

Contact: Brad Gingras  
Camp Director  
Phone 715.682.9141  
Fax : 715.682.9181

CEP, Inc.  
P.O. Box 616  
Ashland, WI 54806

For Immediate Release

CEP, Inc.

## PRESS RELEASE

### **State of Wisconsin and Senator Jauch Recognize the Positive Impact of Crex Meadows Youth Conservation Camp**

The Crex Meadows Youth Conservation Camp in Grantsburg, Wisconsin, sponsored by Northwest Wisconsin Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (CEP, Inc.), is pleased to announce a grant from the State of Wisconsin Department of Commerce for the summer of 2008. The grant would not have been possible without the efforts of Senator Robert Jauch, who recognizes the importance of providing training and work experience for the region's youth.

The Crex Meadows Youth Camp is a unique opportunity for eligible teens from northwest Wisconsin. Campers work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on conservation projects at the 30,000-acre Crex Meadows Wildlife Area and Governor Knowles State Forest and are paid for their labor, which is an unusual feature for a summer camp and holds great interest for campers. In addition, campers participate in a hands-on science and life-skill based curriculum. Local school districts support the camp by rewarding the campers with science or elective credit that can be used towards high school graduation. The combination of a paycheck and school credit makes the Crex Meadows Youth Camp distinctive from nearly all other North American summer camps.

Students don't just work and study, however. There is also plenty of fun and recreation including swimming, fishing, sports, trust and teambuilding activities, campfire games, storytelling, movies, kayaking, canoeing, and backpacking.

In order to receive the grant, CEP, Inc. was required to provide matching funds of \$20,000 to obtain the maximum state award of \$80,000. Matching funds were raised through the generosity and support of many local organizations and foundations including; Mary Griggs Burke Foundation, members of the Northwest WI Workforce Investment Board (NWWIB), Ashland Rotary Club, a Bayfield County BLoCS grant, Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB), Ashland, Bayfield and Iron Country Land Conservation Departments, and Xcel Energy.

Parents or guardians of students interested in attending Crex Meadows Youth Conservation Camp or businesses/individuals interested in sponsoring a student or making other donations should contact Brad Gingras, Youth Services Manager and Camp Director at 715-682-9141 or [bgingras@nwcep.org](mailto:bgingras@nwcep.org).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE