

Liebe Waldseer!

Willkommen in Waldsee – Welcome to *Waldsee*! We're looking forward to seeing you! I'm writing to tell you a few things about our *Waldsee* community this summer.

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.

Just like any trip abroad, arriving at *Waldsee* means going through *Zoll* (customs) and the traditional customs inspection. The Concordia Language Villages office is sending you a passport. Please have it ready when you arrive. It will be stamped and your luggage checked for *Schmuggelwaren* (contraband), which is outlined 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 and attract little woodland creatures into our living areas. Since we are an immersion program, cell phones are another item which will not be allowed to be used during your stay at *Waldsee*. Any medications (including non-prescription drugs such as aspirin) will be kept and distributed by our health-care provider. Don't worry! Everything that is not a food item will be returned when you leave. Unfortunately, we do not have the ability to store contraband food items – these items will be donated to the local food shelf. 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.

Your journey then begins when you choose a German name, get a *Namensschild*, or name tag, and exchange your American dollars for *Euro*, which you will deposit in your *Waldsee* bank account. We have two village stores ([Café Einbeck](#) and [KaDeWa](#)) where you can buy European candy, snacks and souvenirs.

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 (since many cameras look alike, it would be a good idea to label it with your name), your musical instrument if you play one, clothes for all types of weather, including cold and wet weather, and a native costume (like a [Dirndl](#) or [Lederhosen](#)), 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 *Handball* in all week might not be appropriate. The mosquitoes in Minnesota love to learn German at *Waldsee* too, so mosquito spray and flashlights are particularly useful *am Abend* (in the evening). The most important things to bring, however, are enthusiasm and an open attitude to new experiences. You'll have a chance to wash your clothes at a laundromat in Bemidji during our interim weekend between the first and last two weeks.

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, plus some 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.

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 many *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
- 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 jolsen@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. We're excited about the apprenticeship program --

Willkommen im Team!

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. Remind your friends and family to write to you while you're away at camp! We will distribute mail once a day Mondays through Saturday. The address you can share with them is listed below. Your family may also use our free one-way e-mail service by using [this link](#). We will print e-mails and deliver them during mail call.

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 about 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 [handbook](#) can answer many questions -- or you can call the Language Villages office in Moorhead, Minnesota.

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!

We've put together a [Waldsee website](#) that has a lot of additional information, photos, videos from past years, and much more. If you want to learn more about the different programs we offer, click on "[Programme/Curriculum](#)" tab. If you would like to read about what life is like in *Waldsee*, click on the "[Village Life](#)" tab. This website will be updated throughout the summer, so let your friends and family know the address before you leave. They can also view pictures from *Waldsee* on our [Flickr site](http://www.flickr.com/waldsee) (<http://www.flickr.com/waldsee>).

Make sure you family and friends all have your address so you can receive mail while you are at *Waldsee*! [Here](#) are some great letter-writing tips you can pass along to your friends and family. Your address at *Waldsee* is:

Your Name (& Cabin Name, if known)
Waldsee – Session GB ##
9550 Ruppstrasse NE
Bemidji, MN 56601

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

“Berndt”
Jon Berndt Olsen
Dean of *Waldsee*

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

Name _____

Alter _____

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 _____ Helvetia _____ die Kollegstufe _____

Waldsee Adventure Day Camp _____