Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist Camp & Retreat Ministry

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 Hospitalty 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 or seeking accreditation (Storm Mountain Center) 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

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

Storm Mountain Center
Sean Binder, 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

Koronis Ministries
Dan Ziegler, Director
15752 County Road 181
Paynesville, MN 56362
320-243-4544

Kowakan Adventures
Levi & Lara Ziegler, Directors
2402 Old County 18
Ely, MN 55731
240-394-3956 (summer)

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

Dakotas-Minnesota Area
Central Camping Office
www.campminnesota.org
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

Laura Eisland
Project Coordinator

Linda Bowers
Camp Assistant

Parent’s & Camper’s Handbook
Dakotas-Minnesota Area
United Methodist Camp & Retreat Ministry

Getting ready for camp: Things you should know

• A completed and signed Camper Medical Information and Authorization Form and a 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.

• Please share ALL 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.

• All of the Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist Camp sites are American Camp Association (ACA) accredited, except for Storm Mountain Center which is seeking their first accreditation in 2018. The ACA has the highest quality camp accreditation standards. 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.

• 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 toll free.

There is

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Medical Information and Authorization Form and Release of Liability Waiver

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

Insurance Coverage

Camp fees include secondary medical insurance coverage, which covers over the family’s insurance. 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.camppminnesota.org/camperships or www.dakotasmc.org/camping/forms/campership-form to apply online. Contact the central camping office for more information at 855-622-1973 toll free.

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 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.

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 the above listed items, the camp will discuss the situation with the Site Director, and also with the parent or guardians when possible. Each situation is handled on an individual case-by-case basis. In the event of any change related to these times and locations, the camp will provide notification to the parents/guardians. The Site Director and the 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 Director of Camps & Retreats 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.

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 open their own fund on 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

Your deposit is fully refundable up to 21 days prior to the start of your camp, unless otherwise indicated in the event description. If a cancellation is received less than 21 days before the start of camp, a full refund minus a $50 processing fee will be given. In case of emergency, deposits may be refundable less than 21 days prior on a case-by-case basis. In the event that a camper doesn’t show up at camp and does not notify the camping office/other leadership, the camper fee is kept. 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 campers in facilitating their 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 will contact you if further information is necessary. However, if you need assistance for 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 make a contribution 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

Mosquitoes, 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. Regular swimming can 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. Treat with coticosteroid cream or anti-itch lotion.

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 any of the following websites: North Dakota Department of Health: http://www.ndhealth.gov/disease/tickborne/lyme%20Disease/lymedisease.htm South Dakota Department of Health: https://doh.sd.gov/diseases/infestious/diseasesfacts/lyme.aspx Minnesota Department of Health: http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idop/diseases/lyme