

Dear Family Week Participants,

Willkommen in Waldsee!

Thank you for your registration to our summer family week, June 15-20, 2009. We look forward to meeting you, helping you and your family practice and improve your German skills, and experience the diversity, richness and fun of German-speaking culture. We hope you will find the experience enjoyable and rewarding. I'd like to tell you a bit more about our program and anticipate any questions you may have. If you have any other questions, feel free to contact the main Concordia Language Villages office (1-800-222-4750) and they will relay your message to me. After June 5th, I can be reached at the village (1-218-586-8630).

Check-in at *Waldsee* will take place from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM on **Monday, June 13, 2011**. Remember to bring your Concordia Language Villages passports along. We will offer a variety of activities after registration and we will gather at the *Gasthof* (dining hall) for *Abendessen* (evening meal) at around 6:00 pm. Further details about language learning, special cultural themes and activities presenters and their subjects will be offered after you arrive.

The family week will conclude at **11 a.m. on Saturday, June 18**, following the closing program that begins at 10:00 a.m. and usually lasts just over an hour. Unfortunately, we are not able to accommodate either early arrivals or late departures. We can, however, assist you in finding accommodations in Bemidji if necessary. Area recommended hotels are listed below. Indicate you are with Concordia Language Villages.

Northern Inn Hotel – 1-800-667-8485 or 218-444-9500
Comfort Inn – 1-800-228-5150 or 218-444-7700
Holiday Inn Express – 1-800-465-4329 or 218-751-2487
Super 8 Motel – 1-800-800-8000 or 218-751-8481
AmericInn – 800-643-3444 or 218-751-3000

General Information

The schedule for the week will also include some “free” time for relaxing, enjoying the surroundings, listening to music, playing games, or just visiting. If you would like to share your German experiences with other participants, please feel free to bring musical instruments, photos or other souvenirs of German-speaking Europe. We have equipment to share videos and DVDs, including those recorded in Europe.

Most housing will be in our main residence buildings, with multiple families sharing living space in a cabin (for example, our large residence buildings contain four “cabin” units, which might in turn be shared by up to four families depending on the size of family units). Since many families provide separate, private sleeping rooms for their children, it is important to prepare all family members for understanding and respecting private spaces in a semi-private environment.

Each cabin has bathroom and shower facilities located within the residence building. Bring your own bedding (including pillows), towels, shampoo, soap and other toiletries. Within each cabin is an internal village telephone. We do not have our staff living with families; adult participants are responsible for their children in their cabin spaces. We will, however, offer staff members as “*gute Nachbarn*” – good neighbors – who can assist families with German program activities for the cabin and other questions or concerns.

Bring warm clothes in case of cool weather and a sturdy pair of shoes for outdoor activities. Past participants have found a flashlight useful, and some have brought binoculars for investigating the flora and fauna of *Waldsee*. Don't forget your camera. And bring bathing suits for the sauna and swimming.

We can offer only limited computer/internet access, but we can provide a small wireless Internet café area if you need to work and have your own computer. We have very limited printing capability.

The cabins will be unlocked during the day, but we are rather isolated and traditionally have had very few problems with theft. Nonetheless, we advise you to limit the amount of valuables you bring with you to the program. We do have some secure space for cash and other small items. Security or maintenance personnel are on duty 24 hours a day. A bank will be available for safekeeping of money. We will be using euros as our village currency in the store. You may change your American money for euros at the village bank.

Waldsee, the German Language Village site, is approximately 15 miles north of downtown Bemidji. Because the emphasis of the program is on the language and cultures of German-speaking Europe, we have not planned any group outings to Bemidji or the surrounding area.

Here is a *tentative* daily schedule. It is designed to be flexible. Participants will receive a detailed copy of the week's schedule when they arrive, and any changes will be announced and posted each day. Staff will be responsible for children during scheduled children's activities; at other times, adult participants will be responsible for their children.

8:00 AM	<i>Morgenkreis</i> (Morning Circle)
8:10	<i>Frühstück</i> (Breakfast)
9:00	<i>Die allgemeine Gesang- und Vorführungsstunde</i> (large group singing and language presentation)
10:00	1. <i>Gesprächsgruppe</i> (small group language sessions, children's language activities)
10:45	<i>Pause</i> (Break— free time, fruit available, Café, store are open)
11:15	1. <i>Veranstaltungsstunde</i> (activity period)
12:30	<i>Mittagessen</i> (noon meal)
1:15	<i>Ruhezeit</i> (quiet cabin/family time)
2:15	2. <i>Gesprächsgruppe</i> (second small group language sessions, children's language activities)
3:00	2. <i>Veranstaltungsstunde</i> (activity period)
4:00	<i>Pause und Kaffeeklatsch</i> (Snack break, free time, stores, coffee and conversation)
4:30	<i>Familienausflug</i> (Family language excursions)
5:30	Free time

6:30 *Abendessen* (Dinner)
7:30 *Familienabendprogramm* (Family Evening program)
8:30 *Gute Nacht!/Familienzeit im Haus* (good night/family time in the cabin)

The *Waldsee Familienwoche* runs concurrently with our first one-week *Waldsee* session, with about 60 elementary and middle school participants for ages 7-15. We have an excellent staff and look forward to fun interactions between our various programs. You will have options to engage in activities with these other programs as well.

There are telephones available within the village for local, calling card or collect calls. Because we consider cell phones *Schmuggelwaren* (contraband) for our regular summer youth participants, we ask for discretion in your own use of telephones, and will ask that you make any phone calls in designated areas apart from the main programming areas.

Waldsee's community-based approach to language and cultural immersion is based on mutual support among members of the *Waldsee* community for each other's safety, learning and fun! We know you are coming expecting to engage in a German immersion setting; we ask that you also support us and our other participants in use of German. There are many ways to do this throughout the day, even for beginners, and it can be a very fun adventure. *Waldsee macht Spass!*

Policies

Concordia Language Villages is an alcohol and drug free environment. Smoking is limited to a restricted area, located behind the dining hall. Smoking is not permitted in the cabins or other buildings and is generally not permitted outdoors, due to the forest environment. Pets are not allowed. We appreciate the participants' cooperation.

Telephone and Emergency Numbers

To reach a participant during the week, one should leave a voice mail message by calling 1-218-586-8630. For emergencies only, from 9:30PM until 8:00AM, one should call 1-218-586-8770.

We are going to have a great summer and are excited about welcoming you to *Waldsee!* Participants in the *Familienwoche* are coming from all across the country; I believe we will all have a great German language adventure together. We look forward to seeing you soon – *bis bald!*

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Jon "Berndt" Olsen
Dean, Waldsee German Language Village