

Getting ready for camp:  
Things you should know

- A completed and signed **Medical Information Form and Release of Liability Waiver must be filled out for all campers prior to their event.** The forms can be filled in online, or brought to check-in. Information related to camper's diet and other special accommodations need to be shared in advance of the first day of camp, so please indicate special needs on your registration or contact the camp prior to your event.
- **Please share ALL the important information related to your camper or yourself** to allow our staff a chance to better meet your needs. We seek to provide the best possible experience and need your help in this effort. Please put this information on the medical form.
- **COVID-19.** COVID-19 is a contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. Additionally, an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, campers, guests, and staff with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. We encourage people to stay home when sick, test as needed, and get vaccinated. The United Methodist Camps of the Dakotas and Minnesota will adjust COVID-19 safety protocols as needed based on recent trends and regulatory guidance by the CDC and state health departments. Updated safety information will be shared with camp participants as needed.
- All the Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist Camp sites are American Camp Association (ACA) accredited. The ACA has the highest quality camp accrediting standards around. This accreditation helps to make our facilities safer than ever before. Camp offerings that are held *off-site*, though not accredited, are held to similar standards as applicable. To find out more about the ACA go to [www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org).
- There is more information to help in your preparations for camp in this flyer. Please read and understand the information shared here along with the information found in your camp welcome letter. If you still have questions or concerns, contact your camp's site director or the Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist central camping office at **855-622-1973**.



Parent and  
Camper Handbook  
Dakotas-Minnesota Area

United Methodist Camp & Retreat Ministries

MISSION

Helping campers and guests experience  
Christ, Creation, and Community  
through camp and retreat ministries

CORE VALUES

We do this as we:

- Provide Sacred Places Apart
- Nurture Christian Faith and Discipleship
- Teach Creation Care and Appreciation
- Partner with United Methodist Churches and Agencies
- Extend Christian Hospitality and Community
- Develop Principled Spiritual Leaders
- Inspire and Equip Lives for Love and Justice

OUTCOMES

Disciples and leaders who hear and respond to God's call to:

- Share Faith
- Love and Accept Everyone
- Serve Others
- Trust God



A HUGE welcome to you from your Dakotas-Minnesota Area camp staff!

We are so glad you are planning on joining us at camp this summer! Whether you are coming to one of our North Dakota, South Dakota, or Minnesota locations, or one of our off-site events, you are in for the time of your life! Our caring staff is eagerly awaiting the arrival of the most special part of our summer—YOU! If you have been to a Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist Camp event before, you know the great time that is in store! If you have not been to camp before...get ready for a wonderful, fun, faith shaping, one-of-a-kind experience!

Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist Camps are proud to offer events for all age levels and all stages of faith journeys. From day camps to six-night events, pre-kindergarten through adult and family events, each event is designed to help campers experience faith, fun and fellowship in new and powerful ways! Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist Camps provide an unforgettable summer experience in which campers can discover and explore exciting activities in a carefully supervised Christian environment.

Our top priority is your camper's safety. We are proud that all of Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist Camp sites are accredited through the American Camp Association (ACA), the national accrediting body for camping programs and a leader in childhood development, education, and welfare. To earn accreditation, camps must comply with up to 300 health, safety, and program quality standards. Across the country, only one in five camps seeks and earns this distinction. Our professional staff regularly reviews every facet of our program and operations. Our camp offerings that are classified as "off-site" and not directly sponsored by one of the physical camp sites, though not accredited through the ACA, are held to similar standards as applicable.

**Dakotas Camps**  
[www.dakcamps.org](http://www.dakcamps.org)

**Lake Poinsett Camp**  
Christy Heflin, Director  
40 South Lake Dr.  
Arlington, SD 57212  
605-983-5547

**Storm Mountain Center**  
Tanner Clark, Director  
23740 Storm Mt. Rd.  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
605-343-4391

**Wesley Acres Camp**  
Paul & Brenda Lint, Directors  
1821 115th Ave. SE  
Dazey, ND 58429  
701-733-2413



**Minnesota Camps**  
[www.campminnesota.org](http://www.campminnesota.org)

**Koronis Ministries**  
Dan Ziegler, Director  
15752 Lake Avenue  
Paynesville, MN 56362  
320-243-4544

**Kowakan Adventures**  
Naomi Ziegler, Guide and  
Program Director  
2402 Old County 18  
Ely, MN 55731  
320-243-4544

**Northern Pines Camp**  
Leslie Hobson, Director  
20033 County Road 1  
Park Rapids, MN 56470  
218-732-4713



**Dakotas-Minnesota Area  
Central Camping Office**  
[camps@campminnesota.org](mailto:camps@campminnesota.org)  
[info@dakcamps.org](mailto:info@dakcamps.org)

122 W Franklin Ave. #400  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
**855-622-1973**

Keith Shew  
**Area Director of Camp  
and Retreat Ministries**

Stacey Edwards  
**Camp Coordinator**

Beata Ferris  
**Marketing and Outreach  
Project Coordinator**

Mary Hovden  
**Camp Accountant**

Linda Bowers  
**Camp Assistant**



Medical Information and Authorization  
Form and Release of Liability Waiver

All campers **MUST** have a completed and signed **Medical Information Form** and **Release of Liability Waiver** to attend any Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist camp. The forms can be filled out online, or brought to check-in.

Insurance Coverage

Camp fees include secondary medical insurance coverage, which supplements family or individual personal coverage. Coverage is subject to the terms and conditions of the policies held by the Dakotas and Minnesota Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church.

Campership Information

To help offset the costs of our camps, need-based camperships are available. Go to **www.campminnesota.org/camperships** or **www.dakotasumc.org/camping/forms/campership-form** to apply online. Contact the central camping office for more information at 855-622-1973.

Photo Permission

Photos and videos taken at camp may be used by the Dakotas or Minnesota Conferences for camp promotions. If you would rather not have photos of you or your child used for this purpose, please indicate that on the **Public Relations Release** located at the bottom of the **Release of Liability Waiver**, or contact the central camping office at 855-622-1973.

Safety & Transportation

Campers/Parents/Guardians are responsible both prior to and following the event for getting yourself or your camper to camp and home safely. **The camping office is unable to coordinate or arrange rides for campers.** In the case of some camps, this would be to a designated pick-up or drop-off point. Please follow the road signs and information in your camp welcome letter related to safety procedures while dropping-off or picking-up at camp. See your camp welcome letter for information related to directions, arrival and departure times, and dates. It is the responsibility of the Campsite director to advise each camper of any changes related to these times and locations. Some camps include events that



are off-site and require transportation of your camper to another location after check-in. In such a case, the camp will provide transportation for your camper by camp staff, approved volunteers, or a licensed company. Before any off-site transportation occurs, the event staff will go over any safety rules or procedures with your camper. Campers and volunteers under the age of 18 who drive themselves to/from camp must turn in vehicle keys to camp staff when they arrive at the site.

Illegal or Prohibited Items

Camp Minnesota and Dakotas United Methodist Camps do not allow the use of any illegal drugs, alcohol, fireworks, or any/all weapons. Campsite staff will advise if specialized items/equipment (personal sports equipment, games, electronics, pocketknives) are necessary and/or allowed. Please check with your campsite director for information concerning appropriate usage of any specialized items/equipment. Campers may not bring animals to camp. Dogs brought to camp on registration or pick-up day must be on a leash and in the owner’s control.

ALL are Welcome Policy

A foundation of our camping ministries is the inclusion and celebration that all people are created, valued, and loved by God. Our camps are open to all regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity (including gender expression), dietary restrictions or food service needs. Our camps do not tolerate discrimination, harassment, and bullying against any person for any reason.

Call Home Policy for Campers

Campers are allowed to use the camp phones for emergencies only. If you have questions, concerns or need to contact your camper, please feel free to contact the campsite, by phone or email, at any time, 24 hours a day. Our staff is happy to assist you and will deliver your message to your campers as soon as possible.

Send Home Policy for Campers

- You will be contacted if:
- *Your child is exposed to a communicable disease.*
  - *Outside medical attention is necessary (e.g., if we transport your child to a hospital or doctor’s office)*
  - *Your child is having discipline problems that jeopardize the safety of others.*

When a situation occurs where the camp feels it is necessary to send a camper home due to medical or disciplinary concerns, the camp staff will discuss the situation with the site director, and with a parent or guardian when possible. Each situation is considered on an individual basis. The site director (or the Area Director

of Camp and Retreat Ministries, in the absence of the site director) reserves the right to make a final decision should it be necessary. If it is determined that the camper is not able to stay, the parent(s) is(are) notified and a time arranged for the camper to be picked up. The camper is notified that he/she will be going home at least one hour prior to the arranged pick up time. The Area Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries is also notified when a camper is not able to stay for the full camp duration.

No Cell Phone Policy for Campers

**Cell phones will not be allowed at camp.** If a camper arrives with a cell phone, the camp staff will hold the cell phone until the end of camp. In the case of an emergency, the camper may receive permission to call home from a camp phone.

Communication with Camp Leadership

In the event of a family emergency or crisis, please contact the camp using the emergency number listed on your Event Welcome Letter or by using the contact information listed on the front page of this Parent and Camper Handbook. During camp sessions, our camp staff answer the phone 24/7.

If you have questions, concerns, or wish to pass along important information, you are welcome and encouraged to contact our camping leadership team including our campsite directors, central office staff, and executive director of camp and retreat ministry using the contact information provided on the front of the Parent and Camper Handbook or our websites.

Money for Camp Store/Canteen

Your camp registration fee covers all expenses while you are at camp, including all meals, snacks, and special events. Campers are welcome to bring a limited amount of money to purchase items at the camp store/canteen such as candy, t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. Campers can deposit funds into a camp store account either at camper check-in or at online registration on our website. The camp store/canteen is open daily and during camper check-in/check-out times.

Cancellation/Refund Policy for Campers

Cancellations must be received in writing. Please see the following breakdown for applicable cancellation fees. If cancellation is received:

- More than 21 days before the start of camp, a full refund will be given.
- Between 15-20 days prior to the start of camp, a full refund minus a \$50 processing fee will be given.
- Between 8-14 days prior to the start of camp, a full refund minus a \$100 processing fee will be given.

- Less than 7 days prior to the start of camp, no refund will be issued.
- A no call/no show to camp will result in forfeit of all payments.

Full refunds will be given in the event of a documented illness or family emergency. **In all cases, a refund will be issued only if requested.**

Campers with Disabilities

Our camping ministry welcomes persons with disabilities and is working toward full inclusion of children, youth, and adults with disabilities in camps it sponsors. Off-site and wilderness-based camps present more challenges; arrangements are made on an individual basis. All program staff hired by conference campsites receive training on disability issues and inclusion of persons with disabilities. The staff will be available to assist camp leaders in facilitating the inclusion process. At our Minnesota camps, an integration specialist is available based on a mutual needs assessment to help in your camper’s integration to a camp of your choice at no additional cost. A camp representative will contact you regarding your specific needs. One to two weeks prior to camp, a member of the camp staff may contact you if further information is necessary. However, if you need assistance with personal care, you will need to bring an assistant with you. There will be no extra charge to have this person at camp. If you are able, you may contribute toward the camp’s cost for this person. Please notify the camping office if you are planning on bringing a personal care attendant.

Insect Bites & Ticks

Mosquitos, flies and other biting critters are abundant in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. For this reason, we suggest that you send non-aerosol insect repellent with your camper to camp.

Swimmer’s Itch

Swimmer's Itch is a temporary skin rash caused by a parasite that normally infects water birds and mammals. Reaction tends to be itchy red spots on skin. Avoid by toweling dry immediately after swimming. Applying oily sunscreen before entering the water, and rinsing off immediately after getting out of the water, may also help prevent swimmers itch.

Lyme’s Disease

Lyme's Disease, carried by deer ticks, is a concern in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. While we will do what we can to protect your child from deer ticks, it is ultimately your responsibility to be vigilant about possible signs once your child returns home. To find out more about this disease, including what to watch for, you can check out the Department of Health website in your state.