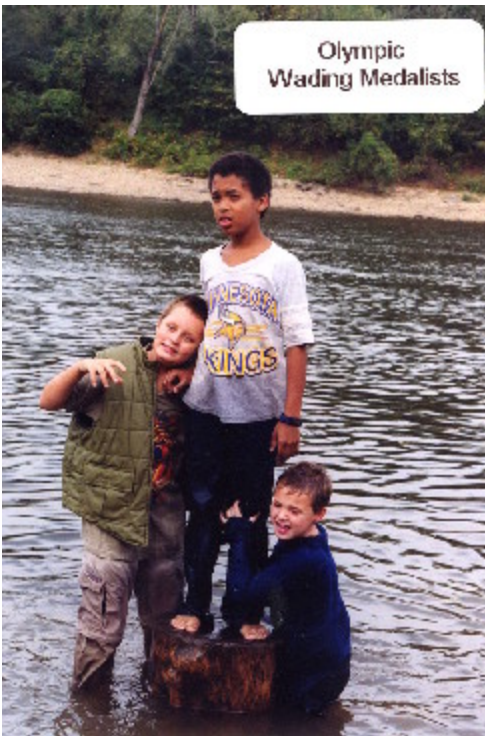


May 2004

Dear parents of 4th, 5th and 6th graders,

It is time again for the First Free church semi-annual children's hike. Children who attend Junior Church, Adventure Club, Stockade, Vacation Bible School and ESL Classes at Salem Free are invited.

We will meet at First Free' Parking lot, 52nd and Chicago Avenue at 9:00 am on Saturday, June 5. We will be hiking along the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. Current plans take us near the Sibley House in Mendota. After the hike, at about 5:00—6:00 pm, we will drive the children to their homes or other designated spot. Please note, you ARE required to take your children back, even if you don't recognize them (see below for details). If your child needs a ride to church, that can be provided.



Everyone should dress for the weather. We go even if there is rain but may do something indoors. Over the years we have had rain, snow, hale and fog, basically every type of weather except tornados.

Long pants are best because of aggressive fauna and flora — including nettles, mosquitoes, bees, ticks and poison ivy. Also, even on a dry day, there will be mud. Mud is a magnet for children of this age group so shoes will invariably get muddy.

We ask all who own back packs to bring them to help carry food, drinks and snacks. Hikers may bring personal snacks as well if they wish. We will also provide insect repellent and sun screen but those who get lathered up at home will be the best prepared.

We ask for a donation of \$5.00 to help cover the cost of food and photos.

When your child arrives home he or she may not be alone. Often the hikers bring back insects, reptiles and amphibians unless they

have been give clear ground rules regarding the type of pets allowed. They might even have a few hitchhiking ticks and should be checked at bath time. Washing off thoroughly will also help prevent poison ivy if any has been inadvertently touched.

We will call around to confirm attendance. Guests are allowed if cleared with Mary or Ross.

Ross Olson 612-824-7691
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