

Press Release- Friends of Freedom Park

**For Immediate Release
June 16, 2011**

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**What: \$2,000 Grant Received
When: June 2011
Where: Great River Road Visitor and Learning Center,
200 Monroe St., Prescott, WI, 54021, www.freedomparkwi.org**

\$2,000 Grant Received

The Friends of Freedom Park is pleased to announce a grant of \$2,000.00 from Xcel Energy Corporate Citizenship Foundation for the Great River Road Visitor and Learning Center at Freedom Park. The grant supports the 2011 Traveling Naturalist Programs of the Great River Road Learning Center. The Traveling Naturalist Program is a unique in-classroom hands-on interactive program created to bring environmental education into the classroom. The curriculum based programs include a Grade 4 Fur Trader program and a Grade 3 Rocks and Minerals program. The Wisconsin Fur Trader program features numerous animal pelts provided by Lee's Taxidermy, early trade items, animal track identification and a fur trader game. The Rocks and Minerals program provides hands on activities including testing rocks for hardness, identification of local rock types, and more. These curriculum-based hands-on programs are part of the Learning Center's outreach to regional schools to enhance curriculum studies. Xcel Energy's support of the educational and environmental programs of the Great River Road Visitor and Learning Center is greatly appreciated. For more information about the Traveling Naturalist Programs, or to schedule a program, please call Executive Director, Margaret Smith, 715-262-0104, or visit www.freedomparkwi.org

The Friends of Freedom Park is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support the operations and educational programs of the Great River Road Learning Center. The Center is one of 62 Interpretive Centers on the Great River Road and has had over 18,000 people participate in its programs and events since opening in May 2006.

Photo:

Friends of Freedom Park board Executive Director Margaret Smith (left) accepts the \$2,000 grant award from Trudy Popenhagen, Xcel Energy's Community Service Manager (right).

