



# Thoreau College

Viroqua, Wisconsin

***Cultivating Meaning & Purpose***

Hello everyone, this is Tyler Hruby, a fellow working at Thoreau College in Viroqua, Wisconsin, USA. Having recently participated in the call for the upcoming Youth Section Gathering, it was wonderful to see all of the initiatives being created around the world to further educational opportunities for young people working to develop themselves as whole human beings. I am personally thankful to have been working at one of these institutions for the last half year or so here in the beautiful, rural town of Viroqua. Thoreau College is a place of higher learning inspired by Waldorf education that facilitates young adults' own development through embodied, holistic approaches to education. Studying great books, practicing arts and traditional crafts, going on outdoor expeditions, and living in community all allow students here to push themselves to explore what it means to live a good and deliberate life.

As a fellow at Thoreau College, I have had the wonderful opportunity to both help facilitate that development in students and further my own personal development as I learn and grow here myself. I have really come to see how powerful it can be to bring together a group of young people dedicated to better understanding the world they live in and their own place in that world. After my time here, I know just how important this approach to education is and how lacking it is in so much of the contemporary understanding of what education is supposed to be. We here at Thoreau College are all very excited to further this whole-person approach to education around the world and believe that strengthening networks of likeminded programs can only help us all go further. That is why I am so excited about the work of the Youth Section and the upcoming gathering. I hope that by coming together we might all be able to better identify the needs of young people in these challenging times and then be able to better develop programs and initiatives that can meet these needs into what is likely to be a tumultuous future. I know that we can only do this together, so I look forward to hopefully meeting and working with you all this summer.

Below, you'll find a list of our upcoming programs for this year. If you feel moved to participate in one of these programs or would like to discuss our work or the work of reimagining higher education further, please reach out to us at [admin@thoreaucollege.org](mailto:admin@thoreaucollege.org).

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~ Winter Program ~

## The Organic Metaphor in Politics

Join us for a new 6-week winter program integrating rigorous academic study of political thought with experiences of craft, community, labor, and encounters with nature in the depths of winter. [Guest instructor Philippe Mesly](#) will lead the way in collaboration with local Thoreau College Faculty.

**STILL ACCEPTING APPLICANTS**

**Dates: January 15 - February 23**

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

~ March Drama Intensive ~

## The Art of Active Transformation

Join us in March for a 3-week immersion for aspiring actors and theater artists incorporating acting history, set design and construction, movement and voice work, and performance of one-act plays by Anton Chekhov. Guest instructors include Director Gavin Struempler of the [Jones Classical Theater Company](#) and [Ethan Kobayashi-Hsieh](#), Director of Community Development and Partnerships at the [Vervaeke Foundation](#).

**Dates: March 4 - 24**

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# Thoreau College Summer Field School

The Summer Field School is a 4-week immersion into the ecology, culture, and agriculture of rural southwestern Wisconsin in May and June, one of the most dynamic times of the natural year. Activities include farm visits, hands on gardening and foraging, folk arts, and readings and discussions about agriculture and the Driftless Bioregion.

**Dates: May 13 - June 7**

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

~ 2024 Fall Semester ~

## Metamorphosis Gap Semester

Join an intimate community of peers and mentors for a 4-month journey of metamorphosis through the transition from summer through autumn and into winter. Explore place, purpose, and belonging through rigorous reading and academic discussion, hands-on farming and homesteading, folk crafts and fine arts, wilderness expeditions and solos, and shared community life.

**Dates: August 22 - December 13**

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)