seagull population escalates. Due to the fact that seagulls eat loon eggs, the domino affect results in a decrease in the loon population. For this reason, we ask that you bury the fish entrails rather than leaving them for the gulls.
- 5) **Bathing:** Please do all bathing in the bathhouse. Even biodegradable soap does not break down in water. Please keep all detergents, shampoos, soaps, etc. out of the lake and stream.
- 6) **Recyclables:** There is a container for your recyclables in your cabin. Please note below what is recyclable as well as preparation instructions. Empty your container in the appropriate bin on the east side of the bath house.
  - 1) Tin and steel cans – wash, remove labels and flatten

- 2) Aluminum cans – wash, flatten
- 3) Glass – wash, labels don't need to be removed
- 4) Plastics – wash, Minnesota recycles all plastics, flatten when practical
- 5) Paper – Minnesota recycles letter stock, envelopes, newspapers, cereal boxes (not the interior bag), and corrugated cardboard. Please do not put wet paper in recycling bins.

**7) Composting:** Most compost items can be fed to our composting worms (fruit and veggie scraps, grains, egg shells). In a home unit all food scraps can be given to the worms. To help control our worm bins, please do not put liquids, meat scraps, coffee grounds, or spoiled food into the compost bucket. If you would like to empty your compost bucket during your stay, bring it to base camp, and we will empty it for you. If no one is around please put your bucket inside the small garage door to the right. There are ice cream containers you can take as a replacement. If there is compost in your bucket when you are ready to leave, please bring it back to base camp with you.

**8) Wildlife:** Please keep in mind that you are a guest in this wilderness. Folks staying at the Waterfront property have seen eagles, osprey, muskrats, loons and other waterfowl, song-birds and bear. We have also seen signs of or heard other wildlife in the area. Whether wildlife come to the waterfront property or you end up in their area (while walking or paddling), give the animal its space and back away from the area.

a) Moose, wolves, and bear:

These are the animals that people are often the most desirous of seeing and the most afraid of. Though all of these animals are rather large, they can move quietly through the woods and have been known to simply appear. You therefore need to think about what you will do ahead of time. All of these animals are likely more afraid of you than you are of them. Moose have not been known to injure people except during rut (Sept-Oct) and if young are being threatened. The best way to respond if a moose should come to Waterfront is to let it do whatever it came there to do. Watch it, but do not approach it. Moose are dangerous simply due to their size. Wolves are very rarely seen in the north woods. If you do see one, enjoy the moment and let it wander where it will.

Of these three animals, we have seen bear the most frequently at the Waterfront property. Bear need to put on a lot of weight in the summer in order to survive hibernation. If a bear should wander onto the property, it is likely either on its way somewhere else, or looking for food. Like the rest of us, bears are capable of learning and will return to an area where they have been “rewarded” with food. Please do not leave any food outside of your cabin at any time. If you are cooking a meal over the fire and a bear appears, calmly instruct everyone to gather all of the food and take it to your cabin. Occasionally, someone may need to stay behind while others make two trips in order to pick up all the food. As you cook and prepare your food, keep it consolidated in one area so pick up and departure can be made quickly. Once everything is removed, leave and allow the bear to explore and discover the area. If there is no food around for them, it is likely that the bear will leave without further incident. Remember that they are likely more afraid of you than you are of them. By departing an area, you are “retreating” so that the bear does not learn bad habits and also so it doesn't become accustomed to being around people. Problem bears are created when they get used to people and when they associate people with food.

b) Loons: Loons live on the lake and have also hatched and raised young here. Loons do not like people approaching their nests or their offspring. Please keep your distance. If a loon sits up and kicks the water with its feet, it is demonstrating its highest level of stress and you should leave the area immediately.

- c) Song birds: Perhaps the most vulnerable song bird of the north woods is the ovenbird. This bird camouflages its nest on the ground. Keep an eye out for birds who suddenly appear at your feet, and know you are likely in the territory of a nesting ovenbird.
- d) Please let us know about the wildlife that you see. Write your observations and stories in the journal provided so that the next campers can benefit from your experience.

**9) Grey Water:** Please note that your water/sink is not hooked up to a drain. There is a 5 gallon bucket under the sink that will need to be emptied from time to time (there is also an extra bucket for rotating buckets and easy carrying). Grey water can be dumped behind the paddle shed (located north of the new bathhouse). If there are any food particles in the water, please dispose of them in the bathhouse latrine.

### **Miscellaneous:**

**1) Getting water:** There are three different places to get drinkable water.

- a) on the east (forest side) of the bath house which is filtered water
- b) on the west side of the bath house which has both hot and cold faucets
- c) from the pump outside of McComber.

Water from these sources is drinkable and you can use it to refill the drinking water jugs in your refrigerator. Any water from (b) and (c) has a bit of a brown tinge to it. The water has been tested by health inspectors and it is safe to drink. The color comes from natural tannins that are present in many wells in the Ely area.

Water tanks have recently been added to each cabin. This water is for washing dishes and hands. The water comes from the same place as the drinking water. As it sits for over 24 hours in the tanks, we do not recommend that you drink it.

**2) First aid items:** In case of an emergency, there are first aid items in the middle cabinet on the east side of the bath house.

**3) Pets:** If you brought a pet along, please be aware that area wildlife will be affected by their presence. Please keep your animal under your care (with a leash) at all times. If your pet leaves a trace, please care for the matter appropriately.

**4) If you are using a row boat or a canoe,** please wear a life jacket at all times. Life jackets, oars, and paddles are located in the small brown building to the north (left) of the bath house. Be aware that wind intensity can change quickly. If you are out on the lake in high winds, the most secure positions are kneeling or sitting on the bottom of the canoe. The best way to cross the waves is at a 45 degree angle. This may mean that you need to zig-zag across the lake in order to get back to the cabins. Please return life jackets, paddles and oars in useable condition to the paddle/life jacket shed after each use so that they are available for the next canoeist. Please return canoes to the storage area. If you are the only group at Waterfront and wish to use the canoes later, feel free to leave them out, however make sure they are entirely on land and sheltered from any wind gusts.

**5) Swim at your own risk:** There is no lifeguard on duty. There are small flotation boards in the paddle shed.

**6) Leeches:** Please be aware that there are leeches in the area immediately around the stream's entrance. If you should get a leech, remove it by pinching your fingers around it as close to its

mouth area as possible. Giving a sudden pull will typically remove the leech easily. If this doesn't remove the leech, sprinkling a bit of salt on it will make it pull away.

**Check out:** Please let a Wilderness Wind staff person know when you are going to be leaving. Bring your key, kitchen towels, and compost bucket back to base-camp with you.

**Clean - up:** In order to keep the costs to campers as low as possible, we ask that you participate in caring for the cabin prior to your departure. Please care for the following:

- 1) Sweep out the cabin and the porch landing.
- 2) Take all trash and recycling to the east end of the bath house and put it in the appropriate container.
- 3) Unplug the refrigerator and prop open the door.
- 4) Wash, dry and put away all the dishes.
- 5) Turn off all lights and close the windows.
- 6) Lock the cabin and return the key to Wilderness Wind's office at Pine Ridge.

**Problems:** If you have problems with equipment or services within your cabin or the bath house, please talk to a Wilderness Wind staff person.