A beautiful rustic camp on the banks of the Chippewa River

Trail's End Youth Camp

Rusk County, WI
Trail’s End Camp is a 189 acre licensed Rec/Ed camp owned by Rusk County located 2 miles northeast of Bruce along the Chippewa River. The camp is the ideal location for your group’s next retreat, conference, workshop, graduation, family reunion, or wedding. The camp offers plenty of space for indoor and outdoor activities. The facility consists of 9 cabins, dining hall, commercial kitchen, assembly room, infirmary and restroom/shower house. Numerous recreational facilities exist including a softball field, archery range, volleyball and basketball courts, swimming area, horseshoe pitch, outdoor amphitheater, barbecue pit, fire rings, challenge course and a swimming area with access to the Chippewa River. There are hiking trails that can be used for cross country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. Trail’s End Camp may be reserved by the day, week, or weekend.
Camp Map
Hundreds of years of Native American travel had made a known trail along the west side of the Chippewa River through today's Trail’s End Camp.

With the Homestead Act of 1862 settlers traveling along the old native trails would improve the road width to accommodate wagons and teams.

This improved road through Trail’s End existed by 1875 and was known as the “Chippewa Trail”

Sam and Sarah Johnson claimed the land for their own in 1874.
In 1881 the Big Bend Stage Line was built for people to travel from Chippewa Falls to a trading post 88 miles north. The line passed through Trail’s End Camp and is still partially visible today.
In 1886 the Arpin Hardwood Lumber Company purchased the land for logging and used the river to move them. By 1900 all of the trees had been cut down and the land remained empty and unused.

In 1928 the County of Rusk purchased the land.
In 1933, Claude Ebling, Rusk County Agent, took a plan to the Rusk County Commissioners to deed 86.1 acres of the land to the Rusk County 4-H Committee for use by Rusk County 4-H & FFA Clubs.

The resolution passed unanimously.
The summer of 1934 was the beginning of camp activities – nearly 600 people showing for this first official club outing.

A daily newspaper called the “Trails End Echoes” was printed daily to report the camp activities.

Crystal Spring tent with Naomi Schreiber. Camp opened for camping in 1934 and was mostly done in tents. Spruce cabin is now in this location.
In 1959 the camp expanded from 86 acres to 149.5 acres. Improved bridges were built and new larger buildings were added to provide food and entertainment to campers.

In 2018 received a 40 acre donation from James Hurley

Camp is now 189.5 acres
In 1967, written policies were established as to who should govern the operation of Trail’s End.

The Rusk County Agriculture Committee was given the authority to appoint six trustees to administer the camp.

The Trustees are known as the Trail’s End Trustees and there are currently representatives today from 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, ICAA Youth Programs, local schools, DNR, Public Citizen and the UW Extension Education & Recycling Committee.
Camp History
Kitchen
Ebling Hall
Cabins
Infirmary
Showerhouse
Soft Ball Field
Shooting Range
Archery Range
Challenge Course
GaGa Ball Pit
Basketball Court
Volleyball Court
Horseshoes
Camp Fire Pit
Outdoor BBQ Grill
Swimming Hole
Swinging Bridge
Youth Camp Fees

**Rusk County Groups**

Youth  $3.00/person/day  
Adult  $6.00/person/day  

**Out of County Groups**

Youth  $4.50/person/day  
Adult  $7.50/person/day  

**Additional charges will be made for electricity and LP gas used at the current rates, with a $2.00 minimum.**

Internet provided as a courtesy by BruceTel
Private Use Fees

Usage Rates
$250.00/day
$3.00 per person (overnight)

Security Deposit
$250 (refundable)
(Check is cashed and returned after event if there is no damage)

**Additional charges will be made for electricity and LP gas used at the current rates, with a $2.00 minimum.**
Private Use Overnight Information

- “Private Use” are groups that DO NOT provide a planned program of recreation or education. Those that do must follow the guidelines for rec/ed camps.

- Private users can use the lodging facilities. Up to 3 tents and/or tents or RVs are allowed. More than 3 require a temporary campground license. Cabin capacity is listed in all cabins and must be followed.

- There is a full commercial kitchen available for your use but there is no serving of food to the public.
Like us on Facebook
Contact Info.

Trail’s End Youth Camp
c/o Rusk County UWEX
Attn: Charmaine Riddle
311 E Miner Ave - Suite S140
Ladysmith, WI  54848
715-532-2151
715-532-2279 (fax)
charmaine@ruskcountywi.us

Check out our website for booking information:
www.ruskcounty.org/departments/trails-end-camp/