

From the Director . . .

Welcome to Adventure Day Camp. You're going to love it here. During your week with us, you will get to see other parts of the world and never leave Bemidji, Minnesota! We can't wait to introduce you to our programs.

The magic begins with you! We are eager to greet you at our Village door and introduce you to new friends, language, music, arts, foods, activities and more. We are counting on you to bring your enthusiasm and willingness to try new things.

Should you or your parents have any questions about our programs and especially about Adventure Day Camp, don't hesitate to contact us. Please visit our web site at: www.concordialanguagevillages.org. Select "Programs" then "Youth" then click on "Day Camps."

Congratulations on signing up for an Adventure. Because you want to learn and explore another language and culture, we already know that you have a sense of adventure! We are glad to have you as a citizen of our Villages.

Patricia M. Thornton
Director of Summer Programs

Adventure Day Camp Parent “E-Handbook”

Thank you for registering your child for a Language Villages Adventure Day Camp. We look forward to meeting you and to helping your Villager explore the world through language and culture. This experience is lots of fun and is, for many, a grand Adventure that whets appetites for further exploration.

Because we want your child’s Adventure Day Camp to be enjoyable and rewarding, it is our desire to provide you with the information you need to prepare your villager (and yourself) for this unique experience. The information in this “E-Booklet” is designed to do that. It describes the agreement between us. Read it thoroughly. Call should you have questions or want to discuss something with us. Our desire is to partner effectively with you.

Before you get too deep into this information, it will be helpful for you to have an understanding of the words that we use to describe our program, words that have a specific meaning to us and will shape your child’s experience. You’ll see these words throughout this document and in other Language Villages communications.

Dean	This title is given to the director of each Village. The Dean lives on-site and is responsible for all aspects of the program. The Dean is often the person with whom parents communicate.
Target Language	This refers to the language spoken at the Village in which your child enrolls. While our entire program teaches 15 different languages, your child’s Village focuses on one, the target language. The Adventure Day Camps for 2009 take place in Arabic, Finnish, French, German, Norwegian, Spanish and Swedish.
Village	This word is used to name the facility at which your villager’s program takes place. We have several Villages and each is named in the target language, a name that roughly translates to “Lake of the Woods.” <i>Al-Wāḥa, Salolampi, Lac du Bois, Waldsee, Skogfjorden, El Lago Del Bosque and Sjölundén.</i>
Villager	Our program is based on the idea of living the language and culture in our “village” setting. This is why we call our participants “Villagers.” Once your child crosses our “boarder” and has their “Passport” stamped, they become a “Villager!”
Village Name	Each person in the Village – villagers and staff – adopts a name reflective of the Village’s target culture(s). We call villagers by their Village name to remind them that they are actually in their target culture. This name is selected by the villager upon arrival at the Village.

What can I expect from my child’s participation in Adventure Day Camp? What’s the outcome?

It’s unreasonable for us to claim that your child will be fluent in the target language or culturally competent after a week or two of Adventure Day Camp, but we can tell you that ...

- Your child will learn the target language through fun and engaging activities.
- Your child will become more aware of new cultures and their practices.

- Your child will have the opportunity to connect with nature and be outside in a playful and “learnful” environment.
- Your child will develop confidence in learning and using a second or third – or even more languages.

Adventure Day Camp Schedules:

Each Adventure Day Camp runs Monday-Friday, 9:00-3:30 (or 6 ½ hours each day for a total of 32 ½ hours per week.)* There are two sessions during the summer which will run Monday-Thursday. The Fridays of those two sessions are reserved for Concordia Language Village’s *International Day!* Please see the schedule of Adventure Day Camps for further details on dates and sessions.

*Please note that the Norwegian day camp schedule is a bit different: It will run Tuesday-Friday, 9:00-5:15 (or 8 ¼ hours each day for a total of 33 hours per week).

What will my villager’s day be like?

While any given day’s schedule may be adapted because of a special event, a change in the weather, or even a SURPRISE, here’s a general idea of how your villager will spend his/her time. Each Village will have its own schedule; this is provided only as an overview.

8:45-9:00	Parents drop off their day camper at the Village
9:00	Adventure Day Camp begins! Villagers stow their day packs and gather for Morning Circle or an opening activity.
9:45	“Theme of the Day” is introduced along with new language to learn. Sometimes there’s “sign up” if there are several activities when several choices are offered.
10:15	Activity Period I -- this varies from day-to-day and includes things like arts & crafts, folk dancing, games of the target culture, cooking, and singing.
11:00	Morning break – a pause to regroup and have a snack.
11:15	Small group activities – here’s where your Villager may work on projects that take more than one day to complete.
12:00	Lunch at the Village. Foods of the target culture(s) are served followed by some “down time activity” for a breather.
1:15	Activity Period II (similar to Activity Period I).
2:00	Mid-afternoon break. The Village bank and store are open.
2:15	Activity Period III – this could be similar to the previous Activity Periods but may also be a culminating event of the day.
3:00	Final Gathering Time – recapping the day, getting a hint about tomorrow, and then getting ready to go home.
3:30*	Adventure Day Camp closes; villagers are signed out to parents.

For the most part, your villager will be engaged in their Day Camp activities with their own counseling staff. However, because the Adventure Day Camp runs concurrently with our in-residence, immersion programs, Adventure Villagers may sometimes be part of a fun dynamic that includes the whole Village. When this happens, Adventure counselors will still be with your villager to coach your child’s Adventure of what Village life is all about.

*Note: The Norwegian schedule will continue until 5:15 with additional activities.

What is the Adventure Day Camp staffing ratio?

The Adventure Day Camp program has a staff ratio of 3-4 children to each staff member. The Adventure Day Camp staff are the children's leaders for the day's activities, their lunch time and their free time.

What about staff training and qualifications?

Concordia Language Villages has a strong reputation for highly qualified staff from across the nation and from around the world. The Deans of the Adventure Day Camps have been on staff an average of 25 years each and are unsurpassed in their experience of working with young people. The rest of the program staff includes certified teachers as well as young, energetic staff whose enthusiasm for language and culture is contagious and motivating to young learners.

Tell me more about meals and snacks

Food at the Language Villages is culturally authentic and made from scratch. Lunch may be a family-style meal served in the dining hall or a picnic along the shores of the lake. Regardless, your villager's culinary experience is designed to show them the world of food through the eyes of their target culture(s).

Some foods may not be immediately familiar to your child. That's where our counselors step in. Their experience with "kid friendly meals" and getting kids to try unfamiliar things is excellent! We ask that you prepare your villager to explore the flavors of their target culture.

If your child has a special dietary need or a food allergy, use our Health History form to tell us about that. We can also accommodate most vegetarian preferences.

What should a villager bring to Adventure Day Camp?

Experienced villagers know that valuable items should stay at home. Here's a little list of items to get you started with packing your child's day pack:

- Your Language Villages Passport -- This ticket to a whole lot of fun will be sent when your child's registration is complete.
- Sun screen and mosquito repellent – Our staff will supervise the use of these products.
- Shoes appropriate for running and walking (closed toe, please!).
- Bathing suit and towel for those who want to swim.
- Water bottle
- Sun protective hat

What about money to spend at the store?

On Opening Day, your villager will deposit their U.S. currency at the Village bank. That deposit is recorded in your child's Passport and on their bank card. Instead of handling money, a villager simply brings his/her Passport to the Village store; the amount purchased is recorded and a running balance maintained. This helps young villagers have the cultural experience of making a purchase using their language skills while minimizing the potential for lost currency. These rich language-learning experiences, at both the store and bank, will be facilitated by our staff.

The amount of money needed by your Villager should be something you talk about with your child. International candy and soft drinks start at \$1 U.S., t-shirts are priced \$15-\$30 U.S., and sweatshirts are \$30-\$65 U.S. Each store also has gift items, books and music CDs among other things. These range in price from inexpensive to more pricey. You'll have a chance to visit our stores after the Parent's Program on the last day of your child's session.

What about health care?

Use the Health History Form to tell us about your child's health status.

Our expectation is that Villagers arrive ready to participate in their program. Here are our specifics with regard to an Adventure Day Camp participant's readiness:

1. A day camper should be capable of meeting his/her personal needs (e.g., dresses self, uses the toilet without assistance).
2. A day camper should be capable of moving independently from place to place in a village.
3. A day camper should be capable of effective interaction in our group-based program.

Please do not send your child if they are too ill or injured to participate in the program.

Please contact the Adventure Day Camp Office at 218-586-8600 if:

- You have other health-related questions.
- Your child needs a personal medication given while attending the day camp program. This program does not dispense personal medications unless these arrangements have been made.

We value safety. Our policies and practices are based on preventing injury and illness. However, we also recognize that the active nature of a villager's day means that, upon occasion, someone may inadvertently get hurt. Skinned knees seem to be part of this age group's experience.

Should something unforeseen happen, the Health Center staff present on each of our village sites is available. Using protocols from our supervising physician, John Parkin, MD, pediatrician and emergency physician with MeritCare Clinics, our on-site staff will respond to health needs from a health maintenance perspective. Should your child be seen in our Health Center, we will tell you about that.

If your villager is unable to return to their program because of an injury or illness, we will call you to arrange for their return home.

In case of a medical emergency, we will call 911, initiate contact with you, and transport your child to North Country Regional Hospital, Bemidji, MN.

Tell me about transportation.

There are two options for pick-up and drop-off.

1. The Adventure Day Camp shuttle picks up villagers in Bemidji's Lueken's North parking lot, near the ATM machine, at 8:30 a.m. and returns villagers to this location at 4:00 p.m. This service costs an additional \$30 per week.
2. Parents may also transport their Villager directly to the Village. Drop-off is at the designated Village check-in point (follow the signs) between 8:45 – 9:00 a.m. Villager pick up is at the same place between 3:30 – 3:45 p.m. (Note that Norwegian pick-up is between 5:15-5:30 p.m.)

Everyone appreciates being on time. We recommend having a back-up plan should you be unavoidably late. In all instances of delay, please inform us. If we do not hear from you, we will

initiate contact using your designated emergency numbers. In these cases, there is a late fee of \$1 per minute.

Who do I call when I have a question or if I need to tell you something while my child is at the Village?

Call the Business Office of your child's Village. This phone is answered during business hours and, for those times when we are away from the office, has voice mail at which you can leave a message. We check voice messages at least once every hour between 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

218-586-8730	Al-Wāḥa (Arabic) Business Office
218-586-8530	Lac du Bois (French) Business Office
218-586-8630	Waldsee (German) Business Office
218-586-8730	Skogfjoden (Norwegian) Business Office
218-586-8930	El Lago del Bosque (Spanish) Business Office
218-586-8830	Salolampi (Finnish) Business Office
218-586-8830	Sjölunden (Swedish) Business Office

Can I see what my child is experiencing? – On the last day of the week, we present each villager with their certificate during a short celebration that begins at 2:45 p.m. This is an excellent time to join us! Parents who attend can also shop at the Village store and then leave with their Villager. All other villagers will go home via their regular transportation plan.

What else should I know ? –The mission of Concordia Language Villages is “to prepare young people for responsible citizenship in our global community.” We take our mission and its implication of good citizenship very seriously. To create and maintain a harmonious Village experience for everyone, we apply our behavior expectations fairly and across all our programs. Consequently, read the policies below and, in an age-appropriate way, discuss them with your villager. Keep in mind that this is not, nor can it ever be, an exhaustive list but it does serve to frame our agreement with you and our expectations of one another.

Agreement – Registering your child constitutes an agreement between Concordia Language Villages and the parent/guardian of the enrolled child in accordance with this document and governed by Minnesota law. Both parties consent to the jurisdiction of Minnesota courts should legal action ensue.

Attendance – It is expected that the villager will attend the session in which s/he is enrolled. Staff and program plans are based on expected enrollment. There is no refund for cancellation once a session has begun.

Behavior – The Language Villages seeks to maintain an environment free of discrimination, violence, intimidation and harassment based on gender, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation or disability. Language, behaviors and/or attitudes that intimidate, offend or debilitate villagers or staff members are not tolerated. Encourage your child to talk with you and/or our staff if s/he has concerns about these matters. Bullying behaviors, in particular, will not be tolerated.

CLV – Unplugged! – While other aspects of life may be filled with noise, distraction, wired and complex, a Village experience immerses participants in something entirely different – language and culture. This is why cell phones and other personal electronic devices are a distraction and considered “contraband” in our programs. Talk with your villager about “stepping up” to this challenge, but also consider what it means to you. We'll gladly convey messages to your child and talk with you, simply call our Business Office.

Confidentiality – Information about villagers and staff is handled in a confidential manner. We communicate with the villager’s custodial parent/guardian and, unless you direct us via written record, will only release your child to the custodial parent/guardian or designee (please use the Transportation form). Villager’s personal health information is kept on file in our on-site health center and is shared with staff on a need-to-know basis.

Customs and Contraband – To establish and maintain our immersion setting, villagers are encouraged to bring culturally appropriate music, books, clothing and realia, items that will enhance everyone’s experience. Items – including iPods, MP3 players, and other electronic devices -- not in the target language or reflective of the target culture (like candy and gum) can be treated as “contraband,” removed, and returned to the parent at the end of the day.

Illegal Substances, Alcohol and Tobacco – The Language Villages is an alcohol and drug-free environment. Participants are not allowed to use tobacco products. If your child is in possession of, or using an illegal substance or alcohol, you will be contacted and s/he sent home at your expense without refund.

Photographing Villagers and Staff – We capture images of Village life using several types of media, one of which is photographs for displays, publications, our website, advertisements, and Village Production Pages. All photographs are the exclusive property of the Language Villages; no compensation is paid to Villagers or staff whose image appears. Villagers will not be identified by name or home address in any publication without prior parental consent. If you have questions or concerns about our photo policies, please contact our offices.

Tipping – In accordance with ACA Standards and Language Villages policy, staff may not accept gifts or other forms of gratuity for any services during your child’s enrollment at the Village.

Visiting the Village – To help maintain a safe and secure environment for your child and the over 3000 children who attend our Village programs on Turtle River Lake as well as preserve the integrity of our immersion settings, we take precautions to monitor closely for traffic or persons who are not a part of our programs or clientele. We ask your cooperation while on our site not to drive through or visit other Villages or programs without registering at our office. Parents of Adventure Day Camp participants are invited to attend their villager’s end-of-session celebration and should consult with the Dean before other visits to site.