

Camp Mishawaka

**PRESERVING CHILDHOOD,
EVERY SUMMER SINCE 1910.**

→ GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA ●



I have used the sentence 'I learned that at camp' at least once a month for the past 20 years. Where else can a girl learn to shoot an arrow, ride a horse, portage a canoe, and play the lead in the Big Show? Unreal!!

Former Camper

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHILDHOOD LIVES HERE	6	TRIPS & EXCURSIONS	29
CHILDHOOD ENDURES	12	UNPLUG & CONNECT	30
MISSING HOME	20	GETTING HERE	32
MISSING YOUR CHILDREN	23	STAYING HERE	35
30+ ACTIVITIES	26		

Camp Mishawaka is accredited by the American Camp Association.
info@campmishawaka.com / 218.326.5011





Hiking along Gooseberry Falls, Superior Hiking Trail.



Rafting on the St. Louis River's whitewater rapids.

CHILDHOOD LIVES HERE

Camp Mishawaka opened in 1910 and Mishawaka for girls in 1963. Boys and girls from eight to sixteen years old can choose from two, four, six, or eight-week sessions. Each camp has a capacity of 80 campers, allowing campers and staff to know each other by name.

Owner and Director Steve Purdum came to Camp Mishawaka as a nine-year-old boy and has served in his present position since 1991. He and his wife, Julie, both recognize the tremendous impact that a positive summer camp experience can have on a child and honor the trust that parents place in them when sending a child to Mishawaka.





Gathering on Lake Pokegama at sunset.

AT THE CENTER OF CAMP

Lake Pokegama forms the heart of camp and provides a wonderful setting for waterfront activities like swimming, sailing, canoeing, and kayaking. On land, 240 acres of beautiful northern forest provide an amazing place to ride horses, climb, play tennis, and shoot a bow — to name just a few. Campers also experience the northwoods on canoeing and back-packing trips.

Activities at Mishawaka are more than diversions. Everything we do is centered on developing a child's self-esteem, sense of fair-play, imagination, and skill.



STEP INTO ADVENTURE Girls exploring the Superior Hiking Trail.

CHILDHOOD ENDURES

Childhood is a brief period of sanctuary before people encounter the perils and hardship of adulthood.

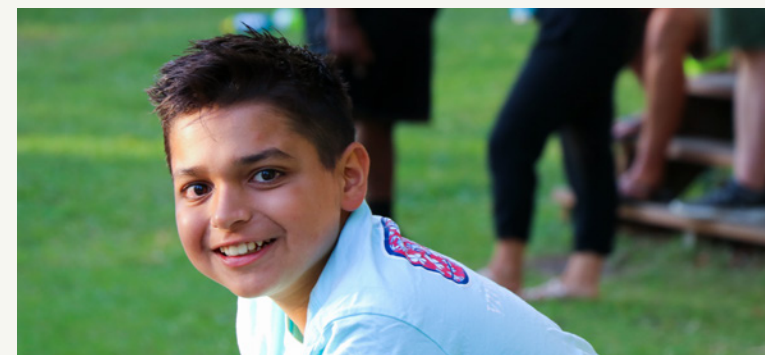
Jean Jacques Rousseau

That period of sanctuary grows shorter with every generation, however. Childhood still exists, and yes, children still do “childish things,” but they often seem to carry a sense of concern and worry that

those of us of a “certain age” don’t recall being a part of the rites and rituals of that time in our lives.

Camp Mishawaka offers children an opportunity to enjoy fresh air and clean waters. Activity, nutrition, and rest combine to make a session at Mishawaka the perfect antidote to the many pressures children feel today. As childhood has become more complex, Mishawaka remains simple by design. We keep children healthy and safe and love watching them flourish.

The needs of growing boys and girls are different. Our community values each of our campers for his or her unique strengths. At Mishawaka, boys and girls’ programs are adjacent, but separate. While they share many facilities, each camp has its own program and traditions.



VALUING BOYS & GIRLS FOR WHO THEY ARE

If childhood is, in fact, a phase to be outgrown, it is important that we, at the minimum, allow our children to inhabit this space for a period of time. Camp Mishawaka is just that space — the physical, social, and cultural sanctuary for all that it means to be a child.



MMMMMM Campers and counselors enjoy s'mores together at Camp Mishawaka.



Our kids loved the camp and continue to make great friends and talk about camp the entire year. Thanks for running such an amazing camp!

Camp Parent



STAFF MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Mishawaka hires experienced counselors to serve as mentors and role models.

OF ALL THE INGREDIENTS THAT COMBINE TO MAKE A GREAT SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE MOST VITAL ONE IS THE QUALITY OF THE COUNSELING STAFF.

Mishawaka draws on the energy and enthusiasm of many college age men and women, as well as the counsel and experience of veteran teachers and coaches. In recent years, our staff has averaged 7 years of counseling experience at Mishawaka. Maintaining a 4-to-1 camper to counselor ratio allows us to ensure that all campers are making a secure connection with a mentor and role model.



MISSING HOME

Of course children will miss their homes. What could be more natural? Rather than embracing the label “homesickness,” we have taken to referring to it simply as “missing home,” since it’s not really a sickness at all. Acknowledging that up front is the first step towards moving beyond the feelings of sadness and loss that can keep kids from fully enjoying their time at camp.

It’s also important to remember that missing home reminds a child of what’s important, and experiencing it can build strength and independence. Noted author and child

psychologist Michael Thompson studied a number of children (including a boy at Mishawaka) before, during, and after camp. Among other things, he concluded that many of the benefits drawn from a summer at camp occur because of missing home, rather than in spite of it.

Our staff is trained to recognize homesickness, acknowledge it, and work on redirecting that energy towards camp activities. Sometimes a two-week stay can seem daunting, but by breaking the experience down into smaller parts, providing something to look forward to each day, fostering connections with staff, other campers and activities that allow children to focus on fun and advancement, campers take ownership of their experience.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Outdoor burgers, kayaking on Lake Pokegama, arts & crafts, and girls at a special event.



Campers fly in to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport (MSP).

MISSING YOUR CHILDREN

REMEMBER, CAMP IS FOR PARENTS, TOO.

Going to camp is a big change for many families — often for parents even more than their children. After all of the research and planning has convinced the children they would like to go to camp, many mothers and fathers are left wondering if they're ready to be without their kids!

Many of our campers' parents tell us the first week can be a challenge. Kids are missed and the house is unnaturally quiet. This is usually the point at which they discover the hundreds of photos we post everyday, providing a glimpse into the other world their children are enjoying. We also maintain

frequent contact with parents. Our directors are readily available to talk about any questions or concerns — whether they're first-time camp parents or seasoned veterans.

We're extremely pleased with the photos. It was a relief to see our young campers at camp and it gave me peace-of-mind with them so far away. I also appreciate the open communication.

Camp Parent



LAKE POKEGAMA Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

30+ ACTIVITIES

Our program balances a healthy mix of structured, skill-based activities and free play. Campers are given the ability to direct much of their schedule — combining the benefits of routine and the opportunity for exploration, agency, and choice.

WATER

- Canoeing, Kayaking, & Paddleboarding
- Waterskiing & Wakeboarding
- Free & Instructional Swim
- Log-rolling & Swim Mat
- Sailing
- Sauna
- Snorkeling
- Fishing
- *and more!*

LAND

- Air Riflery
- Archery
- Arts & Crafts
- Basketball
- Climbing Wall
- Drama
- Horseback Riding
- Mountain Biking
- Nature Study
- Soccer
- Tennis

There are also many *Mishawaka-only* games, invented at camp, that defy description and must be experienced to be believed.





Oh, the places you'll go!

TRIPS & EXCURSIONS

Camp Mishawaka has a long history of incorporating wilderness tripping as a part of its overall program. Situated at the gateway of some of the most beautiful and pristine wilderness areas in the Northern Lakes country, we are able to provide canoeing, hiking, and other experiences that are truly remarkable.

In addition to passing along basic wilderness skills, these trips, by design, give campers an opportunity to work as a team toward shared goals, challenge themselves in new ways, and discover new strengths. Placement is determined on interest and skill. Campers need not have any specialized knowledge before coming to camp.

- **Superior Hiking Trail** / The north shore of Lake Superior offers an excellent introduction to hiking and camping.
- **Boundary Waters** / Campers canoe across connected lakes in the 1 million acre Superior National Forest and carry their craft across portage trails.
- **Isle Royale** / A 3-hour ferry ride delivers campers and counselors to the largest natural island on Lake Superior to hike for five days and observe diverse wildlife.
- **Whitewater Rafting** / Minnesota Whitewater operates a full day of adventure on the nearby St. Louis river, featuring six rapids ranging from class I to III.
- **Launch Fishing** / Nearby Lake Winnie has one of the greatest fisheries in Minnesota. Professional guides help campers catch walleye, perch, and northern pike.

LEARN MORE campmishawaka.com/trips

campmishawaka.com / 29

UNPLUG & CONNECT

Activities and trips are a lot of fun. More importantly, however, they keep boys and girls engaged with themselves and others without the need for screens or devices of any kind. Mishawaka is completely device-free and this environment fosters the original social network — face-to-face human connection. Connecting with nature — swimming in the lake, living immersed in the beautiful wooded campus — only adds to the experience.



Emily loves your camp. The environment and awesome void of technology are so wonderful and greatly appreciated as a parent. The experience brings tremendous peace and freedom to Emily as she grows as a teen.

Camp Parent

GETTING HERE

TRAVEL

Most campers fly in to the Minneapolis/St. Paul (MSP) airport, where a member of our staff meets them at their arrival gate. They then ride a chartered bus for the 3-hour trip to camp. Many families who live in Minnesota or near the airport drop campers off to catch the bus as well. We also welcome parents who want to see Mishawaka for themselves. It's worth the trip, and we love to show

off our facilities, location, and staff! We usually suggest a pick-up at the close of a session, rather than a drop-off on opening day. Most kids benefit from getting their good-byes out of the way amidst the bustle of the airport, which allows them to focus on settling into their new community on the bus ride to camp.

Mishawaka's travel agency assists with bookings to ensure that campers get on the appropriate flight and are grouped together with other campers — it turns a flight into a head start at camp! They also make arrangements for younger fliers.

TUITION

Tuition includes room and board, round-trip transportation from and to the airport, and all activities with the exception of horseback riding, some day trips, and extended wilderness trips.

Parents fund a spending account for incidental charge and sundry items. Camper spending accounts are also available and recommended. Camper accounts provide cash for the trip home and may be used during the summer to purchase items from the camp store. Typical purchases include clothing, stationery, batteries, toiletries, sunscreen, and mosquito repellent. The camp office holds all money deposited to camper accounts since campers have no need of cash while at camp.



TOP AND BOTTOM Cabin interior and exterior.

You all went above and beyond dealing with Will's food allergy. He raved about the special meals and I can't tell you how relieved I was as a parent knowing that his allergy was being addressed and Will was eating well.

Camp Parent



Campers will find plenty of healthy, delicious options in the dining hall.

STAYING HERE

HEALTH & SAFETY

Safety means more than freedom from harm. It means creating a culture in which everyone's physical and emotional well-being is paramount. Mishawaka allows children to discover new talents and strengths by supporting, challenging, and listening to them.

FOOD

Meals are served family-style and campers can

choose from a variety of options at each meal. We offer a salad bar at lunch and dinner and can accommodate vegetarian, gluten-free, and other allergy-sensitive diets.

Both my kids are very picky eaters and both said the food was really good. In fact, we've tried to re-create some of the meals.

Camp Parent



Owner & Director
Steve Purdum

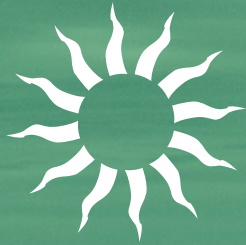
REDISCOVER CHILDHOOD AT CAMP MISHAWAKA

We would love to have your son or daughter join us where the air is clear, friends are close, and life is simple. The summer of their lives begins at:

campmishawaka.com/dates-rates



QUESTIONS? Steve and the crew at Camp Mishawaka are happy to answer them all! Just call **218.326.5011**



21525 MISHAWAKA RD.
GRAND RAPIDS, MN 55744
218.326.5011