

# WELCOME TO YMCA CAMP NORTHERN LIGHTS

Please read through this information and pack it along with everything else to reference while at camp. We hope this will answer most of your questions before you arrive. Please do not hesitate to contact our office for more details on any of the following information.

## **ARRIVAL TIME**

Campers may arrive any time after 4:00 p.m. the first day of their reservation. Feel free to proceed directly to your cabin. Review the Camp Map for cabin locations. If you have any questions or concerns call our Fall/Winter/Spring Program Coordinator, Isaac Patterson at 507-779-4912

## **WHAT TO BRING**

Kitchen and Bathroom Towels: Bedding and linens are provided for you at Camp Northern Lights. However, towels are not so please bring hand, bath, dish, and beach towels.

Food: All cabins have full facility kitchen to prepare your own meals. There are cooking utensils, pots, pans, a microwave, toaster, coffee pot, and dishes in all cabins.

Clothing: The weather can change quickly at Northern Lights and it is best to be prepared for anything. Be sure to pack multiple warm layers, extra socks, warm jackets, hats, and mittens. In the spring and fall, it is always a good idea to pack raincoats, rain pants, and shoes or boots that can get wet. In the winter, winter coats, snow pants, and snow boots are a necessity. Be sure to pack enough clothes for your entire stay, as there are no public laundry facilities at camp.

Miscellaneous: Water bottle and backpack for hiking or skiing adventures, flashlight, alarm clock, swimsuit, personal toiletries, hand soap, and a camera.

## **DIRECTIONS TO CAMP Northern Lights**

*If you have never been to camp, please take a look at these directions! Driving directions found online do not always give the best route to camp.*

### To Camp from the Twin Cities:

- Travel north up I-35W N and I-35 N
- Continue north on Highway 33 north, the Cloquet Exit (237)
- Your northbound journey continues up Interstate 53 N through Eveleth and Virginia
- Take Highway 169 to connect to Highway 21
- You will pass bear Island Highland Road and then Escape Road/684 on your left hand side. The left turn into camp is shortly after, there is a large camp sign along the road that is lit up in the evening. Our fire number is 9089.

### To Sisu Village:

- When you turn in on the Camp road, you will want to watch for these landmarks in this order. Keep your vehicle moving along right past these:
  - A mailbox on the right, a small house on the left (private property not owned by the YMCA), an unmarked road to the left, a diiiiip and uuup in the road (Teeny Trickle River), a Y in the road – stay right through the pretty woods
- You will come to the bottom of a hill and see the Northern Lights Camp sign, continue straight to the office in Sisu Lodge (a green building) to check-in.

## PHONES AND COMPUTERS

The camp phone is for emergency use only. Should an emergency arise at home, the caller should contact the administrative office at 612-822-2267. If there is an emergency in the evening at Camp, you could try a staff member at home at 507-779-4912. Cell phones have a limited service at camp, and we ask that participants only use cell phones inside their cabins.

Camp Northern Lights is a *Wi-Fi cold spot*. We encourage you to unplug while at camp!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Administrative Office

YMCA Camp Northern Lights  
651 Nicollet Mall, Ste. 500  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
Phone: 612-822-2267  
Fax: 651-646-5521

### Wilderness Address

YMCA Camp Northern Lights  
9089 Highway 21 North  
Babbitt, MN 55706  
Phone: 218-208-3209  
[info@campnorthernlights.org](mailto:info@campnorthernlights.org)

## 2019 YEAR-ROUND STAFF

Niki Geisler — Executive Director

Daniel O'Brien — Program Director

Anastasia Anderson- Administrative Coordinator

Isaac Patterson – Fall, Winter, Spring Program Coordinator

Elijah Olson- Property Manager

Samuel Kajawa- Caretaker

## SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN

Parents or adult chaperones assume responsibility for the care, supervision and safety of children. See policy page for suggested chaperone to child ratios.

## SAUNA

The wood burning sauna will be available one time during your stay, the electric sauna in Sisu Village can be used at your leisure. Staff at Northern Lights will set up at sauna time for you and your family after your arrival. Soap is not allowed in the sauna or in Bear Island Lake. Wool socks or something similar are required for a winter sauna to prevent foot injuries on the ice.

## RECYCLING

In keeping with our philosophy, Camp Northern Lights insists upon recycling glass and metal. Recyclables can be placed in bins near the dumpsters, cardboard can be placed in the shed by the maintenance shop, please ask a staff if you have any questions regarding this.

THANK YOU!

## CABIN CLEAN UP

Care of the cabins and grounds is the responsibility of all campers. As a courtesy please follow the cleaning checklist in your cabin binder, including cleaning the appliances, sweeping and/or vacuuming floors, recycling glass, aluminum and plastic, and disposing of non-recyclable trash. Please remember to plan your cleanup schedule so that you are out of your cabin by 11:00 a.m. on your last day.

## **FIREWOOD**

Camp Northern Lights programs are based on the natural values of the north woods environment and aim to create a greater appreciation for and understanding of the outdoors. Although surrounded by woodland, our supply of wood is not unlimited. Our wood supply, for your use at no charge, is dependent upon hundreds of hours of volunteer efforts and donated woodcutting equipment. We ask that you use firewood conservatively for campfires and in the fireplaces.

## **PETS**

Dogs are allowed in select cabins during the Fall, Winter, Spring season in the following cabins: Virta, Otava, Karhu. Dogs are not allowed during the summer months. The rate if you bring a dog is \$25.00/dog/day. Please review our dog policy before bringing your furry friend.

## **ALCOHOL & TOBACCO**

The use of alcoholic beverages at camp is limited to the campers' immediate living area. The legal drinking age is 21 and must be adhered to at all times. Use of illegal drugs is prohibited. Tobacco use inside any structure or near camper cabins or sites is not allowed.

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Please keep track of all personal items brought to camp. If you lose an item, please connect with the Fall/Winter/Spring Program Coordinator. All unclaimed lost and found items will be donated to the Camp Northern Lights fall and spring garage sales. Camp Northern Lights is not responsible for personal items that are lost, left behind, or misused by other campers.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

If a family member has a disability requiring an accommodation or a special need you would like us to be aware of, please let us know as soon as possible. This information enables us to better meet the needs of your family within available resources. Please contact the YMCA Customer Service Center at 612-230-9622 for more information.

## **YMCA Camp Northern Lights — Camping for All Seasons**

Every season at camp is the best season! Camp Northern Lights, an exceptional site for a family outing, a church retreat or fellowship with a group of friends, is open weekdays and weekends, for short-term or long-term visits during these seasons. Call the Administrative Office at 612-822-2267 soon as reservations for current openings are being accepted now.

*The YMCA welcomes those who wish to participate and annually raises funds to help make that possible. Financial assistance is supported in part by contributions through our Annual Campaign and other donors, and provides scholarships and subsidies for qualifying applicants within our available resources. Please let us know if we may serve you or your family in this way. If financial assistance could help a family visit Camp Northern Lights, please have them complete a Personal Pricing Plan Application which can be found online at:*

*[https://www.ymcamn.org/camps/camp\\_northern\\_lights/about/scholarships](https://www.ymcamn.org/camps/camp_northern_lights/about/scholarships)*

## CAMP NORTHERN LIGHTS POLICIES

1. Every attempt is made to encourage preservation of this unique wilderness setting. All campers are expected to respect the trees, land, buildings, equipment, and each other. Individuals, families or groups registered will be held responsible for any damage to the grounds, property, buildings and/or equipment.
2. If you choose to bring any personal recreation equipment, please keep it in your cabin or site when not in use. Camp Northern Lights will not be responsible for any damages or misuse of personal equipment by other campers.
3. To respect possible allergy issues of other campers, domestic animals belonging to campers and/or volunteers are only permitted in select cabins.
4. Use of alcoholic beverages at camp is limited to campers' immediate living area. The legal drinking age limit is 21 years and is adhered to at all times. Please be safe and responsible!
5. Tobacco use inside any structure or on the grounds away from camper cabins or sites is not allowed. Nearby smoking area is available.
6. Use of illegal drugs is prohibited.
7. The YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities bans guns and weapons of any kind on the premises of Camp Northern Lights. All firearms are prohibited on camp property.
8. Campers should park cars in established parking lots during their stay at camp. We ask that personal vehicles are only driven through camp for loading and unloading during arrival and departure.
9. Camp Northern Lights requires all youth groups, with youth 18 years and younger, should have chaperone ratios as follows:

<u>Age</u>	<u># Adults</u>	<u># campers</u>
<i>5 and under</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6-8 years</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>9-14 years</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>15-18 years</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>10</i>

That adult should be 21 years of age or older and at least five years older than the oldest participant in the group. Young adult groups, ages 19 and 20 years old, shall have one responsible adult chaperone to 15 campers. That adult should be 22 years of age or older and at least three years older than the oldest participant in the group. The responsible adult chaperone is the person signing the reservation agreement and is legally responsible for the group. Adult chaperones should have the health history, emergency contact information, and transportation permission for each participant. There should be two adults present, one with age-appropriate first aid, CPR, and AED certification and current lifeguard certification from a nationally recognized certifying body for waterfront activities.

10. For rental groups using the waterfront areas, we recommend at least two adults be present, one with lifeguard certification from a nationally recognized certifying body and an adult with experience and skill in paddling instruction.
11. Camper families or groups are responsible for their own emergency care and emergency transportation.
12. Camp Northern Lights advises group leaders to carry participant health information including name and address, emergency contact information, allergies or health conditions, and a signed permission to treat or religious waiver for any minors.
13. All campers should hike, ski, boat or canoe with a partner and communicate their route and estimated time of return to another responsible adult. All search and rescue effort expenses will be charged to the lost campers.
14. Day permits are required to enter the BWCAW for day hiking, skiing, or paddling. Permits may be obtained at the trailhead at the North Arm parking lot or at portages that enter the BWCAW.
15. Any recreational activity carries with it normal levels of physical risk. Any injuries to campers while participating in activities at Camp Northern Lights are the responsibility of that camper or responsible adult. Camp Northern Lights does not carry accident insurance for campers.
16. All persons attending Camp Northern Lights must sign a YMCA waiver prior to or upon arrival. By submitting a waiver form, campers automatically grant permission to use photographs of individuals, families and/or groups in YMCA promotional materials.
17. ANY change(s) made to a summer reservation are subject to a \$25 service charge per change.
18. If a summer reservation is cancelled for ANY reason and not rescheduled, 50% of the total reservation fee is forfeited if the cabin or site is not reserved by another family not yet registered. The \$150 registration fee is not refundable. Cabins not in use because of registration cancellations may be used by the camp staff for other functions.
19. If a fall, winter, or spring reservation is cancelled more than 4 weeks in advance, \$50 is non-refundable. Cancellations made within 30 days of the reservation are non-refundable.
20. If your cancellation is due to a camper's illness, medical reasons, or other uncontrollable circumstance, your camp fees will be refunded minus the deposit when cancellation is accompanied by a doctor or other official statement.
21. A \$20 service fee will be charged for all returned checks and credit card payment