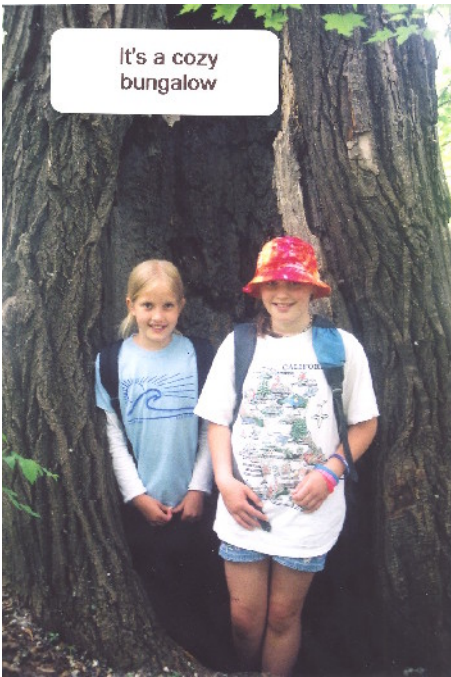


September 2005



Dear 4th, 5th, 6th Graders' Parents,
(and you kids can read it, too, if you haven't forgotten how over the summer)

The Children's Hike has grown from humble beginnings — with 5 or 6 kids and two leaders back in the 1980's — to a massive movement of humanity and equipment which may include over 30 kids and up to 10 leaders. The next adventure will take place on Saturday, September 17.

As usual, we meet at 9:00 at the parking lot across the street from First Free Church (5150 Chicago Avenue South in Minneapolis.) If you need a ride to church, we can arrange that. Dress for the weather. **LONG PANTS ARE THE BEST REGARDLESS OF THE TEMPERATURE** because of poison ivy and nettles. Comfortable hiking shoes are important but pick ones that are OK to get muddy — because they will.

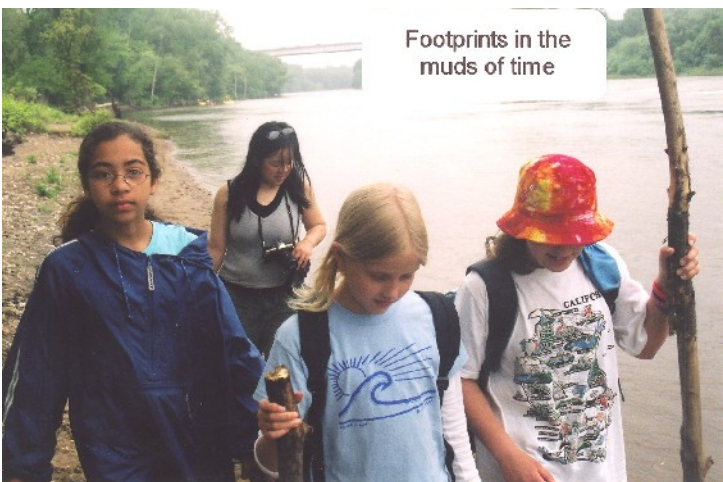
We go ahead with the event in any weather and have indoor alternatives if it gets really nasty. We bring the kids home at the end of the day, which usually means those on the first part of the route may be home by 5:00 and some may be on the road until 6:30 or so.

Don't forget to douse your kids with sunscreen and bug repellent. We will also have some along for second and third doses. We will feed them snacks and lunch and provide drinks that they will help carry. If kids want to bring their own extra snacks, that is fine. If you have a back pack, bring it because we will need to have many Sherpas to share the load.

We will be hiking along the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers near the Sibley House. For at least part of the day we will tour the Sibley House and participate in their special activities. This year, there will be an Irish Wolf Hound show. (Mary — who is Irish for those who never heard — will be asked to regale us with the history of the breed!) We take pictures of the events and will display them with appropriate captions and also send out a packet of pictures to each person who attends.

Kids often want to bring home souvenirs, living, once living or never living. Examples include bugs, frogs, snakes, skulls, rocks, sticks and cast off railroad spikes. Make the rules of your house clear to your wild game hunter/ archaeologist so that you are not surprised by what's in the backpack at the end of the day.

Friends can be invited if they are in the 4th, 5th or 6th grade, but we need to know in order to make proper plans. We will be calling through the list beginning about Monday September 12 to find out who is coming. If you do not get a call from us, please call us at the numbers on the bottom.



Cost will be \$10.00 this year to cover the cost of lunch, 3 snacks, pictures and admission to the historic buildings at Sibley House. Scholarships are available for those who need.

If you need to reach us during the day, Ross' cell phone is 612-719-6165 and his beeper is 612-538-8179.

Also pray for us that we will have good weather, a safe hike for kids and adults, an increased appreciation of the world God has made and a growing friendship with each other.

Mary Anderson 612-824-5573
Ross Olson 612-824-7691

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