

School Environmental Clubs in Wisconsin

Feature Club – Luxemburg-Casco Conservation Club



Advisor

Charlie Frisk, Luxemburg-Casco Science Teacher

Meetings

15 minutes once per week from 7:45-8:00 am to plan their next event

Membership

80 on roster, 40 active at a given time
\$2.00 membership fee

Activities

Fall – Water quality research, DNR open house, fundraising walk, Governor’s High School Conference on the Environment

Winter – Cross-country skiing

Spring – Earth Day civic activities

Summer – Canoeing, camping, water quality research

Other – teach younger kids, academic competitions – Envirothon and Ocean Bowl



Overview

Charlie Frisk has been the Conservation Club advisor at Luxemburg-Casco High School for 24 years. He enjoys having a Conservation Club because “it gives me an opportunity to give students a closer relationship with nature. By getting students involved in field research, canoeing, cross country skiing, and other outdoor activities it is possible to create interests that will last a lifetime. It has been said that people will only save what they know and love and my goal is to help create that knowledge and love.” Charlie’s commitment to the club is big – he gives up many Saturdays to lead trips and host activities. He has found it rewarding to connect with his students and often included his own children when they were younger.



At the 2007 Midwest Environmental Education Conference, Charlie presented the following information about his club and offered tips for other environmental club advisors:



Student Involvement – Students sign up for the activities in which they are interested. Generally there are always enough students to participate. Students participate because activities are fun and they feel like they are making a difference. It is always best to collect money and get student commitment ahead of time.

Perks – Charlie brings rice crispy treats for most activities. On long days the group orders pizza. Every field trip ends with an ice cream stop. If the activity involved research the ice cream is paid for by the club, otherwise students are told to bring money ahead of time.

Credit – Charlie once tried offering activities in a manner that allowed students to earn credit. This wasn't a draw for many students. He finds they participate because they view the activities as fun and out of personal interest.

Behavior – Students and parents must sign a permission form for activities that states alcohol and behavior policies. (See last page.)

Chaperones – Charlie invites past graduates to help with trips such as canoeing. He will plan the trip dates around schedules of his chaperones because their involvement is important to trip success.

Liability – Charlie reminds club advisors that they are always on duty as a teacher, even on fun trips. You must be ready to deal with an emergency at any time.

Club Finances – There is a \$2.00 membership fee for the club. Other activities are paid for through fundraisers. The best Charlie has found is the CFL Bright Idea Fundraiser offered through the KEEP Program (www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/keep/StudentInvolvement/index.htm#Fundraiser). The “fun” trips (canoeing, skiing, camping) cost \$15.00 per person. Students must pay this ahead of time to hold their spot. Without a fee for these type events students tend to sign up, not show, and take a space from another willing participant.

Transportation – Charlie's license allows him to drive his own bus for field trips which he feels is a blessing. He does not feel comfortable having students drive themselves. If he didn't drive, the group would spend most of their energy fundraising for transportation.



Community Involvement – The Conservation Club gets involved with community-based and statewide research projects. Finding professionals who will host an activity is a great way to add diversity to the club’s outings. Once a club builds its reputation local organizations will begin to contact the club for help with projects. These relationships are important to maintain or the organizations will not call again. Sometimes activities are done in conjunction with other classes and schools.

Words of Wisdom – Charlie sees fewer and fewer young teachers getting involved with activities like he offers his students. So many teachers fear liability or are willing to spend non-work time on activities. He encourages more young teachers to get involved in environmental club activities and keep the traditions like those he has developed alive.

Sample Permission Slip



Luxemburg-Casco High School

512 Center Drive, P.O. Box 410, Luxemburg, WI 54217
 Phone:(920) 845-2336 Fax:(920) 845-2280

Steve Okoniewski Principal	Peter Kline Director of Technology
Jennifer Bandow Athletic Director	Nancy Frank Guidance Counselor
	Peter Geissler Guidance Counselor



Permission Slip

I hereby grant permission for my child to go on the Conservation Club Canoe Trip June 21-23. I understand that if my child is suspected of using alcohol, marijuana, or any other illegal drug that they will be taken to the nearest available police station for testing. I give parental permission for the police to administer Breathalyzer, urine, or blood tests if there is probable cause to suspect use of any illegal substance. I understand that if found guilty of using alcohol, marijuana, or any other illegal drug while on this trip that my child will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law as well as being subject to suspension from school and any other school penalties. I also understand that I will have to come to the police station to pick up the student. Tobacco use of any type (chewing tobacco also) is forbidden on school trips and if my child is found guilty of possession or usage of tobacco I will have to come get them and they will face suspension from school.

Parent’s signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent’s Daytime Phone Number _____

Parent’s Nighttime Phone Number _____

Student’s signature _____ **Date** _____