

**Dakotas - Camp Minnesota United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries
Volunteer Led Events**

As a Volunteer Leader (Dean) with the Dakotas and/or Minnesota United Methodist Camps, I agree with the following:

- 1. I Agree with Camping Risk Management Practices** and will ensure:
 - a. Staff/volunteer training prior to campers' arrival
 - b. All participants (leaders/campers/counselors) are registered for the event at least two weeks prior to the beginning of the event
 - c. Background checks for all 18+ volunteers completed prior to beginning of event
 - d. Follow all rules and policies of the campsite or off-site location
 - e. During camp session, Site Director is informed of all incidents/accidents, camper/staff challenges and issues, schedule changes or program shifts, and any disciplinary steps taken or needed. Site Director and volunteer leader/s decide together when communication with families or outside sources is required
 - f. Allow enough time prior to camper's arrival for a camp safe sanctuaries session and safety orientation led by the site director or designated staff member
 - g. Events are evaluated regularly for their...
 - i. Quality
 - ii. Effectiveness in achieving the ministry goals and outcomes
 - iii. Financial viability and sustainability

- 2. I Agree with Camping Financial Practices/Policies**
 - Camper registrations and fees are collected through Area camping registration system only
 - All expenses must be documented and will be reimbursed (voucher form required)
 - Program subsidy per camper varies, please contact site director with questions
 - All events must be self-sustaining (balanced budget)
 - Rates for all events are set in conjunction with camping leadership

- 3. I Agree with what it means to be branded a United Methodist Camping Event.**
 - a. Ensure and demonstrate how the event is fulfilling the desired mission, core values, and outcomes of the Dakotas – Minnesota Camp and Retreat Ministry:
 - i. **Mission:** Inviting campers and guests to experience Christ, Creation, and Community through camp and retreat ministries
 - ii. **Core Values:** We do this as we (7 foundations of UMC camp and retreat ministries established by UMCRM):
 1. Provide Sacred Places Apart
 2. Nurture Christian Faith and Discipleship
 3. Teach Creation Care and Appreciation
 4. Partner with United Methodist Churches & Agencies
 5. Extend Christian Hospitality and Community
 6. Develop Principled Spiritual Leaders
 7. Inspire and Equip Lives for Love and Justice
 - iii. **Outcomes:** Disciples and leaders, who hear and respond to God's call to:
 1. Share Faith
 2. Love and Accept Everyone

3. Serve Others
 4. Trust God
- b. Embody “**open hearts**” – experiencing the grace of God in a real and tangible way
 - c. Embody “**open minds**” – allow for questions, dialogue and diverse opinions
 - d. Embody “**open doors**” – everyone is welcome, respected and accepted as a beloved child of God
 - e. Use the unified Summer **Camp curriculum** or **comparable curriculum** (w/ prior approval of site director)

As ministries of the Dakotas and Minnesota Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church, we agree to the following for all camping events:

1. Promotion in camping marketing materials and online locations
2. Online registration and management of registrations/reports through the central camping office
3. Real time registration information/camper information availability
4. Annual Conference Insurance coverage
5. Perform and fund any/all background checks for adult leaders
6. Access to summer camp curriculum materials
7. Access to conference campership/scholarship funds
8. Involvement in the Camps Without Barriers Ministry and ability to use Integration Specialists (Camp MN only)
9. Program and planning assistance, help with staff training, and support by conference and site staff

Questions? Please contact the central camping office:

Dakotas-Minnesota United Methodist Camps

DAK/MN Area Central Camping Office

122 W. Franklin Ave. Suite 400

Minneapolis, MN 55404

855-622-1973 (toll free)

Thank you!