

## Who OWLS serves

Programs can be designed to meet the needs of a wide variety of populations.

- Middle school, high school and university student groups or organizations
- Corporate and professional groups
- Social, therapeutic, and human service organizations
- Community and religious organizations
- Athletic teams and sports clubs
- Camp and recreation programs

## Professional development and specialized programs

OWLS program options offer a variety of programming to meet the needs of professional educators, leaders, corporate, resort and outdoor adventure based program staff. Call for more information on our facilitation training, technical skills training, or to develop a specialized training for your group.



## Program results as reported by OWLS clients:

*Increased enthusiasm for each other – camaraderie.*  
Barrington High School

*More interaction among peers and manager – a team approach to problems.*  
Marshall Fields

*The group is getting better at communicating personal expectations and needs.*  
Art Institute of Chicago

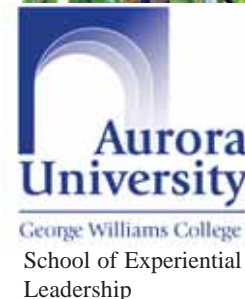
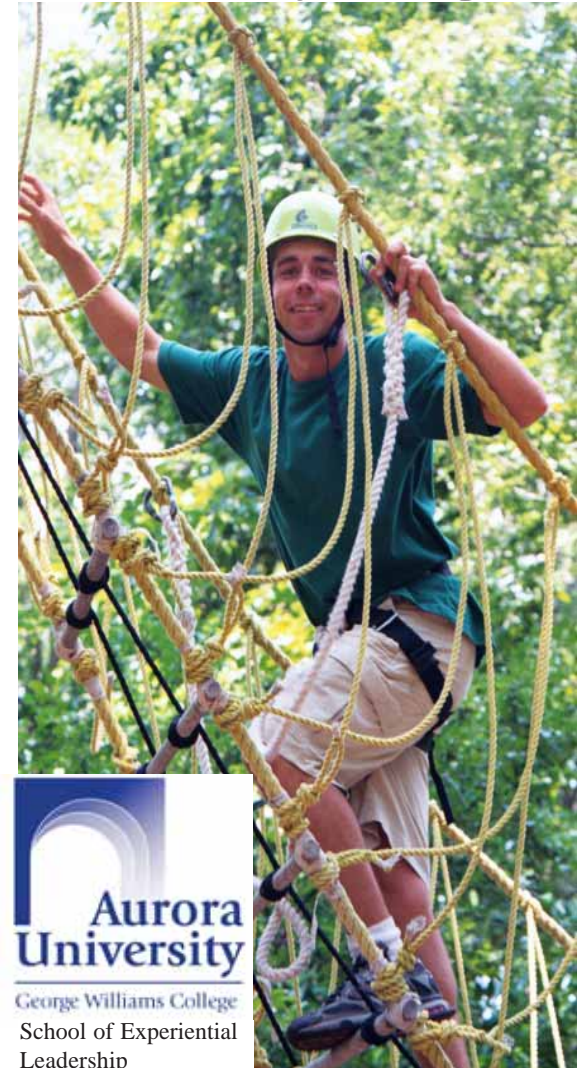
*Students who I never thought would assume leadership roles did.*  
Park Junior High School

*Improved tolerance of others, patience and recognition, better communication and improved group dynamics.*  
Northwestern University Resident Life

*OWLS has the perfect combination of a dedicated, caring staff, a program philosophy grounded in the right stuff, and a beautiful environment and set of resources for learning.*  
Greg Miller, 9th Edge, Inc.

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# Outdoor Wisconsin Leadership Synergies



## OWLS is...

Outdoor Wisconsin Leadership Synergies (OWLS) is an interactive experiential education program in the School of Experiential Leadership at George Williams College of Aurora University. OWLS programs empower group members to combine their efforts to become more effective teams.

OWLS program outcome assessments have indicated that leadership and teamwork are skills that can be developed and nurtured through challenging learning experiences. With over 20 years of leadership and team building development experience, OWLS staff will challenge your group to become more effective and productive.

## What an OWLS program can do for your group

OWLS' interactive approach to adventure based learning involves participants intellectually, emotionally, and physically by presenting activities that combine skill development, application, interpretation and reflection. This combination creates the ideal conditions for learning and meaningful metaphors for daily life. The OWLS educational program is a starting point for building success as participants translate the lessons learned at OWLS into personal and group success at home and at their place of work.

Leadership development, communication, motivation, commitment, creative thinking, cooperation, trust, goal setting, confidence, problem solving, conflict resolution and decision-making can all be developed and improved through an OWLS program.

*The School of Experiential Leadership* provides degrees, certificate programs and professional continuing educational opportunities utilizing transformative learning methodology. The School of Experiential Leadership offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in Recreation Administration and includes the following experiential education programs: Professional Development Education (PDE), Outdoor Environmental Education (OEE) and Outdoor Wisconsin Leadership Synergies (OWLS).

## OWLS programs

OWLS programs are individually developed based upon participant objectives. The goals, interests, and capabilities of each group serve as an outline for our instructors and determine what elements are included in the program schedule. Each activity is chosen for its compatibility with your group and its ability to produce optimum results.

Participants are guided through a self-discovery experience of physical and mental challenges that develop the key elements of good leadership and team building: open communication, cooperation, trust building, goal setting, and problem solving. OWLS staff then assists groups in processing their experience so that what has been learned continues to be applied after the OWLS experience has ended.

## Program elements and resources

OWLS program resources are located at George Williams College of Aurora University, near Lake Geneva, and include:

- two high ropes courses (tree and pole courses)
- a 50 foot climbing tower
- group initiative and team building areas
- five low ropes activity areas
  
- beautiful lakefront campus
- 241 wooded acres overlooking Geneva Lake in Williams Bay, Wisconsin
- full-service amenities
  
- private or shared bath housing options
- housing for groups from 12 to over 100
- two spacious dining rooms
- indoor meeting spaces
- 1,600 feet of Geneva Lake shoreline
- easy access from Chicago, Rockford, Milwaukee, and Madison



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