

Water park lets kids fight evil, learn environmentalism

by **Tim Bullard**
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CONCORD – Whipping their plastic wands, kids made a bear's eyes turn red, muskrats move above the registration desk and sleeping screen faces come alive while playing MagiQuest at Great Wolf Lodge in Concord.

This innovative electronic wand game makes a stay at this brand new tourism attraction and water park more inviting for the Harry Potter brood. Located off Bruton Smith Boulevard at 10175 Weddington Road, this distinctive family destination is using the game to attract Hogwarts fans to the \$100 million development that's located on a 36-acre site.

It is a live action, fantasy adventure game where boys battle dragons and girls wave wands at a fluttering fairy.

One 15-year-old student played the game at the original MagiQuest in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

He found the Concord game satisfying since it remembers where you have been in the game and maps your progress.

Even adults play in Concord with

huge smiles and giggles. You earn powers, and it's basically a treasure hunt game.

You gain power by collecting metal coins. One station has a screen with a sleeping face, and with the wave of the wand, it awakens and speaks to you.

What makes MagiQuest stand out is its surroundings, which are now certified as a Green Seal destination. That means the lodge passed 30 environmentally responsible components required for a hotel. Go to www.greenseal.org for more information.

The hotel has Project Green Wolf, which lets the kids play a leading role in conserving the planet for future generations by educating and establishing green traditions for guests and pack members.

There are nearby recycling bins for plastic cola containers. The laundry system recycles 70 percent of the water it uses. The water park uses 80-90 percent less water than other traditional water parks with its filtration system.

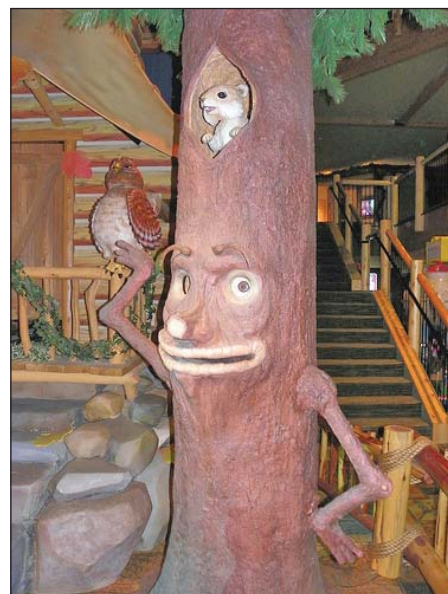
If you can handle the heart-stopping "Howlin' Tornado" water slide, you can handle anything. There are 11

waterslides, four pools, the Fort MacKenzie interactive treehouse waterfort, family cabanas, a Kid Spa, a Spa Salon, a Cub Club, the Iron Horse Fitness Center and two floors dedicated to just MagiQuest. There are also 100 lifeguards.

Sidewalks are swept, not washed. Even in the rooms, placards suggest hanging towels so they can be used again. Amenities like soap are packaged in recycled materials, and the resort uses double-sided copying and purchases products like concentrated cleaning products in bulk.

The lighting uses only energy-efficient bulbs, and automatic dishwashing detergent is biodegradable. If you are a supplier using reusable packaging and shipping pallets, you get preference, as do environmentally responsible service suppliers.

Showerheads and faucets are low-



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A face on the tree and a little guy in the trunk greet visitors and guests at the Great Wolf Lodge in Concord. The resort hotel emphasizes to kids how to live eco-friendly.

flow, and the urinals are waterless. When you click on the in-room channel Green Wolf TV, there is educational information and active learning areas at the resort. □

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