

Project Get Outdoors Experience Explore & Get Outdoors

December 2011

Project GO Moves Forward in 2011

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Project GO is on the Go!

2011 has been a year of transition, and good things are happening. Thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers and supporters, Project GO has continued to get kids outdoors in many southeastern Minnesota communities. In 2011, Project GO clubs met at libraries, schools, churches, youth centers, low-income apartment complexes, and city parks throughout SE Minnesota. It's been a busy year!

Project GO has some very exciting announcements:

Terry Erickson moved into the role of Project GO Executive Director in September 2011.

Terry is looking forward to moving the organization forward so that even more kids will get outdoors and connect with nature (See page 2 to learn more about Terry).

Project GO has a new website! We can now be found online at www.mnprojectgo.com.

Check it out! A big thank you to volunteers Neil Maffitt, Dan Spors, and Katie Sanvick for creating the website, which is already becoming a hub of activity and information for families, volunteers and Project Get Outdoors supporters.

And finally, Project GO has a new office location.

We are now located at 153 West Wabasha Street in Winona, just one block off the WSU Campus. Project GO is indeed moving forward into 2012 and beyond, with plans to create more outdoor experiences for kids!



"The mission of Project Get Outdoors is to facilitate outdoor experiences that build healthy kids and increase environmental stewardship behaviors."

Meet Terry Erickson....

Project GO's Executive Director



Project Get Outdoors has new leadership with the recent addition of Executive Director Terry Erickson. Terry has over 25 years of experience in working with non-profits and is looking forward to working with Project Get Outdoors. His gift as an administrator has been to identify and develop strong partnerships that include both private and public sectors. Terry's comments: "The program is poised to grow and bring services to schools and other partners across Minnesota who are looking to establish quality outdoor experiences for their children. It all begins with a committed board and staff and a good plan. It's amazing what can happen when you align the right people who are committed to a mission. I hope others will join Project Get Outdoors by taking advantage of the volunteer opportunities available through the program and supporting our efforts through a financial contribution as well."

Project GO Contact Information

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Find us online at www.mnprojectgo.com

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LIKE US ON 



Did you know that only 6 % of children ages 9 to 12 play outside on their own during a typical week? You can join Project Get Outdoors and the movement to get more kids playing outside and exploring nature. If you want to find out how to get involved in your community....

Send email to info@mnprojectgo.com

Or call us at 507-313-0379

An Update from Sara

"Wow!" That's how I would summarize the 2011 year for Project GO. There have been a lot of BIG changes to our organization this year. Highlights include:

- Transition away from a formal partnership with the MN Department of Natural Resources
- Relocation of the Project GO office/headquarters to Winona, Minnesota
- Announcement of two new staff people: Terry Erickson (Executive Director) and Rhonda Donnay-Rice (grantwriter/marketing)
- New GO Website completion
- Wrap up of Project GO Toolkit
- New GO pilot programs at child care centers in SE Minnesota

As most of you know, I have been wearing many hats over the past years as grant writer, program coordinator, administrator and volunteer coordinator. That is why I am very excited that Project GO now has a team of staff members committed to growing this program throughout Minnesota. Project GO staff have been holding weekly meetings each Monday morning at the new Winona office and are developing a strong strategic plan for the coming years.

With these new staff additions, I can now focus my efforts on the Project GO Toolkit and the development of a training program for Regional Coordinators who will eventually work with local communities and provide the

training for program leaders and volunteers in each region.

There is a lot of interest around the state to bring Project GO to new communities. Over the past year I have presented at a number of conferences and workshops including the Midwest Environmental Educators Association, Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association and the National Association of Interpretation to share the message of Project GO and how communities can implement after-school nature programs using the existing resources of their communities. We have a waiting list of communities that want Project GO!

The coming year will definitely be a year of continued growth as we try to pilot some programs around the Twin Cities/Metro area while expanding our effort westward toward the Mankato area. We are looking at some Minnesota colleges to help us develop an independent study experience program (ISE) that would be recognized by the colleges and universities throughout the State. The ISE would generate a secure pool of qualified students to help champion this effort in communities around Minnesota.

I want to personally thank everyone who has given their time and their dollars to Project GO. These programs exist because of the strong volunteer network that Project GO continues to develop and the generous donations of our supporters and collaborating organizations.

Here's looking toward another great year!

Sara Grover is Project Get Outdoors' founder and Statewide Program Coordinator



Volunteer Showcase

Sandy Sullivan, Chatfield GO

Sandy Sullivan, the Chatfield GO Club leader, has been a Project GO volunteer since 2009. She has enjoyed many activities with her GO club, including building quinzes (igloos), the Outdoor Olympics, snowshoeing, and digital photography. Sandy, a retired biology teacher, continues to teach part time in the Biology Department at Rochester Community & Technical College. Her hobbies are gardening in the summer and snowshoeing in the winter, and she loves to go hiking and birding all year round.



Sandy and the Project GO kids in Chatfield

Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center is a key partner for the Chatfield Project GO program. The ELC helps coordinate a monthly activity at the Chatfield GO site, providing equipment and staff to connect the kids to local nature experiences. This partnership allows Project GO an opportunity to introduce children to more diverse outdoor experiences and skills. And the children are developing awareness of the ELC and its mission and program offerings.



Thanks so much to our 2011 partners and supporters:

Steve & Nancy Bachler
North Face-Planet Explore
Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
Sheltering Arms Foundation
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Wells Fargo Bank
Becké Johnson
THINK Mutual Bank
Mayo Clinic
Parents Magazine
Fleet Farm
Winona Health - Healthy Kids Club

Support Project Get Outdoors!

Yes! I want to help!

I pledge \$ _____

Please make checks payable to : Project Get Outdoors, Inc.
Mail to: Project Get Outdoors, P.O. Box 51 Winona, MN 55987

Your name: _____
Group or Organization: _____
Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____

Thanks for your support!

Project GO is a 501c3 organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

You can also donate to Project Get Outdoors on our website

Go to www.mnprojectgo.com

Click on the GiveMN button and make your donation today!











Have some fun in the woods this winter tracking animals!





Thanks to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for this tracking guide.

Guide To Animal Tracks













F - front track
H - hind track
T - tail marks may be present

	
WHITE-TAILED DEER 2 1/2" to 3"	MOOSE 4 1/2" to 5 1/2"
	
DOG - 2 1/4" to 4"	COYOTE H - 2 1/4"
	
RED FOX H - 2"	GRAY FOX F - 2"
	
BOBCAT - 1 7/8"	HOUSE CAT - 1 to 2"




TRACK PATTERN

	
LYNX H - 3"	FISHER - 2 1/4"
	
OTTER - 1 1/2"	WEASEL - 1/2" to 1"

TRACK PATTERN

	
RACCOON H - 4"	STRIPED SKUNK H - 2"
	
PORCUPINE H - 3 1/4"	BEAVER H - 6"
	
BLACK BEAR H - 7"	OPOSSUM H - 2"
	
WOODCHUCK H - 2 1/4"	MUSKRAT H - 2 1/2"
	
SNOWSHOE HARE H - 5"	COTTONTAIL RABBIT H - 3 1/2"
	
GRAY SQUIRREL H - 2 1/4"	WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE - 1/4"

TRACK PATTERN

		
CROW - 2 1/2"	TURKEY - 4"	RUFFED GROUSE - 2"

Tracks are not to scale