

Project Get Outdoors Experience Explore & Get Outdoors

December 2010

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2010 Year In Review

Thanks to our amazing volunteers and program leaders, Project Get Outdoors (GO) is wrapping up another successful year! Highlights from 2010 are summarized below.

-14 communities in Se Minnesota participated in Project GO programs.

-More than 263 separate GO activities were offered.

-Attendance at GO activities and special events surpassed 5,000.

-Project GO programs met at libraries, schools, churches, youth centers, low-income apartment complexes and city parks throughout Se Minnesota.

-Our partnerships with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Boy Scouts of

America enabled us to provide canoeing, archery, ice fishing and many other activities for program participants in the region.

-In-kind staff support from the MN Department of Natural Resources allowed us to expand our programming reach throughout the state.

The complete 2010 Annual Report will be posted on the Project GO website after the new year.

For more information on Project GO, please visit us online at:

www.mnprojectgetoutdoors.org.

Thanks to all for another great year!

Sara Grover, Founder & Coordinator



GO Toolkits Nearing Completion



The first 50 Project GO toolkits are nearly complete!

These toolkits, which consist of a Leader's Handbook and accompanying CD-Rom, Training DVD, Activity Backpack (upper right photo), and Equipment Trunks (lower right photo), are available free-of-charge to communities in Southern Minnesota that have identified volunteers committed to building a local GO program.

Individuals interested in helping start up a program in their community are provided a checklist of planning tasks to complete before Project GO staff issue the Toolkit resources and begin implementing training for community volunteers.

Detailed, step-by-step information will be posted on the Project GO website, currently being redesigned.



We Need Your Help!

Don't worry if you aren't financially able to contribute to Project GO. There are several other ways you can help our non-profit organization continue to serve children and families throughout Minnesota.

1. Volunteer with a GO program near you! Program leaders are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to come share an outdoor skill or assist with chaperoning fieldtrips and activities.

2. Get involved in bringing a GO program to your community. It takes between 5 and 10 committed individuals to lead the effort in their town or city. You could be the one to spark your community's interest in GO. Project GO will provide free training and activity resources if you help provide the

manpower. Visit our website to find out what steps you need to take to bring GO to your community!

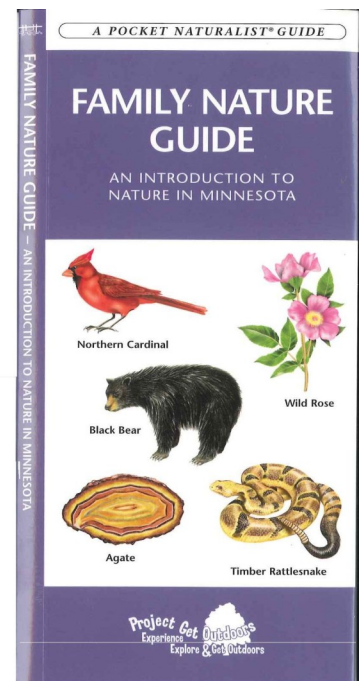
3. Participate in Good Search when you shop and search on-line. You can go to <http://www.goodsearch.com/newtoolbar/index.aspx> and find Project Get Outdoors under "participating non-profits". Once you download this toolbar onto your computer, pennies will be donated to GO every time you use it to shop or search on-line .

4. Purchase a Project GO Family Nature Guide. Why buy 10 different, bulky field guides when you can have one that fits in your pocket? This laminated, 10-panel guide, produced by Waterford Press, makes an excellent gift for fami-

lies and children. This pocket naturalist field guide is designed to introduce families to the common plants, animals, insects and minerals in Minnesota. You will receive one free with your donation of \$25 or more. You can purchase them separately for \$10 each. Use the donation/order form attached to this newsletter to place your order! Shipping is included in the cost.

5. Donate gently used outdoor gear and equipment.

Do you have fishing poles or camping gear cluttering your basement or garage? Is that canoe spending it's life mounted on the side of the shed? Project GO is happy to accept your gently used outdoor gear. These items can be claimed on your taxes as charitable donations based on their value. Call 507-932-3007 ext. 226 to find out how to donate outdoor gear.



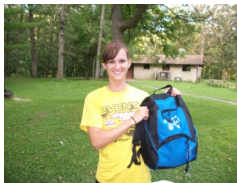
Volunteer Showcase

Meggy Waletzki, Rochester GO

Meggy is a recent graduate of Winona State University's Recreation program. She interned last year with Project GO and during that time got her feet wet leading two GO programs in Rochester.

Meggy currently oversees the GO program at Bamber Valley Elementary School in Rochester and is working to get a program going again in Spring Valley.

Meggy enjoys teaching Tae Kwon Do, riding dirt bikes and camping.



Meggy Waletzki posed in August with her Project GO Activity Backpack.

Zachary Larsen; Eagle Scout Volunteer



Zach Larsen, a boy scout from Rochester, volunteered many of his summer hours building field desks for Project GO. These desks will be used by Project GO participants during a variety of outdoor exploration activities.

Thanks!

To our major partners, volunteers, donors, and sponsors...

- Bethany Benike, Summer Intern
- Boy Scouts of America—Gamehaven Council
- Dan Miller, Project GO Bus Driver
- Dan Spores, Website Design Volunteer
- Experiment in Rural Cooperation
- Joel Dunnette, Rochester Area Volunteer
- Katie Sanvick, Graphic Design Intern
- Mayo Clinic
- MN Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund
- MN Department of Natural Resources
- Olmsted Medical Center
- Rochester Community & Technical College
- St. Mary's University
- The Sheltering Arms Foundation
- Think Mutual Bank
- Tracy Tapp, Image Bridge Design
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- University of Minnesota Extension Service

Support the Project Get Outdoors Program

Yes! We want to help!

We would like to donate \$_____ **OR**

We would like to purchase _____ (#) Family Nature Guides at \$10/piece for a total of \$_____.

Please make checks payable to: Project Get Outdoors, Inc.

Mail to: Project Get Outdoors, Inc., Whitewater State Park, 19041 Hwy 74, Altura MN 55910 .

Name of Sponsoring Group: _____

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