

Oconto River Kids

Oconto River Kids is a group of outdoor enthusiasts who assist kids with life threatening illnesses attain their outdoor dreams through hands on outdoor adventures.

The group began with a landowner who envisioned a volunteer group providing hunting and fishing opportunities for critical ill children and their families in Northern Oconto County. He contacted the local DNR officer who was like-minded and they dedicated themselves to this idea. They immediately identified other key individuals who shared their vision. Oconto River Kids continues to grow, but maintains its simple grass roots approach to providing a unique experience for critically ill children and their families.



Children and Mentors - Oconto River Kids 2013 Bear Hunt

Our signature event is the annual Oconto River Kids Bear Hunt. We will be hosting nine critically ill children and their families in September of this year. A great deal of planning and prep work goes into this event. Everything from the Black Bear tags, hunting land, bait, mentors, dog teams, hunting assistants, taxidermy, butchering, housing and meals is either volunteered or donated. Without our wonderful volunteers and supporters, Oconto River Kids would never have become a reality.



The 2014 hunt will be dedicated in memory of Jacob Van Schyndel who successfully hunted with our group last year. Jacob lost his valiant fight against cancer early this year. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to his family and friends. We had a great hunting experience with Jacob and his father.

Our group is completely funded through the generous donations of time, money and gifts from people who believe in our mission. If you are interested in our organization there are a number of venues for your support.

1. Cash Donations: We are always in need of funds to cover our expenses. Please consider a specific gift to any of the following expenses:

* *Accommodations:* We provide all accommodations free to the children and families. This is a significant expense given that some of the children and their families stay multiple weekends during the bear hunting season.

* *Meals*: We provide all meals free to the children and families. This includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

* *General Expenses*: We have general expenses similar to any organization.

* *Taxidermy*: Last year five of our six kids harvested animals. We provide a bear rug or shoulder mount for each successful hunter. We are fortunate to have taxidermists who provide their services at reduced costs. 2. **Bear Permits**: If you have accumulated preference points towards a bear tag and would like to donate a future bear tag to a critically ill child, please contact Warden Joe Paul at (715) 416-0086.

3. Volunteers: If you would like to volunteer in some capacity please contact Eric Bonatz at (773) 391-8363 or Warden Lee Posusta at (715) 850-1818. We are always looking for new volunteers and supporters.

Please mail any checks to:

Oconto River Kids

P.O. Box 288

Mountain, WI 54149

Oconto River Kids is a volunteer group and is not a IRS 501(c)(3) organization..