

What 2019 students are saying about

## ***Wolves and Northwoods Carnivores: Predator Ecology***

“This class is a perfect model of what education systems should look like...This class has not only demonstrated the importance of wolves in our lives, but also the people we surround ourselves with on a daily basis. It has been a positive experience that I will look back on forever.” – *University of Dubuque* student

“I can truly say that registering for this internship is one of the best decisions I have made...I feel like I learned way more from this three week class than I have in other traditional full semester courses... I could not be happier that I signed up for this course.” – *Franklin College* student

“I have learned more in this class than I have in any other course I have taken in college... I am leaving this class with a wealth of knowledge that will help me ensure our next generations have the capacity to save the populations of our endangered species, especially those in North America... What made this class truly amazing though are the people. For the past month, I have been surrounded by people filled with passion and knowledge for what they love. Listening to peoples’ stories of how their interest started and seeing how far they have come has been a blessing. Over this course, I don’t think I have ever laughed harder or smiled as much in a long time. I have made lifelong friends on this trip and through them, I have learned the most.” – *Carthage College* student

“This has been an incredible experience, from beginning to end...This course has been a refreshing immersion into nature that I haven’t had in a very long time...This is a course that I will remember for a lifetime...I’ve appreciated every moment of this adventure, and I’ll remember everything I’ve learned for the ones yet to come.” – *Blackhills State University* student

“The places we’ve been and the people we have met have become memories that I will be able to look back on and cherish for the rest of my lifetime. The knowledge that was shared with me is information that I will never be able to forget...This class changed my whole perspective on winter. It has made me find beauty in the snowfall and has given me excitement when I walk past new prints left behind from animals or when I find a kill site. This class has taught me to take a step back from the hustle and bustle that this world is so caught up in and appreciate the nature that surrounds us.” *Carroll University* student

“Participating in this course was one of the greatest decisions of my life...I will have these memories for the rest of my life, and hopefully I will have these friends for the rest of my life as well.” – *Hollins University* student

“This experience has changed my life in so many ways and it was worth every tear and bit of laughter in the end...I did not think that this course would have as much of an impact on me as it did, emotionally or professionally.” – *Gustavus Adolphus College* student

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“This class has honestly been one of the highlights of my college career, and I have no regrets about taking it or spending the money on it. I’ve made so many close friendships and connections with experts in my field, and I’ve had so many experiences that I wouldn’t have been able to do without signing up for this class... I am so happy I took this course because I was able to make so many good connections with so many wonderful people...I was initially worried about cost, who I would meet, what I would be doing, and if it would be worth it, but I can honestly say that I am beyond thrilled that I decided to take this course. I have gained knowledge, experience, and memories that you can’t put a price tag on.” – *Greenville University* student

“My love for animals was rekindled in this class as we learned about the unique adaptations of so many animals, what made them special, how they dealt with harsh environments, and what research was being done on them... Overall this j-term class was incredible.” – *Calvin College* student

“I was hoping that by focusing on a different old passion of mine (wolves and ecology) this course would sort of...refresh my mind. It did so much more than that. I could not be more pleased with this experience. Every day I learned so much and with this group of people I have been happier here than I have been in a long, long time...All in all, I learned more in this class than I ever dreamed I would.” – *Goucher College* student

“This class has been such an amazing experience for me, no matter how much I may have not wanted to come beforehand, I will always be endlessly glad that I did. I have met some of the most amazing and best people I could ever hope to meet. I have done amazing things, whether it be flying in an airplane using radio telemetry equipment to track wolves, or following my compass through waist deep snow, this class has allowed me to experience some of the most amazing things that I have ever done. Even the simplicity of following tracks through the woods, which I had done plenty of times before, was somehow made special by this class and the beauty of the Northwoods. This class has been one of the best experiences I have ever had, and I am so glad that I had the opportunity to participate in it.” – *Oberlin College* student

“Over those 18 frenetic days, I came to know and appreciate Minnesota in countless ways that I had never understood in my 18 years living here... To call this course “Wolves and Northwoods Carnivores: Predator Ecology” is, I believe, selling it somewhat short. Certainly, the biology lectures and information were a significant and integral part of our curriculum; yet we were exposed to so much more than just facts and figures... This course put me in contact once again with the “naturalist” in me, the same one that made me go out on a limb and switch to biology in the first place. Just as Sigurd Olson posited, I believe that there is a spiritual fulfillment that humans must periodically receive from these “wild” places in order to function to their greatest potential, and through this course I feel now, stronger than ever, the need to maintain a link to both the objective and subjective wonders of the natural world.” – *New College of Florida* student

“All in all, this January course in Sandstone, Ely, and Lutsen has been eye opening in the most positive ways possible. Meeting all of the amazing people here gives me insurmountable hope for the future of our wild lands.” – *Carroll University* student

“To me this trip was everything I could’ve hoped for and more...Because of this trip, the knowledge I have obtained, the experiences I have had, my future has been changed for the better...Conserving the beauty and awe of the natural world is my passion after taking this class...My life has forever been changed for the better.” –*Franklin College* student

“This trip has been something that I will never forget and an experience that I will be able to look back on for years to come... The knowledge that I have gained from this course is like no other experience I have ever had... I learned more in these past 18 days than I have ever learned in such a short time...I am very grateful for this opportunity and will forever reflect and look back at my many experiences that I have had here at the Audubon Center of the Northwoods.” – *Franklin College* student

“This time in Minnesota has refreshed an excitement within me that has been dwindling for a long time...I cannot put into words the fun and friendship I have experienced on this trip... I am now refueled both mentally and spiritually to work to the best of my abilities on educating others and conserving the natural world around me.” – *Franklin College* student

“Being a part of this class has taught me how to enjoy the little things in life like silence, nature, and living things (big and small)... Along the way I found out more about myself than I ever thought that I would. This trip gave me time to think about where I want to go with life and that alone is a win in my eyes.” – *Carroll University* student

“This course taught me a lot about my abilities, myself and how I viewed nature. I have never before had the appreciation for what was around me in winter.” – *Carroll University* student

“Over the past three weeks, I’ve learned and grown more than I could have imagined.” – *Gustavus Adolphus College* student

“I never thought that by the end of this course that I would be rethinking what I want to do with my life... Honestly I think I have gotten more out of this trip than any other trip I have gone on or class that I have taken.” – *Carroll University* student

“This class about wolves and carnivores has been an unbelievably amazing experience...I am very pleased that I came on this trip. I got everything I wanted out of it and more. I found what I want to do for a career.” – *Franklin College* student

“I learned that it is important to try new things and gain experience in things that aren’t necessarily related to what I plan to do with my life... The most beneficial thing that I learned on this trip was that I can get out of my comfort zone and I can overcome challenges... I think this course truly helped me overcome a lot of challenges and I have grown a lot during this course. I appreciate everyone involved in offering this course and changing my life.” – *Carroll University* student

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“This course offered so much more to me than I had anticipated, I feel like I am moving forward with new perspective and insight on top of the skills and knowledge I have gained... It is always so inspiring and refreshing to be surrounded by likeminded people who share similar passions and curiosities... This course really opened my eyes in more ways than one. I see the woods and wildlife differently, with more intent and understanding. There are so many subtleties that I am clued into now, it’s like I have learned a new language. I always find myself in such awe of how magnificent and intricate our world is, how vast the avenues of curiosity extend. I am grateful for the time we got to spend in such wonderful places... I am so inspired and reassured about the direction that I am heading. I am deeply grateful for this course and everyone who worked hard to make it happen.” - *University of Dubuque* student

“I wasn’t sure what to think of this class when I first signed up, but I can say now that I have no regrets. The unexpected new friends and the opportunities we had to experience several new adventures will stay with me for a lifetime. This course has opened my eyes on not only my viewpoint on wolves, but the opportunities there are in wildlife research.” – *Black Hills State University* student

“I never would have expected to get so much out of a two and a half week class. In some ways, I feel like I’ve gained more lessons on conservation and Northwoods ecology during this short period than I have in my prior five years of undergraduate studies. Like the jump into the crisp, frigid waters of Lake Superior during my polar plunge, this journey has awoken my senses and broadened my horizons. For that I’m eternally grateful and will do my best to honor and respect nature for the rest of my life.” – *Carroll University* student

“This trip has been an amazing journey. When I first signed up for this course, I was already super excited just to be immersed in this environment because of stories that my family told me about the Northwoods. But this class has completely exceeded my expectations... Overall, this trip was one of the best experiences of my life. It has truly been a life changing experience and I would not trade it for the world.” – *Franklin College* student