

Family Resiliency



# Outlook

## Summer Programming

Coulee Connections



2026



# Welcome to Outlook Summer Program!

Coulee Connections is excited to offer up the opportunity for a six-week Summer School Program available to students (ages 5-16) who may struggle to maintain within a normal summer school program. The Outlook Summer School Program will provide a structured learning environment for students to strengthen their foundational core strengths, practice skills related to emotional regulation, problem solving, formulating healthy relationships, and increasing their motivation to learn.



## **Program Highlights**

Dates: Jun 22nd - Jul 31st, 2026

Days: Mon - Fri (8am - 2pm)

Transportation needs to be arranged by caregivers/schools/ community services.

The six weeks will reflect a combination of hands-on experiential outdoor programming, as well as certified teacher-implemented activities designed to generate excitement for students about the learning process. Coulee will help kids remain acclimated to the structure and routine of school, better preparing them for the upcoming school year.

Coulee Connections' comprehensive approach helps youth who have difficulty finding success in traditional summer settings - thrive!

## Outlook Summer Programming provides youth with:

**ADVENTURE:** Summer is about creating moments of shared joy and summer magic. It's fun in the sun, hiking the trails or stomping through your favorite hidden creek. Go on exciting day trips, tackle team challenge courses and master outdoor survival skills.

**STRUCTURE:** Daily routine and structure help students practice balanced, relational patterns with adults and peers.

**ACADEMICS:** Outlook Summer Programming is an unforgettable experience bringing individuals together around experiential academic activities to strengthen their core academic skills of reading and math.



## Summer Activities Include...

- Fishing
- Canoeing
- Team Building Challenges
- Hiking in the bluffs
- Geo-caching
- Low ropes challenge
- Crafts
- Woodworking
- Campfire cooking
- Primitive Survival
- Swimming
- Music
- Creek Exploration
- Shelter Building
- Rockets
- AND SO MUCH MORE!!!

## Developmentally Aligned Age Groups

**Foundational Core Skill Implementation:** Often times this is skipped over. All students will work foundational skill practice and "student ready" skills. Some students level of need requires more time and attention spent to building the fundamentals of these skills individually before they can take on the challenges of collective group skills. We work with these students to install the foundational elements in a group that marries the right connections, with the right activities, in the right space to ensure that quality practice habits are occurring.

**Adventurers (ages 5-8):** Adventurers will have fun while learning to follow staff cues, meeting basic expectations, practicing transitions, and making friends.

**Explorers (ages 9-11):** Explorers practice following staff cues while developing social connections and learning social rules.

**Pathfinders (ages 12-14):** Pathfinders participate in self and group reflections while developing secure self identities.

**Expeditioners (ages 15-16):** Expeditioners learn self discovery, personal growth, interdependence, teamwork and compassion.

***\*\*Space available for ages 11-16 to attend the overnight wilderness trip.\*\****



## **Funding Options**

- Extended School Year (ESY)
- Mental Health Grant Dollars
- County Waiver Funds
- Community Foundations
- Children's Miracle Network Foundation Grant (Must meet specific criteria. Referrals directly to Matt Tepper.)

## Expeditions - Week 5 (If Appropriate)

Participants will have an opportunity to engage in an overnight wilderness trip. Opportunities for emotional and social growth are interwoven into daily demands of navigating life in the wilderness. Individual participants learn to apply skills as part of a collective group gaining team skills that translate back into being a productive member of their school classrooms.

Age group participants are evaluated for expedition consideration based on the progress participants show with relational and technical skills developed during Weeks 1-3. Actual participation in a wilderness trip will be the result of ongoing discussion between the Coulee team, caregivers and student. Students will be screened into the program by the end of the third week.

The first 4 weeks of summer programming will be spent preparing the hard skills that kiddos will need to have to help them during the daily routine. Week 5 trip dates are: Monday, July 20th through Friday, July 24th.

### **Porcupine Mountains (Expedition):**

Located near Lake Superior, kiddos will have an opportunity to spend the week hiking the beautiful trails, putting their hard and soft-skills to the test as they navigate the backcountry.

### **Longhouse Living (Explorers/**

**Pathfinders):** A two night stay at our Ranch location where students will take the skills they have been working on the first four weeks and engage in a camp-like atmosphere.



# Summer Schedule 2026

**Days:** Monday - Friday  
**Program Hours:** 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Week 1: June 22-26

Week 2: June 29 - July 2

July 3rd observed holiday ~ Off (No Programming)

Week 3: July 6-10

Week 4: July 13-17

Week 5: July 20-24

Week 6: July 27 - 31



# Family & Community Engagement

Bridging skills developed in Outlook Summer Programming to parents and community support teams is often a challenge. Our team offers caregivers, parents, and community support teams the opportunity to experience, learn and practice using Coulee's IMPACT framework.

IMPACT drives the way our caregivers interact with your kiddo in programming. We intentionally utilize the layering of foundational elements with our core Tasks to create healthy patterned practice opportunities to provide each participant with the best chance of getting into their, "learner brain". This process is integral to the success of all participants. We will be holding a Kick-Off to Summer Family night on June 18th from 4:30-7:00 PM at our building in La Crosse. We look forward to connecting in person to discuss the scaffolding of student readiness practice for the instillation of solid practice that will set your kiddo up for success both at home and within programming. If you are unable to attend the Kick-Off, before your child gets started a scheduled in-person meeting with a Case Manager should occur to ensure collaboration between care giver and Coulee Programming is aligned.

We will also offer additional services if there is curiosity from family members or community members who work directly with the kiddo participating:

- Family Fun Nights (dates to be determined)
- Targeted Skill Development for caregiver, family, and support teams
- Hands-on facilitated process training and relationship building in an experiential learning environment



## Mission

Coulee Connections compassionately unites the collective strengths of individuals, families, and community to embrace healing through inspired living.



## Circle of Security Informed Program

The Circle of Security-Informed program at Coulee Connections is a powerful and successful application of the Circle of Security framework, applied to an alternative educational setting and afterschool supports for Special Needs children, their parents, and their communities. It is essentially a revolutionary, integrative approach that promises real and stable change through community and residential programs that too often serve largely as long-term respite care without lasting change.



*-Bob Marvin, PhD.*

*Director, The Circle of Security Network*

## REFERRALS

**To make a referral, please complete our online referral application form at:**

[couleeconnections.com](http://couleeconnections.com) > Programs > Outlook Summer Program

**Questions, please contact Matt Tepper:**

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