

Frühling 2011  
GB64/83/84/85

*Liebe Waldseer!*

*Der Sommer kommt* -- summer's coming -- it's time for [Waldsee!](#) We're ready to go, we're going to have some great adventures, and we're looking forward to seeing you. Welcome to the *Waldsee* credit program. You are joining a very special community. I'm writing to tell you a few things about *Waldsee* this summer to help you plan 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.

The [credit program](#) is a very special experience. The entire staff will work very hard to support you, and because of the natural way we experience language and culture at *Waldsee* I believe you'll learn and speak more German than you ever thought possible. You will also have the chance to get to know others your age from all across the country -- a major reason *Waldsee* villagers say they return year after year are the great people they met here from so many different backgrounds.

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.

On the first day you will hear a bit more about the credit program. We will use the next day to refresh your German skills, have you do a self-placement exercise, and give you a fuller orientation to the credit program's set up and expectations. Together, these activities will help us place you in what is likely to be your core language group for the four weeks. Actual classes start on Wednesday. If you are participating in our special [Grüne Welle credit](#) or [Märchenwald credit](#) programs, you will quickly join your program and start some amazing adventures.

As you pack, be sure to bring writing paper, pencils and pens, and a good, portable German-English dictionary. If you don't have one, we sell dictionaries in the store. If you work well with flashcards, be sure to bring those along as well. Also 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 German restaurants and dance nights, at which the clothes you were playing *Fussball* in all week might not be appropriate. You'll have a chance to wash your clothes during our interim weekend between the first and last two weeks.

*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.

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.

We're going to learn a lot of German, and we're going to have fun doing it! The teachers are creative and supportive, and 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 *unsere Gemeinschaft* --our *Waldsee* community.

At *Waldsee* we truly hope to offer something for everyone. If you are an advanced high school student of German, you may be interested and eligible for another program also taking place at *Waldsee* during the same time you are with us -- our [college credit course](#) focuses on modern Germany. Participants live with those in the high school credit program and join in many of the same activities. The stress is on content-based learning about Germany and the Germans since the fall of the Berlin Wall. There is an emphasis on personalized learning, and we have a number of guest lecturers come to speak. You can earn one college semester credit from Concordia College. If you would like to know more or are interested in perhaps moving from the high school credit program to the college credit program, let me know.

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.

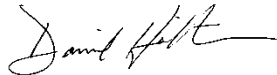
At 10:00 am on the last Saturday of your session we put on a [closing program](#) for your parents and the public. After that it will be time to say *auf Wiedersehen in Waldsee* and you can be on your way by 11:15. Please remind your family not to arrive before 9:30 am because you will be busy packing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