

News from the Road – March 2023

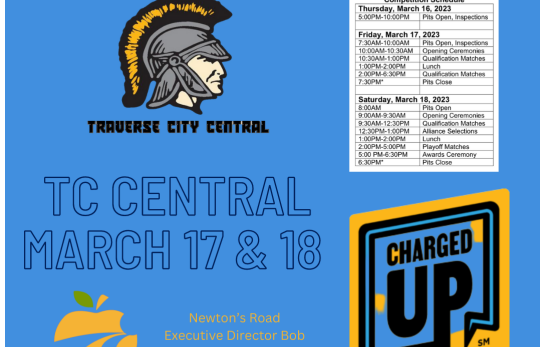


STEAM/Maker Alliance & Community Pop-Up Events were a success!

Our recent Pop-Up Events at the Great Lakes Children's Museum and the Elk Rapids Marina DAM Truck and Shop drew in participants of all ages to engage in STEAM celebration.

Look out for our next STEAM/Maker Alliance Event, **TADL MakerFest 2023** at the Grand Traverse Civic Center on April 29th from 10 am - 2 pm.

[View more photos on our Instagram →](#)



FIRST Robotics Competition

Traverse City Central High School Raptors Robotics team is hosting the Traverse City FIRST Robotics Competition the weekend of March 17 & 18. They need upwards of **150 volunteers to set up and run the competition**. Online and day-of training will be provided. *You also get a t-shirt and coffee & food are provided!* Volunteer positions include:

Registration, Scorekeeper, Photography, Cleaning Crew, Referees, and more! Our Executive Director, Bob, will be a judge!

[Learn more about this event →](#)

Great Start to Quality

Huge thank you to Great Start to Quality Northwest Resource Center for being a fantastic partner in offering a pre-K teacher professional development session about inquiry-based learning! We are thrilled with the positive teacher responses to deepening their use of open-ended questions with pre-schoolers.

[Learn more about how we work with educators →](#)



Chromatography Butterfly STEAM craft

Our STEAM Station take home activity for the month of March: chromatography butterfly. Create your own pattern!

[Follow instructions here →](#)



Thank you to our STEAM Station assembly volunteers!

Volunteers helped assemble 360 bags with take home activities for our STEAM Stations at 20Fathoms.

[Sign up to be a future volunteer →](#)

[Find our STEAM Stations →](#)



Greenspire Summer Programs

Sessions include STEM themes like reverse engineering, underwater ROVs, nature crafts, foraging in NoMi, learn how to build a boat, explore ancient earth through prehistoric discovery, create and fly a kite, and investigate the "digital playground" with coding, 3D printing, robotics programming and more.

[Learn about Greenspire's Summer Program →](#)

Norte Summer Bike Camps

When summer hits, Norte hits the streets and trails with our week-long, half-day **Summer Bike Camp**. This bike-tastic summer camp is for 1st through 8th-grade students in June, July, and August. We have camps in Traverse City, Glen Arbor, Elk Rapids, and more for 600 smiling riders. Check out our additional summer programming such as the Balance Bike Meet Ups, and Bikes for All Meet Ups.

[More info about Summer Bike Camps →](#)

ISEA Using STEM for Great Lakes Stewardship July 24-28

Join Inland Seas Education Association and Michigan Technological University for a fun-filled week of science, engineering, and stewardship. Combine technology like flowmeters and probes with waders and nets to assess water quality. Evaluate the effectiveness of shoreline protection solutions by designing and testing your own. Explore the effect of green infrastructure on water quality and test the ecosystem services provided by natural and human manufactured solutions. Participants will gain exposure to green and blue careers that center around the Great Lakes while learning about practices employed in the region to maintain water quality in the Grand Traverse Bay. Rising 8th through 10th graders encouraged to apply. Program runs 9-4 daily. For more information or to register, contact Trisha at Inland Seas. (231-271-3077 ext. 107)

[Email Trisha to learn more →](#)

Grand Traverse Conservation District Spring Camp

Celebrating spring break at the Boardman River Nature Center with fun and exciting activities every day of the week. Activities will include an extended Peepers program, Night at the Nature Center, a guided hike of the Great Lakes Incubator Farm, crafting, forest bathing, and lantern-lit hike. Details can be found at [natureiscalling.org](#).

[Stay tuned to their website to sign up →](#)

Camp Invention

Four schools in the area are hosting the Camp Invention: Wonder program this summer: **Old Mission Peninsula, Westwoods, Suttons Bay, Courtade.**

[Learn about Camp Invention →](#)



Nature Explorers International Day Camp

Earth Science Explorers, Age 7-11 July 24-27 Dig for real fossils, break open geodes, start a rock collection, make your own mineral testing kit, polish Petoskey stones, and erupt volcanoes! Learn about the rock cycle through hands-on experiments, creative art projects, discussion, and games. Outdoor exploration, live animals, and teamwork games will all be part of the fun.

Great Lakes Explorers, Ages 7-11 August 7-10 Explore the local environment through nature walks, games, art, and science experiments! Dip net for macro-invertebrates, handle live reptiles and amphibians, and identify mammal tracks.

Take a closer look at the paleontology of Michigan's pre-history. From Devonian age corals to woolly mammoths and giant beavers, what did the geologic timeline of life look like in Michigan compared to today?

[Learn about Nature Explorers International Day Camps →](#)



Grass River Natural Area Summer Camp

Registration opens today, March 9. Monday through Thursday (4 days). Open to ages 6 through 11. Your children can spend their summer catching salamanders in the wetlands, dipping nets in Finch Creek, building shelters in the woods, making tie dye, or enjoying the view along Grass River - perfect for the child that loves the outdoors. Campers may be divided into groups by age.

[Get the Details →](#)

NMC College for Kids!

Registration opens in April. Financial assistance application available [here](#). Options available for all ages, pre-k through grade 12.

[NMC College for Kids! Programs →](#)

Arts for All Happy Camper Days Grows

Arts for All partnered with NMC's College for Kids to offer a series of weeklong summer programs. Kids will do clay hand-building, yoga, sound meditation, mono printing, juggling, and singing. A second week-long summer program offering will get kids outside in July—a hands-on gardening experience at the Children's Garden next to the Traverse Area District Library on Woodmere. Open to ages 6 through adulthood.

Learn more about Happy Camper Days at [artsforallnmi.org](#). To sign up for the weeklong program in partnership with NMC, head to **NMC College for Kids** when registration opens April 4.

[Learn more here, register April 4 →](#)

4H Summer Camp

4-H Jr. Master Gardener Camp at the Botanic Gardens: Tuesday and Thursdays starting in June from 10am - 12noon). Each day, for participants in 2nd-4th grade, and 1pm-3pm each day will be for participants in grade 5th-7th grade.

Great Lakes Natural Resources Camp is a 4-H summer camp held July 23-29, 2023 at **Camp Chickagami** in Presque Isle, on the shores of Lake Esau. This year's camp includes 6 nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, a t-shirt, and experiential learning provided by MSUE staff, MSU Fisheries and Wildlife and MSUE Sea Grant. Camper age is 13-15 and they do not need to be a 4-H'er to attend.

[Register for 4-H Great Lakes Camp →](#)

[Donate Now](#)

Newton's Road Column
Read our bimonthly Newton's Road column in Families First Monthly! Each column introduces a topic and includes ideas for related home- and community-based activities for different-aged kids. Next issue comes out April 1, just click Newton's Road on the index page!

FAMILIES FIRST MONTHLY
a resource for parents

[Read our Newton's Road column →](#)