

**What is Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center?**

Eagle Bluff is a residential environmental learning center. Eagle Bluff is not a camp, but rather an accredited, special function school with a staff of licensed teachers and highly trained naturalists. The program in which your students are participating is part of their school curriculum with the goals of:

- Fostering a sense of respect, stewardship, and community.
- Imparting life skills such as teamwork and problem-solving.
- Increasing environmental & academic literacy.
- Providing positive outdoor experiences.
- Sparking an interest in and appreciation for the natural world.

**What will my child "do" at Eagle Bluff?**

Students are immersed in hands-on experiential activities. Day classes are three hours long and are chosen by your child's teachers from three categories: *Science, Adventure, and History / Culture Education*. Our *Science* topics include Birds, Insects, Wildlife Ecology, Animal Signs, Trees and Keys, Fungus Among Us, Geology, Stream Lab, and more. *Adventure* classes include Group Challenges, Tree Tops High Ropes, and Rock Climbing, as well as Canoeing, Winter Survival, Orienteering, Archery, Root River Hike, Snowshoeing. *History and Culture* classes include Pioneer Life, Ice Age, and Oneota Native American Life. Your student will also participate in conservation programs such as the Eagle Eye and FoodWISE Challenge that place emphasis on conserving resources such as water, energy, and food. Your students will work to earn awards based on their conservation efforts.

**What kind of facilities can your child expect to use?**

About 75% of your child's experience will occur out-of-doors. Balancing that, we have indoor classrooms and activity areas, a large auditorium, nutritious food in our Dining Hall, and comfortable dorm rooms. Good nutrition and a comfortable night's rest are critical to good learning. Each individual dorm room houses eight students and has its own cubby storage, double sink, bathroom, shower, and nightlight.

**Student Safety**

Student safety is our utmost concern. All staff undergo extensive background checks and they, as well as students, are expected to follow a basic Code of Conduct that includes respect for themselves, each other, equipment, and Eagle Bluff itself. School rules apply; severe disciplinary problems or violations of anything for which your school has a zero tolerance policy will result in the student being sent home.

**Supervision:** Students are expected to be supervised at all times. All Eagle Bluff staff members wear name tags and all teachers and chaperones have identifying school identification. Students are told that individuals wearing name tags or school identification are the adults who can provide them with help, information, and assistance.

**Keypad Door Lock:** The dormitory is fitted with a keypad door lock on the lower door between the Dormitory and the Dining Hall. All doors will be locked from 10pm to 6am with the only access during those hours through the keypad door. Each school will be given their own keypad access code before their arrival at Eagle Bluff and it is their responsibility to distribute it to the appropriate persons as they see fit.

**First Aid:** All Eagle Bluff staff are trained, at a minimum, in CPR/AED/First Aid and several are First Responders or EMTs. We are located within a 10 minute response time from the local ambulance and 20 minutes by Mayo Clinic helicopter.

**Medical Release Forms and Special Needs:** Please make sure that you have signed, completed, and turned in your child's *Eagle Bluff Medical Release Form* before their trip to Eagle Bluff. Also, please make your child's group aware of any special dietary, physical, behavioral, or medical needs. We encourage you to contact Eagle Bluff directly with any questions you have about how special needs will be accommodated.

## Contacting Your Child

Your child will be participating in a full schedule of programming while at Eagle Bluff and as a result, time will not be taken to directly contact or be directly contacted by parents or guardians except on a case by case basis.

*Post:* If you would like to send something to your child it can be sent to the following address:

Your student's name  
Group/School name  
28097 Goodview Drive,  
Lanesboro, MN 55949

*Email:* Email your child at [naturalists@eagle-bluff.org](mailto:naturalists@eagle-bluff.org) with child's name and group/school in the subject line. Due to resources involved in printing and checking emails, please be respectful of this privilege in regard to the number of emails sent to your child.

*Phone messages:* Eagle Bluff's main line can be reached at 507-467-2437 and is answered from 8am- 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. From 4:30-9pm, you may reach our voicemail system. Voicemail is monitored regularly and messages will be delivered by 9:00p.m. During the night, messages can be left on the voicemail system and will be delivered first thing in the morning. Students and chaperones should only receive calls that are of importance.

If an *emergency* situation arises and you must contact a student or an adult during the night, the voicemail system will prompt you to enter an extension, getting you in touch with an on-site, emergency contact. Please only use this extension in case of emergency. The appropriate extension number will be provided to you by the voicemail system.

What should my child bring? Find the complete list on our website at:

[www.eagle-bluff.org/top/programs/overnight/parent-page](http://www.eagle-bluff.org/top/programs/overnight/parent-page)

Your child will be provided a checklist of clothing and other items to bring with them to Eagle Bluff. Your help in clothes selection and packing to ensure your child will possess the appropriate gear for outdoor weather is appreciated. Food and beverages are not allowed in any dorm rooms. This policy helps with cleaning and maintenance. Please check your child's belongings to make sure there is no food included. Snacks may be provided by the school. We also ask that you do not send any electronics with your child such as an iPod, video games, or cell phones. These items are not allowed, often get lost, and are often a distraction.

### What should I do if I want to be a chaperone?

Chaperones are an incredibly important part of your child's experience. Please work with your child's teachers if you can help in this area. Chaperones help make sure students are supervised and safe at all times. They lead evening activities and assist with student safety and encouragement during such classes as Tree Tops High Ropes and Rock Climbing. Your child's teachers have a great deal of information about Chaperone responsibilities. In addition, please feel free to contact Eagle Bluff anytime, by phone or via our website.

### The Minnesota K-12 Education Subtraction and Credit:

Minnesota offers an education subtraction and credit for families whose children participate in out-of-school enrichment programs. Eagle Bluff qualifies as one of these programs. The guidelines, qualifications and restrictions can be found at the MN Department of Revenue website [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us) under "Individual Income Tax", "Publications", then "K-12 Education Subtraction and Credit"; or by phone at 800-652-9094.

Only the cost of instruction qualifies for a deduction. Room, board, and transportation do not qualify for the credit. Eagle Bluff's Instruction costs for the current academic year can be found on the Parent/Chaperone page of our website.

When you arrive at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, your staff liaison will welcome you and your group and provide a wealth of information important to the quality of their experience. Part of that welcome will be an orientation to Eagle Bluff's "Four Respects" and what they mean.

- **Respect for yourself**
- **Respect for others**
- **Respect for equipment and facilities**
- **Respect for Eagle Bluff and the natural environment**

This information will be more meaningful to your students if it is a reinforcement of their preparation prior to their visit. It will make sense to them if they can see a direct relationship between these concepts and the rules they are expected to follow at school.

We recommend that you work with your students to develop a Code of Conduct. Some groups work together to develop the Code, print it, and have all adult chaperones and students sign it. The following is Eagle Bluff's Code of Conduct. Please consider it a place to start. Feel free to add additional rules or policies as appropriate.

1. All group rules apply during all group functions, including trips to Eagle Bluff.
2. Students who are disruptive or disrespectful will be given one warning by the instructor, adult chaperone, teacher, or staff member witnessing the behavior. A second warning from any of the above individuals will result in the student being dismissed from the class or activity. If a student receives a third warning, the school will be required to send the student home.
3. Eagle Bluff will not tolerate and will require groups to send home anyone:
  - found stealing
  - found vandalizing any property
  - in possession of alcohol, drugs, firearms or tobacco
  - involved in incidents of abuse or harassment
  - involved in any incident for which the school has a zero tolerance policy.
4. There often are two or three different groups in residence at Eagle Bluff at one time. Sharing the Eagle Bluff experience with students from other groups and of diverse backgrounds is a positive learning experience. All students must remember they are ambassadors from their groups, they should remain in their specifically assigned areas of the dormitory, and they should treat all others with respect.

Many groups with expertise and experience in providing residential environmental education experience for their students have developed Codes of Conduct, contracts between students and chaperones, rules for adult chaperones, and other types of documents that help express expectations and minimize discipline problems. We have their permission to share that information with you if it will help you prepare your students for a positive experience with a minimum of bumps. Please contact Eagle Bluff to request assistance in this area.

# DIRECTIONS TO EAGLE BLUFF

## Eagle Bluff is Located:

50 minutes SE of Rochester, Minnesota.

50 minutes W of LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

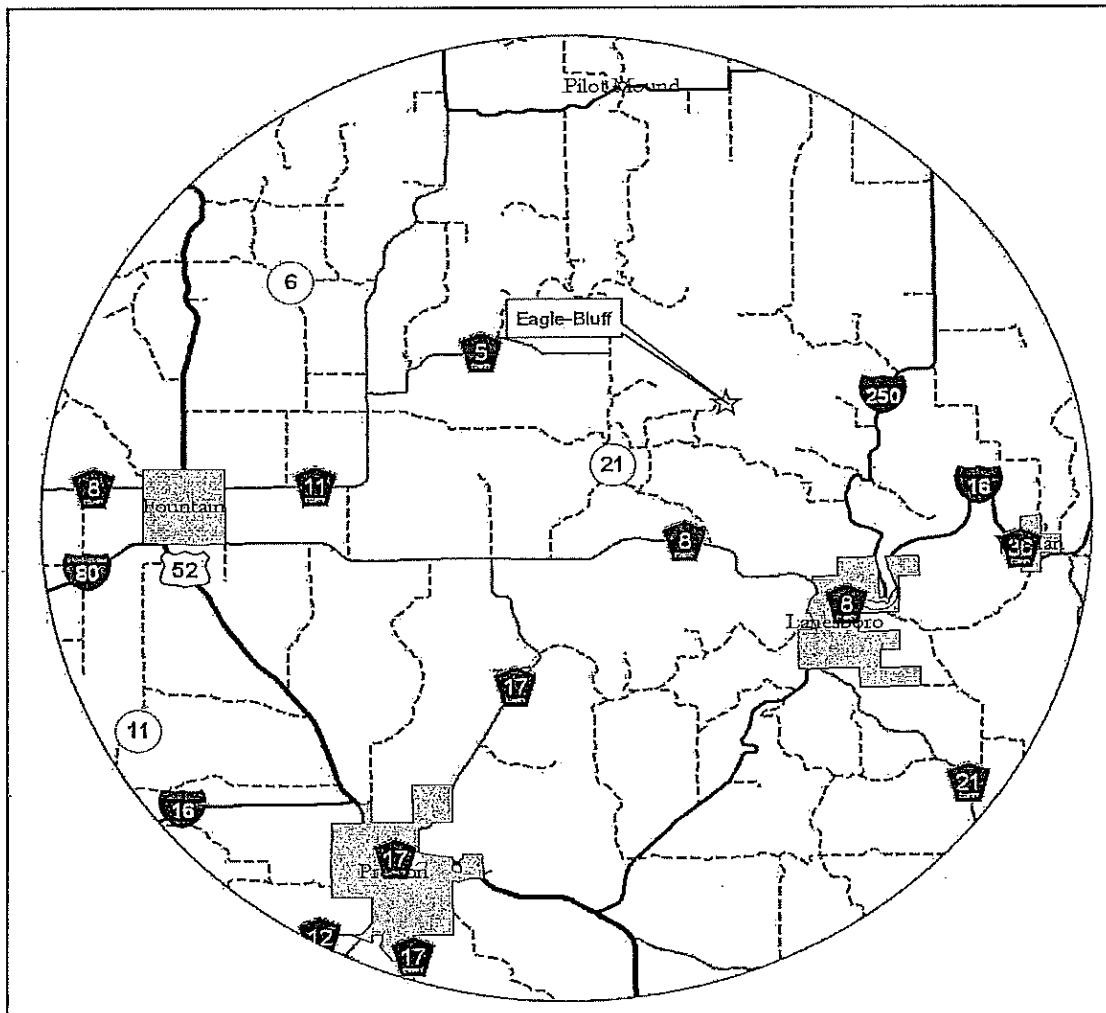
50 minutes NW of Decorah, Iowa.

## From the East or West:

Take Highway 16 to Lanesboro, MN. Travel north on Parkway Avenue for about ½ mile until you are approaching the downtown area. Turn left on County Highway 8 and travel 2 miles. Turn right on County Road 21 (following brown directional signs) and travel 1 ¼ miles. Turn right on Goodview Drive and travel 2 ½ miles to the Eagle Bluff Campus.

## From the North or South:

Take Highway 52 to Fountain, MN. Travel east on Highway 8 (following brown directional signs) for 7 miles. Turn left on County Road 21 and travel 1 ¼ miles. Turn right on Goodview Dr and travel 2 ½ miles to the Eagle Bluff Campus.



### WHAT TO BRING CHECKLIST

Students and adults are responsible for bringing personal items and clothing that are appropriate for the season. We want your stay at Eagle Bluff to be pleasant and enjoyable.

Reminder: Eagle Bluff is not responsible for personal property lost, stolen or damaged during your visit. Please have students label luggage and personal items with their name and school's name.

When packing, students and adults should put important outdoor wear such as rain gear, boots, hats and coats in a place that will be easily accessible upon arrival. Groups are often unable to check into their dorm rooms until 4:30 p.m. but will be attending their first class at 1:15 p.m. Quick access to outdoor necessities will be important.

Please note that there will be a postage fee for any items left at Eagle Bluff that need to be mailed back to the school or individual. The fee will equal the cost of the postage necessary to mail the item(s).

The following list is Eagle Bluff's suggestions. Please contact your school for group-specific recommendations.

PERSONAL GEAR		
All Year	Nov 1-Apr 15	Optional Gear
<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor shoes (can get wet or muddy) <input type="checkbox"/> Inside shoes <input type="checkbox"/> Rain gear, waterproof <input type="checkbox"/> Socks, several pairs <input type="checkbox"/> Changes of underclothing <input type="checkbox"/> Sweater/fleece/sweatshirt <input type="checkbox"/> Long pants (even during warm weather) <input type="checkbox"/> Shirts (short & long sleeve as weather dictates) <input type="checkbox"/> Shorts (as weather dictates) <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag or sheets & blanket <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow <input type="checkbox"/> Bath towel, hand towel, & washcloth <input type="checkbox"/> Soap, shampoo <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush, toothpaste <input type="checkbox"/> Pajamas <input type="checkbox"/> Medications <input type="checkbox"/> Reusable water bottle <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen (seasonal) <input type="checkbox"/> If canoeing, shoes that do not fall off and can get wet/muddy	<input type="checkbox"/> Winter hat (no ear bands or ear muffs) <input type="checkbox"/> Mittens or Gloves, 2 pair <input type="checkbox"/> Warm winter coat (must zip) <input type="checkbox"/> Snow pants or snowmobile suit or rain pants <input type="checkbox"/> Snow boots, insulated, preferably with removable liners <input type="checkbox"/> Scarf, face mask, or neck gaiter <input type="checkbox"/> Long underwear, 2 pair <input type="checkbox"/> Many layers for upper and lower body- fleece, polypropylene or wool is best <input type="checkbox"/> Extra socks (wool/synthetic) NOT cotton as it holds moisture	<input type="checkbox"/> Camera <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses <input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent (deet free please) <input type="checkbox"/> Gift shop money <input type="checkbox"/> Watch <input type="checkbox"/> Backpack <input type="checkbox"/> Brimmed hat <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Battery-operated alarm clock <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber boots (if weather dictates)

#### GROUPS/SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

- First aid kit
- Extra vehicle
- Cell phone
- Journals (optional)
- Movies/videos (optional)
- Games/play equipment (optional)
- Group snacks & beverages (optional)

#### DO NOT BRING

- Electronics (will be confiscated if found)
  - Hair dryers or curling irons
  - Hand held video games
  - Mp3 players, CD players, etc.
  - Student cell phones (adults who bring cell phones are asked to limit calls to the chaperone lounge, personal room & upper parking lot)
- Illegal substances: tobacco, alcohol, drugs
- Food, gum, candy or beverages
- Nail polish
- Flip flops to classes

