



## SOIL AND PLANT SCIENCE DIVISION

# Technical Soil Services

## North Central Soil Survey Region

### Rhineland, Wisconsin, Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Office (SSO)

## SPSD Educates Students at the 2023 Careers Exploration Week

### Purpose

On June 13, 2023, Matthew Wagner, and Ryan Bevernitz, Rhineland MLRA SSO soil scientists, educated high school students about soil careers with the NRCS and SPSPD at the 2023 Careers Exploration Week in Vilas County, Wisconsin.

### Background

Each year in June, Trees for Tomorrow, an outdoor education center, hosts a week of presentations from a variety of natural resource professionals in Northern Wisconsin called the Careers Exploration Week. Located in Eagle River, Wisconsin, the campus hosts year-round public programs for people of all ages eager to learn about natural resources in the Upper Midwest. The Rhineland MLRA SSO was one of many to participate in the 2023 Careers Exploration Week. Wagner and Bevernitz visited with high school students from all over Wisconsin to educate them on the topics of soil formation, profile descriptions, and careers with the NRCS and SPSPD.

### Key Outcomes

As the MLRA SSO soil scientists dug holes to demonstrate a normal day's work in the field, the students gathered to learn about horizons, textures, colors, and other chemical and physical properties of the soil profile. Every student was given a chance to field texture soils and explain differences in texture and color throughout the soil profile. The soil scientists then spoke about the significance of these soil properties due to the different glaciated landforms of Northern Wisconsin and what a soil scientist might observe in the field. They also discussed the indicators of wetness at different depths within the soil profile and how that may relate to the presence of a water table.



Following the demonstration of describing a soil pit, students were informed of the many career opportunities with the NRCS, specifically within the SPSD. Groups discussed the importance of internships, opportunities with different majors in college, and the availability of soil related jobs with the NRCS.



Figure 1. MLRA SSO staff educate students on how to use a soil auger.