



Shine Like STARS

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Summer 2024

Spirit in the Pines Camp & Registration Info

Shine Like STARS

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Stargazing is a loved and magical experience at Spirit in the Pines. On the final evening last year, we even had a shower of shooting stars. Life always has new surprises in store for us, doesn't it? And—like I tell my own kids—nothing is ever just one thing. A star strewn pitch-black night sky is a perfect example of that, because even in dark times there is always also some light.

One of our theme verses for next summer is Daniel 12:3, which says “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens...like the stars for ever and ever.” Wisdom is a necessarily communal thing, and it is passed down through story. What is your story? And what stories have given you waypoints for your journey? This summer we will explore some of the foundational stories of our faith. And, as always, we will pair them every night with a moving campfire talk from our college staff.

This kind of sharing in community is an increasingly rare gift, and the college staff will tell you that they would still take more, even after a summer's worth of talks. Wisdom is infectious, and it is what Spirit in the Pines does best.

As I head into my third summer as director, we are excited to continue welcoming new people into this incredible and affirming community. We grew past our pre-pandemic operations last year, and now is the time to get involved and make this new season even richer with your presence! We welcome over 1000 people to camp each summer, and both campers and staff come from a wide variety of backgrounds including 6 west metro school districts and nearly 20 faith communities. Camp is growing in exciting ways, and you can read more about it on the page to the right.

I love connecting with campers and parents, so please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your ideas and interests regarding next summer. See you at camp soon under the stars!

Sarah Blasing

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New Camp Website

Visit us at spiritinthepinescamp.org to register and learn more about camp. We have camp tips, staff bios, blog posts and more all in one place!

Flexible Camp Day

Camp mornings start at 8:00 AM following polar bear swims for early risers. We have 4-5 activity choices between breakfast and lunch. Then after some cabin quiet time, we switch between field games, canteen, waterfront, and the craft area. Evenings bring full camp games, campfire time, snacks, and cabin devotionals.

Comfortable Cabins

Complete with bathrooms, showers, mini-fridge, microwave, living area, deck, and bunk style sleeping.

Waterfront

Canoes, kayaks, paddle boats, pontoon and fishing boats, swimming area, raft, slide, cross-net, and lily pad.

Activities

Sand volleyball, basketball, ball field, playset, gaga pit, tetherball, carpetball, frisbee golf, walking trails, and a ten-element challenge course (rope swing, bouldering wall, etc.).

Group & Families Bookings

We have expanded our availability for groups to make reservations from Sept–May. Our low rates are ideal for churches, businesses, etc. Visit spiritinthepinescamp.org/group-bookings to inquire.

Youth Groups

We now have the ability for larger groups of youth to register together during certain summer weeks. We offer discounts, one free adult per six youth, etc. Visit spiritinthepinescamp.org/summer-bookings to inquire.

Safety & Accommodations

We have a 3:1 camper to staff and counselor ratio, and we align with ACA standards. We have a residential CNA certified camp nurse, and all staff are first aid and lifeguard certified. We want every camper to have a way to thrive at Spirit in the Pines. We have made improvements for people who have mobility, visual, auditory, and neurodivergent needs.

Spirit in the Pines Camp Address

2973 Co. Rd. 45 NW
Hackensack, MN 56452

spiritinthepinescamp.org



Welcome to Spirit in the Pines!
Grade as of the 2024–2025 School Year

Camp is the place to be to have an awesome summer and make lifelong memories! We check off all the boxes for traditional camp activities like swimming, canoeing, gaga ball, carpetball, crafts, skits, and more! And most importantly, we want every camper to leave feeling inspired to be their best self, knowing that our community is not whole without them. From our campfire talks to our counselor-led devotionals, we make sure everyone knows they are worthy, included, and cared for. Come for the fun and leave shining!

Kick-Off & Finale Weeks (Elementary & Middle School)

This year we are offering three sessions of Quest Camp to bookend another fantastic summer! Each group will have a special afternoon excursion of hiking, biking, or canoeing to a point of interest around the lake. Past outings have included canoeing to the beaver dam and a nearby resort.

Table with 3 columns: Camp Name, Ent. Gr., Price. Rows include Quest Camp #1, Quest Camp #2, and Quest Camp #3.

Camp Aspire (Elementary)

Our elementary weeks include 2-night, 3-night, and 5-night sessions all happening concurrently. Campers are grouped in cabins primarily by grade, but cabin requests can cross grades (ex: for siblings). Cabin requests can also cross sessions (ex: one friend stays 3 nights, while others stay 5 nights). We have special games every evening, and the greatly anticipated Land and Water Olympics happen the final night on Thursdays.

Table with 3 columns: Camp Name, Ent. Gr., Price. Rows include Camp Aspire #1 through #7.

Camp Adventure (Middle School)

At Camp Adventure we take all of our activities to the next level! The fun never stops all day long in a choose-your-own-adventure model, with a mix of more active and more reflective/creative options. A big highlight for this age group are our full property games in the evenings that precede our inspiring campfire talks.

Table with 3 columns: Camp Name, Ent. Gr., Price. Rows include Camp Adventure #1 & #2, and Camp Adventure #3 & #4.

Camp Agape (High School)

Agape is a Greek word for God’s unconditional love (ἀγάπη is pronounced ah-gah-pay). High school students carry a lot, and at camp we remind them they never have to do any of this alone. Everyone works together in teams all day long earning Olympic points. Then each evening the teams come together around the campfire to hear their peers share moving stories. Camp Agape is truly a one-of-a-kind experience that you do not want to miss.

Table with 3 columns: Camp Name, Ent. Gr., Price. Rows include Camp Agape #1, Camp Agape #2, and Camp Agape Weekend.

Counselors (Ages 17–18) and Counselors-In-Training (Age 16)

Our counselors play an incredibly meaningful role in our community! We expect needing 140 counselors this year as camp grows. We schedule 20–25 counselors per week, pairing CITs with returning counselors. We provide food and lodging for all counselors at camp at no cost in thanks for their volunteerism. There is a one-time counselor fee of \$285, which covers all training sessions (first year and renewal years).

Applications & Schedules: Applications are accepted from 11/1–3/15. Counselor summer schedules are drafted on 2/11 and finalized by 3/15.

- Required Training:
- 6 Sunday Evenings (5:30–7:30 PM): 12/3, 1/14, 2/11, 3/3, 4/21, 5/19 (online make-ups)
 - 1 Counselor Retreat: 1/26–28 (camp), 4/5–7 (camp), or 3/29–30 (local make-up event)

Family Camp Weekends

Come spend a weekend of quality family time in your own cabin at the lake! All ten cabins have a living area, 2-3 bedrooms, 1-2 bathrooms, a microwave, toaster, coffee, mini-fridge, and upgraded mattresses! You set your own activity schedule picking from swimming, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, pontooning, campfire singing, arts and crafts, closing worship and more!

Table with 3 columns: Camp Name, Cabin Type, Price. Rows include Family Camps #1-#7 and 4th of July Family Camp.

Cabins can be shared with multiple families. For all sessions below, add \$30/person if exceeding 8 people per cabin (age 5+ only). Former camp staff can register for Family Camps #1–#7, and you are eagerly invited to attend Family Camp #7 with other former staff!

June 2024 calendar grid showing dates and camp sessions like Quest Camp #1, Quest Camp #2, Family Camp #1, etc.

July 2024 calendar grid showing dates and camp sessions like 4th of July Family Camp, Camp Adventure #2, Family Camp #3, etc.

August 2024 calendar grid showing dates and camp sessions like Camp Agape #2, Family Camp #6, Camp Adventure #4, Family Camp #7, etc.



Online Registration Information:

December 2–3: Our two day lottery system opens Saturday, December 2 at 8:00 AM, and it will run through the end of the day Sunday, December 3. Each camper will register for their first choice session, with their status marked as “applied.” There will be a question within that registration regarding if that camper has a second choice.

- The Lottery System Has These Priority Levels:
- St. Andrew Member or Confirmation Family
 - Friend or Sibling Registered for the Same Week
 - Total Years at Camp Accumulated by a Family
 - Multiple 2024 Registrations for One Family

December 4: Campers who are admitted to their first or second choice session will be notified and auto-enrolled on Monday, December 4th by 5:00 P.M. This is also the time at which registration will open fully with same-time enrollment confirmation. If a camper wishes to enroll in multiple weeks of camp they may now do so.

Registration Stays Open All Spring and Summer: Our website has a chart of all current camp openings updated every Tuesday (spiritinthepinescamp.org/current-openings). While many of our sessions later in the summer fill up very quickly, we encourage you to join the waitlist even if camp is less than a week or two away. We always have a few last minute cancellations.

Deposit & Forms: The \$100 deposit is required at the time of enrollment. All other forms, including the health forms, will be added to your account on March 1 and are due by May 1.

Scholarships & Donations: We work hard to make sure that every camper who wants to attend camp can go! All families can apply for a scholarship every year, and we do our best to honor all requests on at least an every other year basis. Donations to our Scholarship Fund can be made during registration or at anytime by contacting us (campingministry@standrewlu.org).

Camp Questions?
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