

Frühling 2011
GB60/80

Liebe Waldseer!

Der Sommer kommt -- summer's coming -- it's time for [Waldsee!](#) We're looking forward to seeing you! I'm writing to tell you a few things about our *Waldsee* community this summer to help you prepare for *ein tolles Erlebnis* – [a fabulous experience!](#) You can click on the links in this letter to find out more [about us](#), or go to *Waldsee*'s own [DuTube](#) for some cool videos that you can also upload.

If you haven't been to *Waldsee* before, our [Ankunftstag](#) – opening day – is a fun start to your adventure. Registration hours on opening Monday are between 2:00 pm and 4:30 pm. Please try to come during this period as the staff needs time before you arrive to prepare and time after you arrive to get to know you and help you settle in before the evening meal.

The Language Villages office is sending you a passport to your adventure at *Waldsee*. Please have it ready when you arrive. Your journey then begins when you join us at the *Waldsee Bahnhof* (train station), where you choose a German name, get a *Namensschild*, or name tag, find out where you will be living, and exchange your American dollars for *Euro*, which you will deposit in your *Waldsee* bank account.

Similar to any trip abroad, arriving at *Waldsee* also means going through *Zoll* (customs) and the traditional customs inspection. Your passport will be stamped and your luggage checked for *Schmuggelwaren* (contraband), a description of which is in the [Parent's Handbook](#). I also ask that you not bring [food items](#), such as candy, cookies, chips, etc. because keeping these items in the cabins can become a health risk.

You will have a brief chat with our nurses, and any medications (including aspirin) will be kept and distributed by our health-care providers. Don't worry! Everything will be returned when you leave. We just want to offer a real living and learning experience with the German language and German-speaking cultures--it's all part of the *Waldsee* game.

We have a *Laden*, or store, where you can buy European souvenirs, and a real German *Café* with European candy, snacks and our own Wurlitzer jukebox playing the latest German rock music and other hits.

You'll then be able to settle into your new home in a *Haus* (cabin) named after a German, Austrian or Swiss city. Your *Betreuer* (counselors) are from German-speaking countries or Americans who have studied German extensively or lived in German-speaking countries. They'll be on hand to help you settle in and answer any questions you may have about the German language or life at *Waldsee*. Cabin assignments are made carefully in advance according to several factors, so please respect this decision.

Also, as you pack remember to bring your camera, clothes for all types of weather, including cold and wet weather, and a native costume, should you have one. We never really need real "dress up" clothing, although we might have a German restaurant and dance night, at which the

clothes you were playing *Fussball* in all week might not be appropriate. Minnesota mosquitoes love to learn German at *Waldsee*, so mosquito spray and flashlights are particularly useful *am Abend*. The most important things to bring, however, are enthusiasm and an open attitude to new experiences.

Die Musik is important in German culture, and *Waldsee* is quite a musical place, so if you play an instrument, be sure to bring it along. You might find an opportunity to create your own *Waldsee* rock band, join a classical group, or just jam with friends.

We're also going to learn a lot of German, and we're going to have fun doing it! The counselors are both caring and a little wacky--many come back year after year from both Europe and all across America because of the great time we have. If you're returning, we have some of the best aspects of [past Waldsee summers](#) ready for you, including our [fresh-baked items](#), our [delicious food](#), and great new things to offer! And if you're coming for the first time, don't worry--we'll do everything we can to make you feel comfortable, make friends, have fun and learn a lot in *unserer Gemeinschaft* --our *Waldsee* community.

At *Waldsee* we truly hope to offer something for everyone. We're excited that you have chosen to join us for our [four week middle school program](#)! There will be enough variety during the four weeks to keep things interesting, and I know you will meet many *Freunde* – friends -- along the way! Since our four week program will coincide with two of our [two-week](#) sessions, there will be a short “interim” break during the weekend between these two sessions. You will have a chance to go into town, wash your clothes, get any other necessary items you may need for the next two weeks, and then join us back at *Waldsee*. *Waldsee Betreuer* will join you in town, so everyone feels comfortable and safe! For each of the two-week sessions you can choose a variety of experiences. In addition to participating in our regular two-week program, you may want to opt for one of our special ["adventure"](#) programs that will be going on at the same time. You might want to participate in the “normal” two-week program during the first two weeks, and then perhaps you might want to choose an adventure program for the second two weeks. You can decide when you are with us at *Waldsee*, but it might help to think about it a bit beforehand as well.

On opening day, each of these programs will have a spot where you can sign up if you like and find out more about their offerings.

- If you have consider yourself at the intermediate level or above, our magical, medieval [Märchenwald](#), or Forest of Legends, might be of interest to you;
- If you are interested in the environment, or just being outdoors and enjoying nature, you might want to try our [Grüne Welle](#), a special environmental immersion, canoeing and tenting program;
- You also might want to explore [Helvetia](#), our exciting Swiss immersion program that we offer together with our neighbor, *Lac du Bois*, the French Language Village
- If you are returning to *Waldsee* and have had some German, you might also want to join

us as a German DJ on our own [Waldsee Radio](#) FM station.

- At *Waldsee* we stress speaking and listening skills. If you are particularly keen on extra reading and writing practice, we offer the [Kollegstufe](#), with a particular emphasis on these skills.

Remember, these are all just optional adventures —the [regular two week program](#) itself is fun, challenging and has quite a bit to offer! Our [daily schedule](#) is packed full of fun.

Because *Waldsee* is an immersion program that simulates a visit to another country, parents are discouraged from making non-emergency calls to you. However, your parents should feel free to call me with any questions or concerns. My telephone number is 218-586-8630. Remind your friends and family to write! Here are some fun [tips](#).

Also, August 12 is [International Day](#) at *Waldsee* -- all the other Language Villages come to our site for a celebration of language and community. Parents and the public are welcome. The Language Village office will be sending you more information.

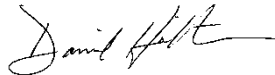
At 10:00 am on the last Saturday of your session we put on a [closing program](#) for your parents and the public. After that it will be time to say *auf Wiedersehen in Waldsee* and you can be on your way by 11:15. Please remind your family not to arrive before 9:30 am because you will be busy packing and preparing for the program.

Please let us know if you or your parents have any questions before you leave. The Parent Handbook can answer many questions -- or you can call the Language Villages office in Moorhead, Minnesota.

Still have some questions? Villagers can click [here](#) and parents [here](#) for more answers to some frequently asked questions.

If this is your first time at *Waldsee*, I look forward to meeting you. If you are returning, I look forward to seeing you again and to your having another unforgettable *Waldsee* experience!

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,



[“Karl”](#)

Dan Hamilton
Dean, *Waldsee*

Your address at *Waldsee*:

Your Name (your **cabin** once you know what it is)
Waldsee - Session GB ##
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