

EDUCATIONAL MODULE

Modules are an effective way to approach aquatic education. Teaching Modules are defined (Prof. Mary Corbin Sies) as being “*conceptualized self-contained “units” of content or technique. A unit can cover just one class or more (in which latter case the module usually specifies day 1, day2, etc.).*”

For this aquatic curriculum each lesson will be considered a “**module**” that can be “plugged” into existing curriculum/unit. Collectively all the modules together can be considered a “**unit module.**” Although preferable, the total curriculum does not need to be implemented to enrich the present school curriculum. Because the final **LEEP**-Day involves a half or full day of aquatic activities, to insure the full value of the experience implementing all (or similar) modules are encouraged.

Module Strategies

Although safety and instructional guidelines are enclosed in the curriculum, there are strategies germane to modular implementation:

- Modules need to “fit” into existing curriculum. This would be best determined with a cursory overview by the cooperating classroom teacher in advance.
- The modules should be grade level appropriate. The **LEEP** curriculum is designed for seventh graders, but would be appropriate for sixth graders and could be made more sophisticated for high grade levels.
- The modules should be designed to *enrich* the existing curriculum. The majority of the **LEEP** curriculum is “hands-on” with emphasis on methodology and not rote memorization.
- Modules should deliver concepts and cognitive learning more effectively than conventional methodologies.
- Modules are delivered in a relaxed educational environment and students are encouraged to work together in teams.
- Modules should assist in reaching *state standards*. Inclusion of state standards insures validity of the modules.
- The modular approach addresses a variety of learning styles to insure student comprehension and success.
- Modules are not necessarily science or ecology specific and all subject areas can benefit from the interdisciplinary modular approach.

Wisconsin lakes, rivers and wetlands are unique and precious areas that can and should be explored through the modular system and taught by citizen instructors (lake associations) in collaboration with local schools.