

Frühling 2011
GB66/86

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 apprentice program](#)! In *Waldsee's* German Apprentice Program, you'll learn German by becoming a *Lehrling*, working half-time developing a community skill *auf deutsch*, and learning German half-time in regular *Waldsee* learning groups. German apprentices live with regular *Waldsee* participants and join in village activities, but also contribute to the *Waldsee* community and develop a work skill at the same time, learning from master teachers and experts in their field. It's a time-honored German tradition and a great leadership opportunity. When you complete your apprenticeship you will receive a certificate of apprenticeship with work hours included.

As a *Lehrling*, you will use your German actively in a variety of practical work situations that will help keep *Waldsee* village life humming along. *Das Lehrlingsprogramm* is something of a work-study program. This means you should be prepared to be given various work assignments, and you will be expected to use your German as best you can in these situations. Our *Betreuer* will be there to help you. All *Lehrlinge* will have rotating assignments in practical areas of village life, such as *die Bäckerei und die Küche* (did you know that almost all *Waldsee Betreuer und Lehrer* also work on a rotating basis in the *Küche*?), *die Bank, der Laden, Cafe Einbeck*, and our own German *Wiederverwendungssystem* -- recycling system. In addition, we will work with you to develop a more focused area of work tailored to your own interests -- anything from music, science and environmental studies to technology, art, or photography, and to learn how to express yourself well in German as you explore. You might be interested in being an apprentice in the [Waldsee Adventure Day Camp](#) -- young kids join us every day to have fun at *Waldsee*. You might also be interested in being an apprentice in one of our adventure programs -- [Abenteuerprogramme](#):

- If you are interested in theatre and history, 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 become a Swiss apprentice for [Helvetia](#), our exciting Swiss immersion program that we offer together with our neighbor, *Lac du Bois*, the French Language Village
- You might also want to learn how to produce and manage your own radio show on our own [Waldsee Radio](#) FM station.
- At *Waldsee* we stress speaking and listening skills. If you are particularly keen on helping others with those skills, you may be interested in a Lehrling experience with [Kollegstufe](#).

To help us plan the best apprenticeship schedule for you, **please fill out the attached form and return to me at dhamilto@cord.edu at least a week before you arrive at *Waldsee***. The form is in German -- if you don't know a word, don't worry, just look it up! It's good practice and your first introduction to the *Lehrlingsprogramm!* When you arrive we will discuss your schedule and how to make this a really cool experience. If you've already filled out the form and sent it in, that's great. We're excited about the apprenticeship program -- *Willkommen im Team!*

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!

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.

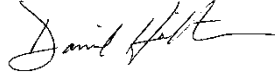
At 10:00 am on the last Saturday of your session we put on a [closing program](#) for your parents and the public. After that it will be time to say *auf Wiedersehen in Waldsee* and you can be on your way by 11:15. Please remind your family not to arrive before 9:30 am because you will be busy packing 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 have 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 ##
9550 Ruppstrasse NE
Bemidji, MN 56601
Tel: (218) 586-8630
Fax: (218) 586-8788

Lehrlinge in Waldsee
German Apprentice Program
Waldsee German Language Village
(Bitte senden an: dhamilto@cord.edu)

- Name
 - Alter
 - Session GB66_____ GB86 _____
 - Email
 - Ich bin _____ zum ersten Mal in Waldsee.
 _____ zum ____ Mal in Waldsee.
 - Ich habe _____ Jahre Deutsch gelernt.
 - Warst du schon in Deutschland/Europa? _____ Wenn Ja, wann? Wie lange?
-

- Ich verstehe Deutsch ein bisschen_____ ziemlich gut _____ gut _____ sehr gut_____
- Ich spreche Deutsch ein bisschen_____ ziemlich gut _____ gut _____ sehr gut_____
- Ich lese Deutsch ein bisschen_____ ziemlich gut _____ gut _____ sehr gut_____
- Ich schreibe Deutsch ein bisschen_____ ziemlich gut _____ gut _____ sehr gut_____

- Ich verstehe, dass Waldsee Lehrlinge in der Bäckerei/Küche mithelfen, dass Waldsee Lehrlinge deutsch sprechen, dass Waldsee Lehrlinge überall in Waldsee hilfsbereit sind.

Unterschrift_____

- Außerdem interessiere ich mich als Lehrling für

die Bank_____ den Laden_____ das Cafe_____

das Wiederverwendungssystem (Recycling)_____

das Geschäftsbüro (Business Office)_____

- Ich interessiere mich als Lehrling für

Kunst_____ Musik _____ Sport_____ Technologie_____ Geschichte_____

die Natur/Umwelt_____ Kultur_____ Webblogging_____ Politik_____

Photographie/Video_____ Sonst_____

- Ich interessiere mich als Lehrling für

den Märchenwald_____ die Grüne Welle_____ Waldsee Radio_____

Helvetia_____ die Kollegstufe_____ Waldsee Adventure Day Camp_____