



September 2008

Dear Parent of a 4th, 5th or 6th Grader,



It is time again for the semi-annual Children's Hike (not to be confused with "The Children's Crusade" or "The Long March.") On Saturday, September 27 we will meet at 9:00 am to begin. Those who need rides to church call the phone numbers at the bottom of this letter. Children who participate in activities at First Free Church will meet at the parking lot across from the church at 5150 Chicago Avenue South. Those who participate in activities at Salem will meet there, 3100 14th Avenue South. High School students may be invited to come as "herders" and helpers. Parents are always welcome as chaperones and drivers. We will travel by vans to the Sibley House on the Minnesota River.

We will be gone all day and will bring the children back to their homes between 5:00 and 6:30 pm. Lunch and snacks will be provided and pictures will be taken to be distributed to the children later and posted at the churches. A donation of \$10.00 is appreciated to help cover the costs.



Everyone should dress for the weather — at that date we could expect anything from heatstroke to frostbite and have dealt with sleet, snow, rain or hail at hikes in the past. We go regardless of the weather and have backup indoor activities if absolutely necessary. But

long pants and old shoes are advisable because nettles and poison ivy grow well in the area and because near the conjunction of land and water, shoes always seem to get muddy.



Kids may bring snacks and water bottles if they wish although we usually have plenty. A personal back pack is very helpful as we need to divide up the supplies that we carry along the way. In the morning we hike down the river and back. Then we eat lunch on the grounds of the Sibley House. In the afternoon we will be able choose to tour the historic buildings or climb the sand cliffs.



Traditional activities include bone and fossil collection, searching for loose railroad spikes, Cheeto stuffing contests, stone skipping demonstrations and capture of small creatures like frogs, turtles, snakes, or insects with intent of domesticating them. If you have regulations regarding re-entry into your home of record, please make it known to your intrepid explorer prior to the hike or you may be forced to release them in your front yard.



We will be calling all on our mailing list the week before the hike but if you can call ahead of time, that would be much appreciated and call for sure if you do not hear by from us by two days ahead, or about 9/25.

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James Amstutz

Marilyn Fisher