



Pringle Nature Center Incorporated

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Dear Teachers,

During the past school year the staff here noticed how much food was being wasted by the students when the school group stayed for lunch after their program. This program, which is normally seen at residential environmental education facilities, will weigh the waste for those school groups that bring their lunch with them on the field trip. Mosquito Hill Nature Center located in New London, WI is a nature center similar to Pringle and has a No Waste Lunch program that was initiated during the spring of 2005 which has been very successful where schools in that area not only reduced their lunchtime waste, but in many cases, almost eliminate it completely. They have been gracious enough to share how they run their program for us to try here at Pringle.

It has always been important to us to emphasize recycling and composting during lunch time; however, we feel that more can be done to further reduce lunchtime waste. All field trip participants are encouraged to pack a low/no-waste lunch to bring with them to Pringle Nature Center. After lunch, each school will be asked to separate recyclables and items for composting from their trash. The trash will be weighed and the amount of trash per person will be calculated and recorded. The five schools that produce the least amount of trash per person will be featured on our Low/No Waste Lunch Hall of Fame board and the top school will receive a certificate. We encourage friendly competition among schools.

For those who sign up for a field trip and mark on the form that your group will be eating lunch here at the center you will be sent a *No-Waste Lunch Fact Sheet* that can be reproduced and sent home with your students prior to your visit.

Good luck and thank you in advance to help make this a successful program.

Valerie Mann, CIG
Naturalist
Pringle Nature Center

Putting People In Touch With Nature