



May 2011

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



It is that time of year again! The spring edition of the Children's Hike will take place on June 4. First Evangelical Free joins forces with New Salem Church to produce a moderate-sized herd of children sheep-dogged by teen helpers and more distantly accompanied by a plodding group of adult "volunteers."



The Salem group will meet at 3101 14th Ave. S. The children who have come to First Free for Junior Church, Stockade or Girls Rock will meet across the street from church in the parking lot on the corner of 52nd and Chicago Avenue. We will be going to Pike Island in the Ft. Snelling State Park and then along the cliffs below the Fort and perhaps, all the way to the Coldwater Creek delta .

Come to church before 9:00 am. If you need a ride to church, let us know. We will return ALL the children to their HOMES at the end of the day, usually between 5:00 and 6:30 pm. If you want

your child dropped off at another location, be sure we know that, **but you are required to take your child back again!** Food and drinks will be supplied and pictures taken. A donation of \$10.00 is appreciated. Also, if you can bring a back pack, it will help when we divide up the drinks and snacks, and will make it easier to carry home souvenirs. By the way, besides rocks, bones and shells, sometimes living creatures also find their way into the collections. If they are not welcome in your home, be sure your intrepid explorer knows the limits. ("But I promise to feed it, Mom! Ross says they eat household and garden pests.")



We go regardless of the weather and occasionally need to go indoors for part of the day in case of things we can't deal with... but we can deal with almost anything. Kids should dress for the weather but even if it is hot, long pants and tennis shoes are recommended because the nettle crop is already coming up thick and fast. Shoes should be ones you don't mind getting muddy because there is always mud and some sort of a magnetic attraction occurs between kids and mud.



We will call all on our list to confirm who is going, but if you call back to the number below or e-mail, with either a "yes" or a "no," that will simplify our planning. Call, too, if you have questions or want to bring a guest or need to leave early or if you do not hear from us by June 1.

Also, those of you who have been helpers, YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE. Call us as soon as possible and so we know if you will be there. Vans are appreciated!

Ross Olson e-mail ross@rossolson.org, 612-824-7691 home, 612-719-6165 cell