

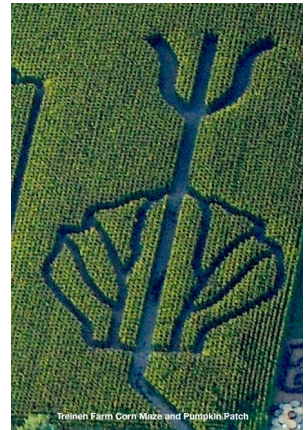
**Madison Expeditionary Learning Academy
& Center for Engagement**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MaizeMania—Kids Design Corn Maze Using Math
Public Viewing of Student Work October 6, Lodi Farm

A **first-of-its-kind** camp brought together a corn maze designer, a college math club, innovative Wisconsin educators and a bunch of curious students for five days of math, art, design, corn, and fun. The result is an incredible design showcased into the corn fields of a Lodi farm. It's a program that could be a touchstone for 21st Century education throughout the country.

“**Maize-Mania**” is one of eight unique learning experiences for students and teachers offered by Madison Expeditionary Learning Academy’s **Center for Engagement** this past summer. It used the “Expeditionary Learning” (EL) model, which integrates arts and sciences, schools and communities, minds and bodies, indoors and outdoors, students, teachers, and creative people in every field.



On October 6th, from 1-5 p.m., students host the children’s maze and showcase their A-MAIZ-ING work at Treinen Farm Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch in Lodi, WI (W12420 State Road 60 Lodi, WI 53555). These remarkable students, ages 10-14, designed 11 mazes to scale and worked together to map and cut one of their designs into a corn field. They will answer questions and talk with you about their experience. A walk through the children’s maze will place you directly *in* their work as you travel Poseidon’s Trident.



Angie Treinen, world-class corn maze designer at Treinen Farm, volunteered her time as Resident Expert for the camp. “For me, the camp is about sharing the joyfulness of math and design and seeing a project through from beginning to completion,” said Treinen. “It’s not often a real-world business has a process like this that is both interesting and accessible to young people, so we are eager to share the experience,” she added.

Banners featuring each child’s work are on display this fall at Treinen Farm. “We want visitors to see the professional-quality end product AND see the messy process required to meet such an ambitious goal,” said Michelle Sharpswain, PhD, co-founder and president of the non-profit Center for Engagement. “Each banner tells a story of revision, support, frustration, fun, risk-taking, engagement, and perseverance. We want kids to see that no matter where they begin, they can accomplish a great deal if they persist,” Dr. Sharpswain said.

This camp, the first of its kind in the country, was a collaboration between MELA's Center for Engagement and Treinen Farm Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch. Professor John Grade and the Madison College Math Club also provided support.

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