

CAMP OKOBOJI

VISION: Refreshing Body & Spirit
MISSION: We provide Sanctuary which connects
guests with God and His Creation
VALUES: Gospel, Safety, Excellence, Wellness,
Stewardship, Legacy



May 5, 2020

Greetings in Christ, our risen Lord and Savior!!

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Since 1940, Camp Okoboji has been a ministry dedicated to serving its guests - staff, pastors, church workers, families, summer staff, volunteers, and campers.

Since March of this year, we have been in the midst of an unprecedented world Pandemic, COVID-19. The impacts of COVID-19 are serious and far reaching and have altered normal life activities around the entire world. Throughout the early stages of this Pandemic, our response has been guided by our Vision, Mission and Values and consistently following Federal and State Government and local health organization guidelines to mitigate the risks of this infectious disease. Our primary goal is to protect the safety and well being of our guests and the communities we share because you are so important to us.

We have diligently prayed for our Lord's guidance, asking for wisdom and discernment as we sought to make decisions regarding going forward at Camp. We have invested ourselves in the research and understanding to seek out the best possible decision. After this intensive process, with great sadness, we presented our recommendation to the Board of Directors to cancel all camp programs, family reunions, large group events, and activities. The Board affirmed that recommendation and acted to approve the cancellations as recommended.

Our summer of 2020 will look very different than it has in the past. We will continue Family Ministry Cabin reservations under the existing mitigation requirements for COVID-19. Our focus on Family Ministry Cabins will give us opportunity to enhance our GOSPEL Value as we strive to retool the ministry structure and intentionality of connecting with and building community/relationship with these guests. It will allow the greatest opportunity to protect the SAFETY of all guests at Camp following the existing mitigation guidelines. Programming EXCELLENCE will be protected from the detrimental impacts of shifting focus from the programming efforts to the mitigation efforts. And finally, this decision allows faithful STEWARDSHIP efforts by providing the best chance to minimize the financial impacts of COVID-19.

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We acknowledge and understand that it will bring real sadness and disappointment to each of our guests and campers. We truly grieve with you, recognizing the loss of these anticipated faith enriching and community building experiences. As difficult as these cancellations are, we ask you to consider these decisions are made to achieve the sustainable health of our guests, campers, volunteers, staff and Camp Okoboji itself.

Through these cancellations, any deposits or registration fees will be safeguarded according to your wishes. You may choose to roll them over to 2021 or your next visit, you may choose to receive a full or partial refund, or you may choose to donate all or part of them to sustain the ministry of Camp Okoboji.

Please be assured that Camp Okoboji will continue to strive to serve you as our Vision states: "Refreshing Body and Spirit". Carrying out this Vision is not a matter of geography, rather it is relationships rooted in our shared faith in Jesus Christ. Camp Okoboji's ministry takes root in the Christian relationships established and nurtured through our programs. In future months, we will continue to provide ways for our campers and guests to further establish and nurture these Christian relationships that make Camp Okoboji such a special place!! Look for online opportunities as we seek alternative ways to continue to serve each of you.

We look forward to Camp Okoboji's 2021 Summer Season and programs. We pray that you will also have that same fervor for returning to Camp. May our Lord guide and direct our future gatherings where we will again grow in faith in Jesus Christ, be built up in Christian community and be equipped to be lights for Christ in the world.

As we struggle with the difficulties of COVID-19, let us take comfort and have confidence in the words of Paul as he writes in Romans 8:38-39 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.