



WonderTrek
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Roots and Rigging

10,000 SQUARE FOOT IMMERSIVE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EXHIBIT

IMAGINE

A group of children adventuring along the Robert and Rachel Nystrom Adventure Trail ahead of their adult caregivers. As they top one of the trail-straddling berms, the explorers spot partially obscured structures through the trees, piquing their curiosity. They move closer to investigate and reach an arrangement of tree boughs, "posts" sticking out of the ground. They take turns being the leader as they step, reach, and climb, forging 3-D paths through. Then they come upon piles of "tree cookies" next to a lean-to with a bunch of stuff in it. One of the children starts making an informal inventory of the



Exploration

contents: tarps, lengths of rope, a stack of split logs, more tree cookies, and a pile of pine boughs. Slender willow sticks and some windfall tree boughs broken into various lengths are stacked against the back wall. Another child inspects one of the two unfinished structures, which suggests small buildings, and yells out,



Fort Building at Lyman P. White Park



WonderTrek's 3/8" scale exhibit model

"Let's build a fort!" The small group launches into an effort that stretches over two hours as their forts develop and change. When they hear their adults calling for them, the nearby zip line offers a fun way to transport materials from the center of Roots and Riggings to the trail's edge.

CONFIDENCE

builds as children take ownership of these "startings" in the woods.

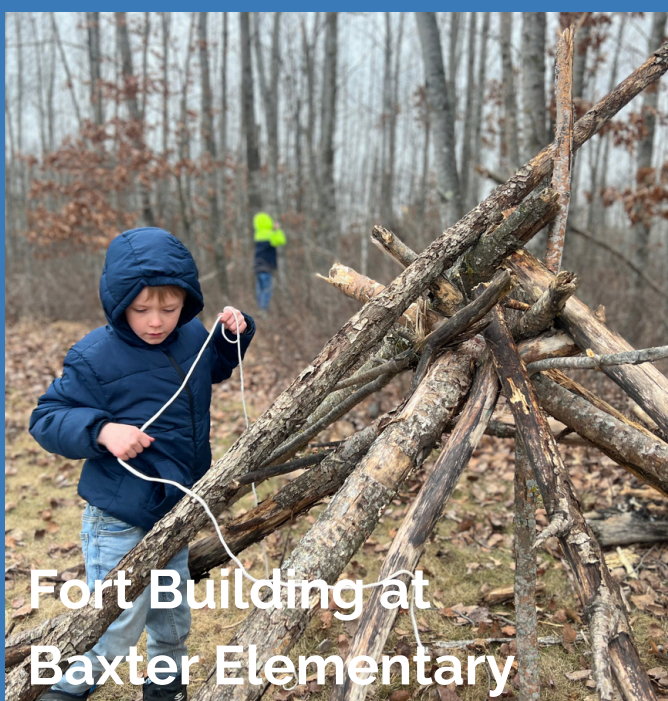
Under the power of young imaginations and industry, Roots and Riggings will be transformed from one day to the next, from campsite to fishing village or secret hideaway to castle.



Fort Building at
Lyman P. White Park



WonderTrek's 3/8" scale exhibit model



Fort Building at
Baxter Elementary

INFORMED

An extensive research and evaluation project with children in Pine River, Nisswa, and Baxter, Roots and Riggings is designed to provide children with a fun yet challenging environment in which to explore their imaginations, build confidence and skills, and deepen their connections to nature and one another.



Fort Building at Baxter Elementary



Fort Building at Baxter Elementary School



Supporting

21st Century Skills



WonderTrek's 3/8" scale exhibit model



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WonderTrek's 3/8" scale exhibit model

CREATIVITY

Creative place-making is empowering and memorable to children.

CRITICAL THINKING

Child-directed, story-driven experiences result in objective accomplishments that make powerful memories.

COMMUNICATION

Friendships are formed and cemented while doing fun, creative "work" in the woods.



Fort Building at Gull Lake Sailing school

COLLABORATION

Roots and Rigging will bring children, teens, families, and staff together through hands-on building with natural materials like sticks, logs, rocks, and wood cookies. As participants create forts, towns, and hideaways, they not only build skills and confidence but also form meaningful connections across generations. By fostering strong, positive relationships between children, teens, and caring adults, the exhibit supports healthy development and reduces the risk of negative outcomes later in life.



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WONDERTREK'S ROOTS AND RIGGING



WonderTrek's 3/8" scale exhibit model



Fort building at Lyman P White Park