



Dakotas United Methodist Camps

Dakotas Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Camp Minnesota

A ministry of the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church



Camp Ambassador Guide

WHAT IS A CAMP AMBASSADOR?

Camp ambassadors are spokespersons within their churches for the United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministry.

A camp ambassador helps people get to camp so they can encounter God in a unique and powerful way. They do so by sharing camp and retreat opportunities with children, youth, adults, and families in their local churches and communities and by providing information about how to become involved.

Ambassadors collaborate closely with their pastor(s), Christian education staff, church families, and Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist Camps (DK-MN Camps) staff to help make sure families are aware of camp opportunities throughout the year, but primarily in the spring, when registration for summer camps is in full swing.

CAMP AMBASSADORS ARE ASKED TO:

- Work with church leaders to plan a Camp Sunday celebration—a day designed to provide multiple opportunities for people to learn about United Methodist Camps, including in worship, Sunday school, and fellowship times.
- Help to pick out camp events for various age groups to attend.
- Work with church leaders to set a goal for camp participation and, if possible, find ways to financially support campers.
- Advertise DK-MN Camps through announcements, bulletins, social media, and newsletters.
- Promote DK-MN Camps in worship, in Sunday school, and with youth groups.
- Inform the congregation about **how, when, and where** to register for camp and offer registration assistance for those new to DK-MN Camps.
- Support and engage the congregation by answering questions and encouraging people to register for camp!

DAKOTAS-MINNESOTA AREA UNITED METHODIST CAMPS

Mission

Helping campers to 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



WHY CAMP?

Time spent at Dakotas-Minnesota United Methodist Camps provides children, youth, adults, and families with life-changing and faith-building opportunities to experience Christ, Creation, and Community. Christ is shared in song, word, worship, and by example as campers practice principles of Christian community and are challenged to live a Christ-like life.

Campers engage in activities to learn new skills, spend time in nature, and care for creation; all in a carefully supervised environment. Time at camp leads to new friendships, increased confidence, and leadership development as well as an essential faith foundation.

All are welcome at your Dakotas and Minnesota United Methodist Camps, where campers are loved, accepted, celebrated, and encouraged to be and grow into the people God has created them to be.



CAMP SUNDAY

WHY HOLD A CAMP SUNDAY?

- A great way to get the whole congregation involved in camping ministries
- A fun and effective way to share information about camp and get kids excited about going
- An occasion to involve others, especially children and youth, in worship and church event leadership
- A chance for campers to tell the congregation their camp experiences which
 - Allows them to share how meaningful camp is
 - Gives the campers a special place in the life of the church
- An opportunity for congregation members to witness God's work beyond the walls of the church

CAMP SUNDAY RESOURCES

Check out the **camp ambassador webpage** at www.dakcamps.org or www.campminnesota.org for helpful suggestions as you prepare for your Camp Sunday. Begin planning early to build excitement and increase participation.

Camp Sunday resources include a script for Camp Sunday and worship service help such as scriptures, prayers, hymn/song suggestions, sermon starters, and more.

Short video clips are available to share:

- Quick promo video (about 1 minute): Play this during announcement times at worship or at other church gatherings.
- Short promo video (3-4 minutes): Play this as an extended announcement during Camp Sunday or at other times and show it to youth and Sunday school groups.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you would like, a camp representative may be available to visit your church to assist with your Camp Sunday celebration. Please contact your closest campsite or the central camping office.

Camp representatives can provide the message/sermon, lead a time of children's worship, share camp opportunities during a fellowship hour, provide a display in a communal area, bring handouts and giveaways, or simply be present to cheer you and your church leaders on!

REQUEST MATERIALS FROM DK-MN CAMPS

A box of flyers and promotional posters will be sent to each church in January. For your Camp Sunday, plan to have enough flyers available for each child in your church community to receive one (plus have extras to keep on hand to pass out throughout the spring). Contact the central camping office at (855) 622-1973 (toll-free) to request more flyers.

"There is no better place to connect with God than at camp."

-Lake Poinsett Camper





HELPING CAMPERS

HOW TO HELP CAMPERS REGISTER FOR CAMP

Please share the camp flyer with families. Highlight specific camps that the church wants to emphasize or that you think will appeal to them.

The camping website is your friend! There you can find more information about each camp under "Camps & Events." Detailed instructions for registration can be found under "Camps & Events" and then "How to Register." You might set up a computer at church on Sundays where you could answer questions and assist campers with registration. If families have difficulty registering online, you can print out registration pages that they can mail in. (You can find registration pages under "Camps & Events" and then "Forms.") The central camping office is always happy to help. Feel free to call or email us.

"My son immediately shared that he wanted to go again next year because he had so much fun this year!"

**-Wesley Acres
Camper Parent**

PAYING FOR CAMP

Church Discount Codes: If your church is going to provide a set amount or percentage of the cost of camp, let campers know your “church code” which they can provide during registration. Please contact the central camping office if you need help setting one up, need a reminder of what yours is, or you would like to update your coverage amount.

Incentives: Remind families of the \$25 Bring-a-Friend discount for inviting friends who are new* to DK-MN Camps. List the friend(s) while registering, and the discount will be applied after the friend registers. There are special incentives for campers who register before the Early Bird deadline of April 30. In the Dakotas, their registration costs are reduced by \$5 per night of camp. In Minnesota, they will receive a credit of \$25 to spend in the Camp Store/Canteen.

Camperships: Our hope is that a camper’s local church, personal funds, and other sources of support will be the primary means of payment. However, camp scholarships are available through the DK-MN Camp office for those with financial need. We believe that every child should have a Christian camping experience, and no camper will be turned away due to a personal lack of funds. Further information and a campership application can be found on the camp website under “Camps & Events” and then “Camperships.” You may contact the central camping office at (855) 622-1973 with questions.

** New campers are defined as those who have not been to a Dakotas-Minnesota United Methodist Camp event in the past three years.*

“I am so thankful for the campership. It allows [my daughter] to go, where she blossoms and comes closer God. Thank you so much.”

–Northern Pines Camper Parent



OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND ATTENDING SCHEDULED CAMPS

Contact the camp location you wish to visit to learn more and reserve space.

VOLUNTEER

If you have the desire to help through service and missions, DK-MN Camps needs you! There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available for all skill levels and group sizes, and every pair of hands counts. This is a fantastic opportunity for youth groups, men's or women's groups, and families! Overnight accommodations are available, and lunch, materials, and supervision of projects is provided.

CHURCH RETREAT OR MEETING

DK-MN Camps are ideal for a one-day meeting, weekend get-together, or church retreat! Bring the whole congregation or a group. Enjoy fellowship, deepen relationships, and build your team. Use camp spaces for your own programming. Take advantage of the recreational facilities, experience camp hospitality, and eat delicious food. Perfect for church staff, leadership teams, youth or confirmation groups, men's or women's groups, and more.

"A week at camp gives you the opportunity to step away from your normal life and immerse yourself in the loving teaching of Jesus Christ without distraction."

—Koronis Adult Camper



TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION OF ALL YOU DO: CAMP AMBASSADOR'S "HANG TEN!" INCENTIVE

Take camper Experiences to the Next level and receive **TEN** percent off the cost of camp!

We appreciate all the ways camp ambassadors help promote Dakotas-Minnesota United Methodist Camps. To say **thank you** for all your hard work, we would like to offer you **10% off the price of your next camp** for every new* camper you register/registered this year! There is no limit on the number of new* campers or number of discounts you can claim! You may use this discount for yourself, for a family member, or as a gift to someone in your church or community to help them pay for camp.

To redeem your discount(s), simply complete the **"Hang TEN!" Incentive Form** available on the camp ambassador webpage at www.dakcamps.org or www.campminnesota.org.

Remember, any new* camper you helped connect to camp this year is eligible to count as part of your discount incentive. If you have any questions, please contact the central camping office.

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Please make sure we know who you are by completing the **Camp Ambassador - Contact Information Form** on the Camp Ambassador webpage. It's quick and easy!



"My child really connected with the counselors and has been saying how much they missed them!"
-Koronis Camper Parent



CONTACT INFORMATION

Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist Camps
Central Camping Office
122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 400
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(855) 622-1973 (toll-free)

Dakotas
Email: info@dakcamps.org
Website: www.dakcamps.org

Minnesota
Email: camps@campminnesota.org
Website: www.campminnesota.org



@CampMinnesota

@DakotasUMCamps

CAMP LOCATION INFORMATION

Lake Poinsett Camp

40 South Lake Dr.
Arlington, SD 57212

(605) 983-5547
lpc@dakcamps.org

Storm Mountain Center

23740 Storm Mountain Rd.
Rapid City, SD 57702

(605) 343-4391
smc@dakcamps.org

Wesley Acres Camp

1847 115th Ave. SE
Dazey, ND 58429

(701) 733-2413
wac@dakcamps.org

Northern Pines Camp

20033 County 1
Park Rapids, MN 56470

(218) 732-4713
northernpinescamp@campminnesota.org

Koronis Ministries

15752 Lake Ave.
Paynesville, MN 56362

(320) 243-4544
koronisministries@campminnesota.org

Kowakan Adventures

2402 Old County Road 18
Ely, MN 55731

(240) 394-3956
kowakan@campminnesota.org



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