

2018 *Wolves and Northwoods Carnivores*

Student Quotes

“This J-term class has meant the world to me both academically and socially...I’ve done so many cool things during this course and I’m nothing but happy that I applied and got myself here. I’m so grateful for all the opportunities and I’m honestly kind of sad that the course is coming to an end...Whether that be socially, physically, or emotionally, this class definitely gave me memories that I will keep forever.”

- *Gustavus Adolphus College* student

“This is one of the most memorable classes that I have ever taken... This course has taught me many new skills that will be unforgettable...This class is one of the best college experiences that I’ve had so far.” – *Buena Vista University* student

“Seeing as I am a History major with a minor in Political Science, this trip was not aimed at me at all. I quickly learned, however, that this would be one of the best “vacations” I will ever take. I learned everything I expected to about the flora and fauna of Minnesota. However, the staff took everything a step past the plants and animals...Sitting here the day before I leave, looking back on this trip I feel myself begging to do it over again. The experiences that I had were simply amazing.” – *La Grange College* student

“Every day of the three weeks I have spent with the Audubon Center I have been able to advance myself in my future endeavors... It was a great opportunity to be with students from all over the country and work together... I received many more opportunities than I initially expected when I first signed up with the program. With this course alone, I may be able to fill up the rest of my college career with internship opportunities... Overall this course has been an amazing experience and has helped shape my personal and professional life.” -*Franklin College* student

“Over the course of the past three weeks, I have learned a lot, not only about tracking and carnivores, but also about myself. I couldn’t have asked for a better course to go through for my Winter Term. There are some things that we have to figure out through life, like what we want to do for the rest of it, and this course definitely pointed me in the right direction...I feel like I never paid any attention to what was around me until I went through this course. Through the past three weeks, I also found that I improved and grew as a person... I now understand what this course is all about. Even though you focus on wolves and carnivores, you also get to find yourself in the process, and I would recommend it to anyone. If someone wanted a life-changing experience, I would point my finger in this direction.”

- *Eckerd College* student

“This has been a life-changing experience...I am ever so grateful for that crazy spur of the moment decision to take this course...I have pushed my boundaries, tested my limits, tried new things, met new people and overall broadened myself as a student and as an individual...All this knowledge and

experience I have acquired will accompany from now on, rounding out my person and strengthening the choices I make throughout my life.” – *Carroll University* student

“I’m glad I heard about this course because the course content was phenomenal and very informational towards my career in the future... This class was able to teach me more in three weeks than some classes can in a semester. One thing that was amazing was the beauty and respect I have towards nature now... This class has made me feel like I have the knowledge to make a difference and educate people on why humans should treat nature better than we currently are.” – *Carroll University* student

“As my time at the Audubon Center for the Northwoods comes to a close, I can look back and only see an amazing adventure... What started as a resume building class that peaked my interest has turned into a lucky break for me, not only professionally but also for my soul... This course has really solidified the want to do wildlife conservation in me and I know that I am where I am supposed to be... I found myself trying to soak in every opportunity and every inch of the places we traveled to. It reinstalled a feeling of love and peacefulness in the wilderness that is so easy to lose in daily life... As I take my leave from this magical place, I know it will not be my last encounter. All of the skills, knowledge, and insights that I have gained here will continue to fuel my career and love for the environment for many days to come.”
-*Cornell College* student

“Overall, this experience is one I will never forget... Mostly I want to thank the staff for answering any questions I had and sparking my interest towards the outdoors in ways I had never seen them before.”
-*Buena Vista University* student

“I’m incredibly grateful for this trip and hope it’s not my last out here.” - *University of the Redlands* student

“I built my first fire, learned how to use a compass, learned how to do radio telemetry, cross-country skied and tracked for the first time. There were a lot of firsts for me on this trip and I’m so happy to have that experience now that I can utilize in my future... Overall, I definitely got a lot more out of this trip than I was expecting. I’m leaving with a growing passion for this field and excitement for my future. I had an amazing time here and I learned so much about research in the field, how to survive the winter, and how to utilize skills that I will be using for my future career. I’m excited for what is to come and I thank the Audubon Center for giving me so many amazing experiences I can carry with me for the rest of my life.” –*Carroll University* student

“This class was the experience to create change in me... Besides the people, the experiences that this trip has provided have been astronomical.”- *Black Hills State University* student

“I found myself loving every second of it. Not even the bitter cold deterred my enjoyment of learning how to cross-country ski or to identify animal tracks. I found that, after a while, the bite of the icy air on my face became familiar and even pleasant, for it reminded me that I was *alive*.” – *Calvin College* student

“What I experienced was an incredibly enriching journey filled with a healthy balance of classroom education, field discovery, and interpersonal relationships. I knew that I would love this course, I just didn’t anticipate just how much it would mean to me... The field experience was...incredible. It can be said with utter certainty that I will never experience anything like this course again in my life... Truthfully, I am extraordinarily grateful for being given the opportunity to participate in this course, for I’ve gained priceless knowledge while also gaining many new friendships that I sincerely hope will last beyond this trip. What a journey it has been; I am honored to have been a part of it.” - *Eckerd College* student

“Overall this course has been a once in a lifetime, incredible experience. I can say with confidence, I probably won’t do a lot of the things we did ever again, but I’m glad I was given the opportunity to experience it all.” - *Carroll University* student

“My experience in the wilderness itself was life-changing... Overall, I really loved this program. It gave me a new appreciation of nature and myself.” - *Oberlin College* student

“I had pretty big expectations from the syllabus and am happy to say I was not disappointed. I was actually blown away with how perfect everything was... Overall, I’m glad I didn’t get my trip to Galapagos Islands because it would have been nothing compared to this trip.” - *DePauw University* student

“The sheer amount of knowledge and experience I have gained in the last three weeks is astonishing. I do not think I will ever get the opportunity to learn in an environment like this... I loved every minute of this class. Whether we were in the classroom or out in the field, I took as much in as I possibly could... This course has renewed my vigor to fight for public lands and environmental education... The friendships I have forged on this trip have been some of the most meaningful I have ever had.” - *Carroll University* student

“Finding words for just how immensely this month has impacted me is proving extremely difficult... It taught me that there is so much in the world that is just waiting to be discovered, and it taught me not be afraid to step out of my comfort zone to make those discoveries. I never thought that I would learn so much about myself in such a short time.” - *Gustavus Adolphus College* student

“I found this to be an amazing opportunity to be able to experience all that I have on this trip... This entire program impacted me in so many ways. Thank you so much for all you have done to put this program together and make it flow as easily as it does. I will always cherish the memories and re-account the adventures that this trip has brought.” - *University of Wisconsin Stevens Point* student

“I loved this course and everything I got out of it, these experiences are something I will cherish for the rest of my life... I am so very thankful for this astonishing experience for three weeks... this course has shown the world has so many more options than anyone can imagine, it’s just a matter of being prepared, having an open mind, and being a little lucky.” - *Carroll University* student

"I can't believe I've gained so many new experience from the trip. Every single thing I've done in this course has been a lifelong goal for me... This is my fifth month in the United States, and I've never felt so welcomed and warm before." - *Oberlin College* student

"This course has been the opportunity of a lifetime. I have learned priceless career advice for the wildlife field, gained knowledge about the animals of the region, and have had an absolute blast doing it all. Northern Minnesota is one of the most beautiful places I've ever been, and the people I have met up here have all been wonderful... There is no other way I'd like to start my journey in wildlife work other than returning up to Minnesota as an intern at one of the many places we've visited... Aside from academic and career aspects of the course, the atmosphere and experience overall has no doubt been one of the best times of my life." - *Carthage College* student

"I didn't think it was possible to become such good friends with people you've only known for 19 days, but I was wrong...I know that true friends are hard to believe, but impossible to forget." - *University of Dubuque* student

"This trip was one awesome learning adventure and I most definitely would do it all over again...I learned so much and met some wonderful lifelong friends and network connections." – *Gustavus Adolphus College* student

"Looking back at these past 3 weeks, I have grown tremendously academically and personally...I never imagined being able to experience many of the activities we did...This class has been an amazing opportunity...What I have experienced and learned here have all greatly impacted me, and I will always remember this past month."- *Carroll University* student

"This course has been an experience beyond my wildest dreams. I could never have anticipated how this course would impact me...I accomplished things I never thought I could and did things I never dreamed I would. I had so many amazing experiences and met so many wonderful people. This course helped me grow as a person...This has been such a memorable experience for me and I'm so glad to have had the opportunity to take part in it." – *Carroll University* student

"It's hard to articulate such an awesome and expansive experience like this one, the people I met, places we visited, and things we saw all were components that synthesized one of the coolest things I have ever been part of. Above all, I will always be grateful for this opportunity to experience nature in a new way and how that showed me how I may bring better balance into my life." – *Black Hills State University* student