



Camp Kawaga

Parent Guidebook

2026

Contact

Online:

parents@kawaga.com

www.kawaga.com

Winter:

378 Park Ave, Suite 1F

Glencoe, IL 60022

715.356.6262

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Minocqua, WI 54548

715.356.6262



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Welcome to Kawaga

It is with great excitement that we share the 2026 Camp Kawaga Parent Guidebook in preparation for Kawaga's 112th summer on The Shores. Entrusting your children with us is one of the most important choices you make as parents.

Our leadership team and entire staff are dedicated to making sure your children are safe (physically and emotionally), having an amazing experience, and growing to their fullest potential during their time with us. We strive to create an environment that represents our values and inspires our campers to achieve their goals. We also believe that as a community, we are responsible for supporting and caring for each other.

With our values in mind, we are proud to share the *2026 Parent Guidebook*. It contains the information, policies, and procedures that guide Kawaga and promote your children's and our community's safety and well-being. A digital signature is required, from both a parent/guardian and each camper, to indicate that you have read the handbook, reviewed it with your camper(s), and that you and your camper(s) agree to follow all rules, policies, and expectations articulated. Please complete this signature on our "Be Kawaga" form along with your other required forms.

Please know that you are not simply sending your son to a camp. You are part of a strong and vibrant community that has been growing and deepening for over a century. We are your *partners* in parenting, and we hold the weight of that word with the seriousness it deserves. We look forward to another amazing Summer On The Shores!

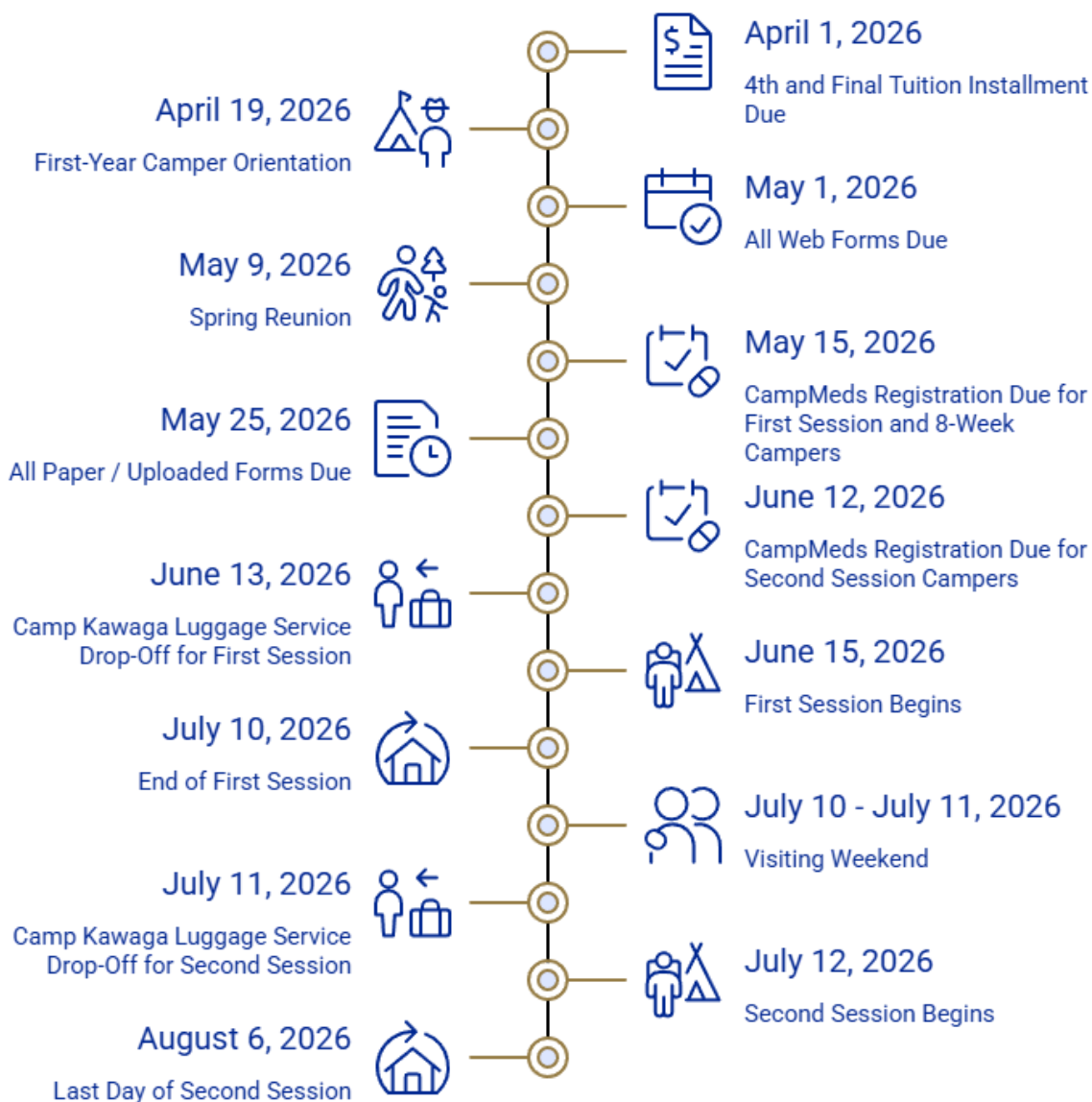
Be Kawaga!

Ty and Lauren Simpson, *Directors*

Ben Fisher, *Owner & President*



Important Dates





Forms Checklist

Please review and complete all camp forms by following the directions below. It is absolutely critical that we receive all your camper's forms by the required due date.



Web Forms

Opt-In Text Message Agreement
Transportation and Luggage Form
Bunk/Cabin Request
Camper Confidential
Camper Questionnaire
Health History
Recent Camper Photo

Due May 1.



Paper Forms

Immunization Form
Insurance Card & Parent Authorization Form
Physician Examination Form
Be Kawaga Participant Agreement

Due May 25.



Register Medication

First Session and 8-Week Campers: May 15th.
Second Session: June 12th.



TO ACCESS, COMPLETE, AND SUBMIT ALL CAMPER FORMS:

1. Download the Companion App – The Companion App creates a seamless experience when completing forms and allows you to complete, save, and scan forms directly from your phone.
2. Log into your account (it is the same login that you use for your CampInTouch account).
3. Navigate to the left side menu in the app and select “Forms”.
4. Follow directions for each form as directed on each form link.

ALTERNATIVE METHOD TO COMPLETE FORMS:

1. Go to www.kawaga.com. Navigate to “Current Parents”. Click “Parent Login”.
2. Log into your account.
3. Click on “Forms and Documents”.
4. Follow directions for each form as directed on each form link.

Once on the form screen, you will be able to leave and come back and your documents will be saved as you go (just remember to click save!).

Packing For Camp

Labels

- All clothes, shoes, towels, and equipment including water bottles must be labeled with the camper’s full name. **DO NOT INITIAL ONLY.**
- Sew-on or iron-on name tags work best.
- Please help us reduce the amount of lost clothing by labeling it with your son’s **FULL NAME.**
- Include an additional label with the camper’s name, address, and phone number **inside** each duffel bag.



Additional Packing Suggestions and Notes

- Campers usually pack in two [large soft duffel bags](#) (one for bedding/sports equipment and one for clothing/shoes).
- Your camper will be outdoors in all kinds of weather. Many days in the Northwoods require a warm jacket in the morning, shorts and a t-shirt by noon, and blankets at night.
- Sleeping bags are not substitutes for blankets in cabins. They are for overnight tent camping only.
- Waterproof rain gear that will keep your son really dry is essential.
- Boys always seem to need more socks, towels, and swimsuits but fewer t-shirts.
- Kawaga does not provide linens, blankets, or pillows. Nights can get chilly; we recommend each camper brings 2 warm blankets.
- Exceptions to the No Screen Policy include: E-readers and screenless MP3 players.
- Water bottles are routinely washed. It's important they are labeled with your camper's full name, are dishwasher safe, and don't have any straws.

Kawaga's Packing List

Your son should arrive with everything necessary for the summer. Please use our comprehensive [packing list](#) to ensure your camper has everything he needs for camp.

2 duffel bags should be a sufficient to pack all of the necessary items needed for camp, including their bedding (and a spare set too!).

We would recommend that campers are included in the packing process when getting ready for the summer. It is important that campers know where all their items are when they are unpacking in the cabins with their counselors.

Optional Off-Site Programs: Ice Hockey & Golf

Camp Kawaga offers a small number of **optional off-site athletic programs** for campers who would like to continue participating in sports they already play regularly while at camp.

Programs are offered through partnerships with local facilities and currently include **ice hockey and golf**.



Ice Hockey Program

Campers who participate in the hockey program will attend scheduled on-ice instructional sessions at a nearby indoor ice rink. Sessions are led by experienced instructors who have played at the collegiate level and have extensive experience working with youth players.

Hockey sessions typically take place in the morning and are scheduled so they do not interfere with the regular Kawaga program.

Campers participating in the hockey program must **bring their full set of hockey equipment to camp.**

Ice-Hockey Registration

Space in these programs is limited and participation is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Families can register through their CampInTouch account under Forms and Documents → Additional Options. Additional forms or waivers may be required depending on the program selected. An email will be sent when these forms become available.

Golf Program

Beginning this summer, Camp Kawaga will also offer an **optional golf program** for campers who are enthusiastic and skilled golfers and would like the opportunity to continue playing during their time at camp.

Campers enrolled in the program will travel to a nearby golf course for scheduled rounds throughout the summer. To minimize disruption to the daily camp schedule, golf outings will typically **depart early in the morning before reveille**, most often on Sundays.

This program is designed for campers who **already have a strong foundation in the game and are comfortable playing a full round of golf.** Campers participating in the golf program should **bring their own set of golf clubs to camp.**

If your son is interested in the golf program, please email parents@kawaga.com.



Transportation

Each summer, families choose the transportation option that works best for them to get their camper safely to and from Camp Kawaga. Whether traveling by bus, car, or plane, our goal is to ensure arrival and departure days are smooth, well-supported, and predictable for both campers and families. To help us do this, all transportation plans must follow Kawaga's approved dates and time windows, and families are asked to carefully review the information below before completing the Transportation and Luggage Form.

Families may choose from three transportation options when planning their camper's travel to and from Camp Kawaga. Each option is outlined below, and families are asked to review all guidelines carefully before submitting the Transportation and Luggage Form. Campers may travel by bus, by plane, or be driven to and from camp by car.



Bus Transportation

Departure & Arrival Location:

Deerbrook Mall, Outside "The Dump" Furniture Store, 110 S Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015.

Departing for Camp

- First Session: Monday, June 15, 2026 @ 9:00 AM
- Second Session: Sunday, July 12, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

Please arrive between 8:30 AM – 8:45 AM for a prompt 9:00 AM departure.

Campers should bring a bagged lunch and a drink. The buses will not make a stop for food.. All food must be nut-free.

Cell phones and electronic devices are NOT allowed on the bus ride to camp. Any phones or electronic devices brought for travel must be turned in to staff at bus check-in. Only campers with pre-approved permission, or those travelling by plane, will be allowed to turn their devices in to our staff to bring to Camp. All other campers will be required to leave their devices with their parents/guardian at drop-off.



Returning from Camp

Buses will arrive at approximately 2:00 PM. Parents will receive updates if arrival times change.

- First Session Return: Friday, July 10, 2026 @ 2:30 PM
- Second Session Return: Thursday, August 6, 2026 @ 2:30 PM

Camp will provide campers with a packed lunch for the ride home.

Billing for Bus Transportation

All bus transportation fees will be charged at the time of selection, before the start of the session, and are non-refundable.



Car Transportation

Families choosing to drive their camper to and from camp may do so at the following times. Please notify the camp office of your estimated arrival.

- First Session:
 - Drop-off: Between 11:00 AM–1:00 PM on the first day of the session
 - Pick-up: Between 9:00 AM–10:00 AM on the final day of the session
- Second Session:
 - Drop-off: Between 10:00 AM–12:00 PM on the first day of the session
 - Pick-up: Between 10:00 AM–11:00 AM on the final day of the session

All arrivals to camp by car must arrive no later than 1:00 PM.

It is important to note that our staff will meet you and your camper in the parking lot. They will help to unload any bags you may have and will then walk your camper into Camp and get them involved in activities. Parents will be expected to say their goodbyes in the parking lot.



Air Transportation

To ensure smooth, well-supported travel days for both families and camp staff, we strongly encourage families to book flights through our official camp travel partner, Travel One, whenever possible.

Our Preferred Travel Partner: Travel One

Travel One specializes in coordinating camp travel for hundreds of camps and manages all flight logistics. Using Travel One allows us to streamline arrival and departure days while providing families with expert support before and during travel. Travel One will aim to work with your preferred airline whenever possible.

Why we strongly encourage Travel One:

- Flights are booked specifically within Kawaga's approved arrival and departure windows
- Real-time flight monitoring for delays, cancellations, or missed connections
- Assistance with rebooking in the event of disruptions
- Coordination of unaccompanied minor travel requirements
- Shared itineraries with camp staff so we know exactly when and where to meet your camper
- Significantly reduced stress for parents on travel days
- In the event of weather issues, airline delays, or last-minute changes, Travel One is often able to intervene immediately and resolve issues faster than families can on their own

Travel One Contact Information

- Phone: (844) 803-9683 (ask for a camp advisor or for Sheila Sigel)
- Email: camps@traveloneinc.com

Travel Guidelines (Applies to All Air Bookings)

Arriving at Camp

Travel is supported only on the following dates and within specific time windows:

- Monday, June 15, 2026 (First Session)
- Sunday, July 12, 2026 (Second Session)



Approved arrival airports and windows:

- Central Wausau Airport (CWA): arrivals between 10:00 AM–1:00 PM (CST)
- Rhinelander Airport (RHI): arrivals between 10:00 AM–1:00 PM (CST)

Flights arriving outside these windows cannot be accommodated for pickup by Kawaga staff.

Departing from Camp

Friday, July 10, 2026 (First Session):

- CWA or RHI: departures between 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

Thursday, August 6, 2026 (Second Session):

- CWA or RHI: departures between 8:00 AM–12:00 PM
- Minneapolis (MSP): departures after 3:00 PM

Families will receive advance communication with the name and contact information of the staff member responsible for accompanying campers to the airport.

Special Travel Options (Atlanta, Detroit, & Milwaukee Campers)

For first session campers arriving from Atlanta or Detroit, we are able to accommodate pickup from Milwaukee (MKE):

- Flights must arrive by 9:30 AM
- Campers will be transferred to camp with Kawaga staff
- One carry-on only (checked luggage must be shipped directly to camp)

Booking Flights Independently

Families may choose to book flights independently; however, we strongly recommend confirming all details with Travel One before finalizing any independent bookings to ensure compliance with camp travel windows.

Families booking independently are responsible for:

- Selecting flights that fall strictly within approved arrival and departure windows
- Managing airline delays, cancellations, or rebooking
- Coordinating unaccompanied minor services directly with airlines

Important Travel Notes:

- Layovers under one hour are not advised
- We strongly recommend shipping luggage using ShipCamps
- Families requiring unaccompanied minor assistance must email parents@kawaga.com



Luggage Information

We recommend large duffel-style bags for campers' luggage (example [here](#)).

Choose one of four options to get luggage to and from camp:

- Duffle Dash (Preferred local option)
- ShipCamps (Preferred - out-of-state option)
- FedEx/UPS
- Bags Under the Bus

Once you have identified how your camper's luggage will get to and from camp, please confirm your arrangements by completing and submitting the Transportation and Luggage Form by May 1.

Duffle Dash (Preferred Local Drop-Off Service)

Camp Kawaga has partnered with [Duffle Dash](#) to provide a convenient, centralized luggage transportation service for families. There are no requirements regarding size or weight of the duffles, though we recommend a large bag of no more than 50lbs.

For a fee of \$110 one-way or \$200 round trip, Duffle Dash will transport up to two duffel bags per camper between the designated drop-off and pick-up locations.

Drop-Off Dates and Locations:

Parents may drop bags at one of the following centralized locations:

- Suburb location: Northbrook Court (east side across from Neiman Marcus)
 - 1515 Lake Cook Rd, Northbrook, IL 60062
- Downtown location: Newberry Academy
 - 700 W Willow St, Chicago, IL 60614

First Session Drop-Off Date and Time: Saturday, June 13th from 10am - 12pm

Second Session Drop-Off Date and Time: Friday, July 10th from 10am - 12pm



End-of-Session Pick-Up

At the conclusion of each session, bags will be available for pick-up at our bus location:

Deerbrook Mall
Outside "The Dump" Furniture Store
110 S Waukegan Rd
Deerfield, IL 60015

Important Registration Information

Indicating Duffle Dash on the Transportation and Luggage Form in CampInTouch does not automatically register you for the service.

Families must:

1. Select Duffle Dash on the Transportation and Luggage Form in CampInTouch, and
2. Complete registration directly through the Duffle Dash website.

Failure to complete both steps may result in luggage not being transported.

ShipCamps

Camp Kawaga partners with [ShipCamps](#) to make baggage delivery to and from camp easier for families who prefer door-to-door shipping. ShipCamps offers round-trip service, baggage tracking, and direct coordination with camp staff.

Setup takes just a few minutes. Families may register directly with ShipCamps and will receive shipping labels and scheduling instructions for pickup and return delivery.

We strongly recommend ShipCamps for families traveling by air.

How Ship Camps Works

At Ship Camps, we make getting your child's luggage, boxes, and trunks to camp easier than it's ever been - allowing your child to travel hassle-free to camp every summer.



1. Book

Getting started is simple. [Schedule your child's shipment online](#) or over the phone and start shipping to camp!



2. Ship

Pack and [securely attach](#) your provided shipping label to your child's camping gear. We'll pick up your bags or you can drop them off.



3. Travel

Skip the airport hassle and save time as you bypass bag check and baggage claim. [Track your child's bags](#) every step of the way.



4. Camp!

Your child will arrive at camp to find their gear already there! Time to get settled in and start making memories.



FedEx / UPS

Families who prefer to ship their bags independently may use third-party services such as FedEx or UPS.

Parents are responsible for arranging and paying for all shipping directly. To ensure smooth delivery:

- All shipping information must be emailed to parents@kawaga.com at least two weeks prior to the start of your camper's session.
- Return shipping labels must be included inside the duffel bags for use at the end of the session.

Camp Kawaga cannot guarantee the on-time arrival of luggage shipped through third-party providers.

Bags Under the Bus

Families who wish to transport luggage under the bus must receive pre-approval from our administrative team.

Due to limited space, this option is available on a case-by-case basis.

- Email parents@kawaga.com to request approval.
- Fee: \$200 one-way

We strongly encourage families to explore alternative luggage transport options, as space under the bus is extremely limited and not guaranteed without prior approval from Kawaga.

Billing for Luggage

All luggage fees will be charged at the time of selection, before the start of the session, and are non-refundable.



Healthcare and Medication Information

The health and safety of our campers is our top priority.

Camp Kawaga's Health Center, known as Crow's Nest, is staffed by a licensed Nurse Practitioner and several Registered Nurses. In addition to our on-site medical team, we maintain 24/7 access to licensed, board-certified physicians. We are located five miles from Howard Young Medical Center and Marshfield Clinic and have established relationships with local specialists when needed.

Our medical team can be reached at nurse@kawaga.com.

General Healthcare

The medical team is available and on call 24 hours a day.

If a camper is not feeling well overnight, a counselor will bring him directly to Crow's Nest for evaluation and care. Non-emergency care is handled during designated daily clinic hours after breakfast, after lunch, and following the evening program.

If outside medical attention is required, we will transport your camper to a local clinic or hospital and notify you accordingly.

We will contact parents directly if a camper experiences:

- An injury requiring more than basic first aid
- An illness requiring more than routine care
- A scheduled clinic or hospital visit

All campers receive routine health check-ins:

- Upon arrival at camp
- After any overnight camping trip
- Prior to departure at the end of the session

If you anticipate your camper needing to see a specialist (e.g., orthodontist) during the summer, please contact nurse@kawaga.com in advance.

Ticks, Mosquitoes, and Harmful Plants

Our staff is trained to reduce exposure to ticks and mosquitoes and to conduct regular tick checks, particularly following wooded activities and overnight trips. Tick inspections are performed by trained staff and camp nurses.



Medication Policy

To comply with state regulations and ensure safe medication management, Camp Kawaga partners exclusively with **CampMeds**, a licensed medication pre-packaging and dispensing service.

All prescription and non-prescription medications must be ordered, packaged, and dispensed through CampMeds.

This includes:

- Daily prescription medications
- As-needed medications
- Over-the-counter medications
- Inhalers
- Supplements and vitamins

There are no exceptions to this policy.

Failure to comply with the CampMeds requirement will result in a \$500 non-compliance fee and may result in our inability to administer medication to your camper.

If you have questions, please contact us before the start of the session at nurse@kawaga.com.

CampMeds Registration – Required Annually

Registration is required each year for every camper.

Register at: www.campmeds.com

2026 Fees:

- Early Registration: \$85 per camper (through May 15)
- Late Registration: \$105 per camper (after May 15)

Registration Deadlines:

- First Session and 8-Week Campers: Due by May 16
- Second Session Campers: Due by June 12



Prescriptions are not required at the time of registration but must be submitted:

- At least 30 days prior to the start of the session to avoid late fees
- No later than 15 days before the session begins

Medications CampMeds Cannot Supply

CampMeds cannot supply the following:

- Auvi-Q
- Insulin
- Growth hormone injections
- Injectable medications
- Birth control
- Accutane
- Seysara
- Temperature-sensitive medications or supplements
- Hiya or other subscription-based supplements

If your camper requires one of the above, you must contact nurse@kawaga.com prior to the start of camp to discuss appropriate procedures.

How Medication Is Handled at Camp

All camper medications are stored securely at Crow's Nest and administered only by licensed medical staff.

Scheduled medications are dispensed:

- Prior to meals
- Before bedtime

Crow's Nest is stocked with common over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Benadryl, and antibiotic ointment. Do not send these items to camp.

All prescriptions, inhalers, as-needed medications, and supplements must be processed through CampMeds.



Dietary Supplements, Vitamins, and Protein Powders

Camp Kawaga treats all supplements as medications.

This includes:

- Multivitamins
- Herbal or botanical supplements
- Melatonin
- Probiotics
- Protein powders
- Amino acids
- Performance supplements (peptides, creatine, etc)
- Any over-the-counter product taken for health or wellness purposes

Requirements

All supplements must:

1. Be listed on the camper's Health History Form
2. Be approved in advance of the summer
3. Include documentation from both:
 - A parent
 - A licensed healthcare provider (physician, PA, or NP)
4. Be processed and pre-packaged through CampMeds

Supplements brought to camp outside of the CampMeds system, including in original containers, individual packets, or unlabeled bags, will not be administered.

Undisclosed supplements will be secured and held until the end of the session.

Non-Compliance

Supplements, medications, or powdered products that:

- Are not disclosed on health forms
- Are not processed through CampMeds
- Arrive at camp without proper documentation

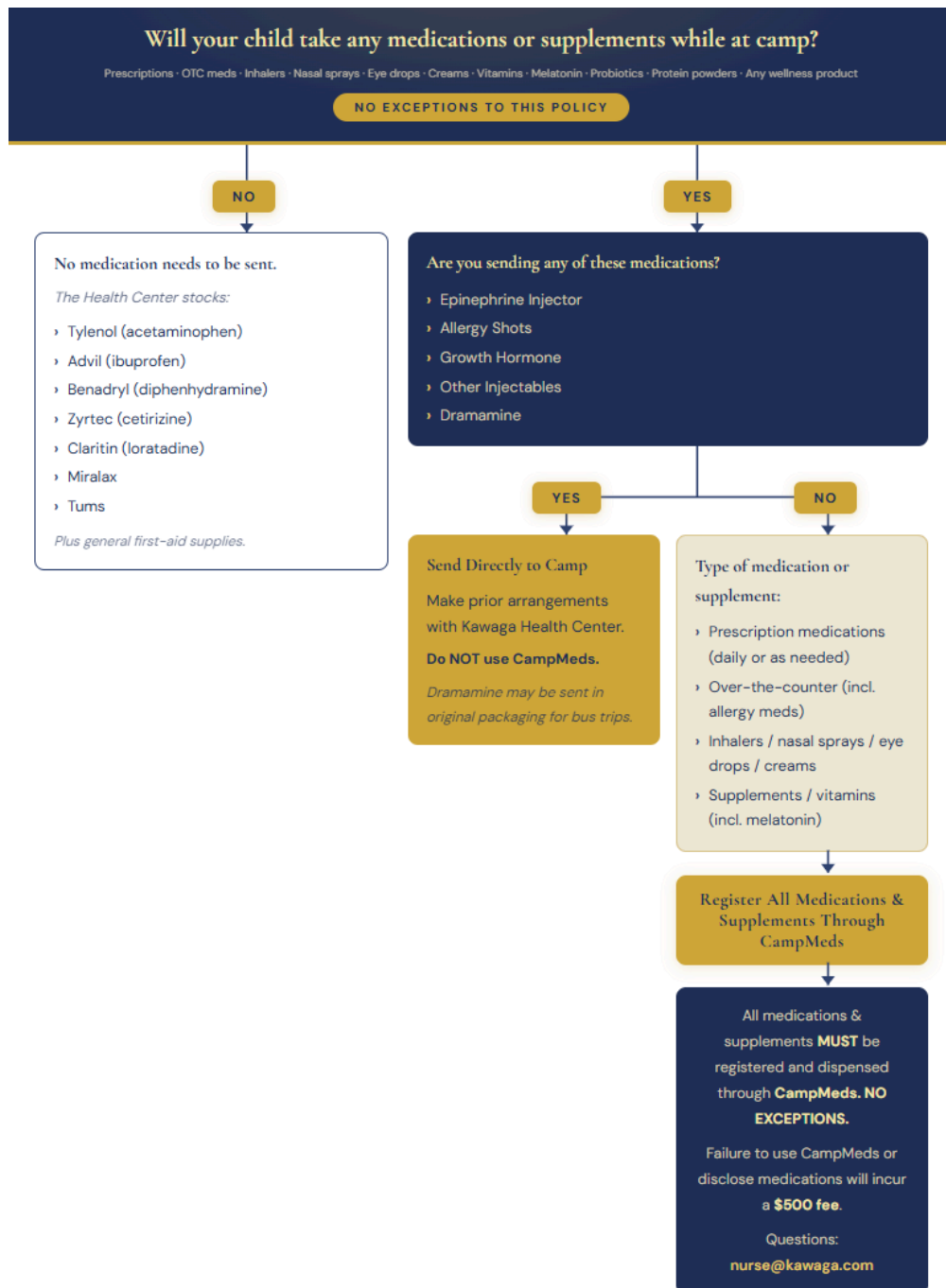
will result in a \$500 non-compliance fee.

This policy is not discretionary.



Undisclosed medications and supplements create significant medical and regulatory risk and disrupt the medication system we have in place to protect all campers.

We strongly encourage families to review this section carefully and contact us with any questions prior to arrival.





Keeping in Touch

There are many ways to follow along with life on The Shores during your camper's session at Kawaga. While we encourage independence and unplugged connection for campers, parents can always communicate directly with Camp if needed.

Our administrative team, health staff, Lauren, and Ty are available by phone or email. We aim to return all calls and emails within 24 hours.

Kawaga Contact Information

The Camp Line: (715) 356-6262

For the Quickest Response: parents@kawaga.com

Ty's Email: ty@kawaga.com

Lauren's Email: lauren@kawaga.com

Crow's Nest (Health Questions): nurse@kawaga.com

Communicating With Your Camper

The primary way to stay connected to camp life is through the [Campanion app](#).

- Camp photos
- Announcements and updates
- Blogs and newsletters
- E-letter functionality

To Get Started With Campanion:

1. Download the [Campanion app](#).
2. Log in using your CamplnTouch email and password.
3. Upload a recent photo of your child to enable facial recognition.
4. Enable push notifications to receive important camp updates.

Campanion's facial recognition technology helps identify your camper in photos so you can easily follow their experience throughout the summer.



Important Update for 2026: E-Letters

Parents may continue to send E-letters to campers through Companion.

However, beginning in 2026:

Campers will not have the ability to send electronic replies.

All camper responses will be written by hand and mailed home.

This change supports our commitment to:

- Encouraging thoughtful communication
- Preserving the traditional camp experience

We encourage families to pack stamped, pre-addressed envelopes with their camper to make handwritten replies easier.

Sending Mail

Handwritten letters are always welcomed throughout the session.

To send mail through a mail carrier, please use:

Camper's Name – Cabin Number (if known)
Camp Kawaga
10,000 Kawaga Road
Minocqua, WI 54548

Mail is distributed daily.

Important: Only Accepting Letters

Camp Kawaga does not accept care packages for campers.

Only flat, standard-sized envelopes and letters should be sent to camp. This includes postcards and standard paper letters.

Packages, padded envelopes, boxes, or oversized mailers will not be distributed to campers and may be returned to sender.



Exceptions will be made only in rare, pre-approved mitigating circumstances (for example, medically necessary items). Any exception must be approved in advance by contacting parents@kawaga.com.

We appreciate your partnership in helping us maintain a focused, distraction-free camp environment for all campers.

Camp Photos

We share photos all summer long through Companion.

Once you upload a training photo of your camper, Companion's facial recognition software will notify you when your child appears in new photos. This feature saves families from searching through large photo galleries and ensures you never miss a moment.

Kawaga Blog & News

All blogs and newsletters are available:

- On the Camp Kawaga website (under "News")
- In the Companion app

During the summer, families can follow along with:

- Ty's Take
 - Reflective stories highlighting the magic of camp life.
- Lauren's Letters
 - Camp through the eyes of our Camp Mom.
- Saturday Sermons
 - Messages shared during our Saturday service.
- The Weekly Pineneedle
 - Kawaga's camper-written newspaper, distributed electronically to families and printed at camp.

Social Media & Video Updates

Follow Kawaga year-round and during the summer on:

- [Companion](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Vimeo](#)
- [Youtube](#)



Parent Input Video

Each summer, we invite all **parents – new and returning families alike** – to submit a short Parent Input Video about their son.

These videos are shared directly with your son's counselors prior to the start of camp. Hearing you speak about your child provides meaningful context that cannot be captured on a form. It allows our staff to build stronger connections more quickly and tailor their approach to best support your camper from day one.

Suggestions for a Successful Video

- Find a quiet, private space without distractions or background noise
- We recommend recording the video without your son present
- Hold your phone in landscape orientation
- Keep the tone conversational and natural
- We ask that videos be no longer than **two minutes**

You might consider sharing:

- Your son's personality and typical demeanor
- How he tends to adapt to new environments
- Whether he is nervous about anything specific
- Any habits or routines that may be helpful for counselors to know
- Areas you hope he grows in this summer
- What helps soothe or motivate him during moments of stress

There are no right or wrong answers. We simply want to understand your son through your lens.

How to Submit

- Email your video to: parents@kawaga.com
- **Subject Line:** "Camper's Name" – Parent Input Video
- **Due Date: May 25**



Kawaga Policies

To ensure campers have the most meaningful, safe, and distraction-free summer possible, Camp Kawaga takes its policies seriously. These policies protect the experience for every camper.

Prohibited items will be confiscated. In cases of serious violations, disciplinary action, including dismissal, may occur.

Mail & Packages

Camp Kawaga does not accept camper packages.

Only flat, standard-sized letters and postcards may be sent to campers.

Boxes, padded envelopes, food shipments, and Amazon deliveries will not be distributed.

Exceptions will be made only in rare, pre-approved mitigating circumstances (such as medically necessary items). Approval must be obtained in advance by contacting parents@kawaga.com.

Food & Care Packages

Food, candy, gum, and snacks are not permitted in cabins.

Camp Kawaga does not allow care packages, food deliveries, or mailed packages once camp is in session.

Food in cabins attracts insects and wildlife and disrupts the camp environment.



Electronics & Devices

We Are a Screen-Free Environment

Camp Kawaga is intentionally screen-free.

Cell phones of any kind are not permitted at camp.

Campers traveling by plane may bring a phone for travel purposes only. That phone must be turned in immediately upon arrival at camp.

Cell phones are not permitted on the bus to camp. All phones must be turned in at bus check-in, or better yet, left at home. Only campers who have air travel or require the use of a device for a pre-determined and approved virtual appointment will be able to turn their phones in at the buses.

Campers found with phones or unauthorized devices after check-in will have the device confiscated for the remainder of the session and may not be invited to return the following summer.

Strictly Prohibited Devices

The following items are not allowed and will be confiscated:

- Cell phones or any internet-capable device
- iPads or tablets
- Laptops
- Bluetooth speakers
- Handheld gaming systems (Nintendo Switch, PSP, Gameboy, etc.)
- Walkie-talkies
- Smartwatches with communication capability
- All video recording devices are prohibited, including:
 - GoPros
 - Action cameras
 - Any device capable of recording video



Permitted Devices

The following are allowed and may be used in cabins during rest period or before bed:

- Screenless MP3 players
- E-readers (book reading only)
- Headphones
- Disposable and Polaroid cameras are permitted.

Each cabin has electricity. Please send appropriate chargers if needed.

Other Prohibited Items

The following are strictly prohibited:

- Pocket knives
- Firearms
- Fireworks
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Tobacco
- E-cigarettes or vaping materials

This is a zero-tolerance policy. Violations will result in dismissal from camp without refund.

Telephone Policy

Campers may speak to their parents by phone only in the case of:

- Birthdays
- Emergencies

Under no other circumstances will campers call home.

Please do not tell your camper that he can call home.

If you have concerns, call the camp office. We will speak directly with you. Parents are not permitted to speak directly with campers outside the above circumstances.

Non-urgent calls will be returned within 24 hours.



Gambling

Gambling is strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal without refund.

Nuts

Camp Kawaga is peanut and tree-nut aware. We make a conscious effort to keep nuts out of camp. This includes bus travel to and from camp.

Bullying & Camper Code of Conduct

Camp Kawaga is committed to maintaining an emotionally and physically safe environment for all campers.

Bullying, harassment, or repeated conduct that interferes with another camper's experience will not be tolerated.

We train staff to recognize and address inappropriate behaviors promptly and directly.

To create a healthy and respectful environment, all campers agree to:

- Demonstrate respect for others and their belongings
- Respect privacy and property
- Avoid insensitive or offensive language
- Refrain from hazing, vandalism, or abusive behavior
- Respect camp facilities and equipment
- Avoid physical aggression or harm
- Treat others with courtesy and consideration
- Not have fun at someone else's expense
- Inform an adult if something is bothering them
- Report bullying if they experience or witness it

Reports are handled confidentially.



Disciplinary Procedures

When camp policies or the Code of Conduct are violated, consequences may include:

- Conversation with a Camp Director
- Removal from programs or events
- Dismissal from camp

Any behavior deemed inappropriate or disruptive by the Camp Director may result in dismissal.

No refunds or credits will be issued for dismissal.

Be Kawaga Participant Agreement

All campers and parents/guardians must sign the Be Kawaga Participant Agreement prior to attendance.

Families are expected to review this guidebook and all policies together before signing to ensure expectations are clearly understood.



Miscellaneous

Additional Expenses & Billing

Certain services and optional purchases are billed separately from tuition.

Billed At Time Of Selection

- **All bus transportation and luggage fees will be charged at the time of selection, before the start of the session, and are non-refundable.**

Billed at the Conclusion of Camp

The following charges are billed at the end of the session and must be paid in full by

September 1:

- Medication processing fees
- Shipping of lost and found items
- Birthday celebrations

Families will receive a detailed statement prior to the September 1 due date.

Spending Money

Additional spending money is neither required nor necessary.

If a camper arrives with cash, it must be turned in to the camp office upon arrival and will be secured in the camp safe until departure. Camp is not responsible for cash that is not properly turned in.

Laundry

Laundry is done weekly through a professional service.

Laundry is picked up and returned within approximately 48 hours. Items are washed in very hot water to remove dirt and grass stains. Please select clothing accordingly.

Do not send clothing that requires dry cleaning or delicate care.



Helpful Laundry Tips:

- Clearly label all clothing and laundry bags with your camper's full name.
- Pack two large laundry bags and two small mesh bags for socks.
- Laundry bags must have a drawstring or zipper.

Camp Kawaga is not responsible for lost, mislabeled, or stolen items.

Birthdays at Kawaga

Birthdays are a special tradition at Camp Kawaga. Campers celebrating a birthday during their session receive the following:

Birthday Package

One reasonably sized box may be sent. Packages should be appropriately sized (no oversized or multi-box shipments).

Birthday Phone Call

Campers are allowed one birthday phone call home. Birthday calls typically take place during rest hour.

- *Monday–Saturday: approximately 2:00 PM CT*
- *Sunday: approximately 3:00 PM CT*

While we aim for these times, camp programming may occasionally require slight adjustments.

Birthday Cabin Dinner (Optional)

With parent approval, campers may choose to order a cabin dinner from one of the following restaurants:

- *Culver's*
- *Alexander's*

Charges for birthday meals will be billed to the camper's account.

All-Camp Celebration

Our chefs prepare a birthday cake that is presented during an all-camp meal in the mess hall, followed by Kawaga's version of "Happy Birthday." Hearing the entire camp sing is a memorable and longstanding tradition.



Visiting Weekend

Visiting Weekend is a special tradition at Camp Kawaga. It is an opportunity for families to experience camp in action, meet counselors, connect with other Kawaga families, and spend meaningful time together on The Shores.

Kawaga's gate will open at 3:00 PM on Friday, July 10, 2026 for 8 week parents.

Lauren and Ty will be there to welcome you and hope to spend time with as many families as possible throughout the weekend.

Further details, including registration information and a final schedule of events, will be emailed in May.

**Please note that times below are tentative and subject to minor adjustments.*

Information for First Session (4-Week Campers)

Friday, July 10

7:45 AM – First Session bus departs from camp.

If you are picking up your 4-week camper directly from camp, please do so by 9:30 AM, unless other arrangements have been made in advance with parents@kawaga.com.

All First Session-only campers must sleep off site Friday evening, even if you plan to participate in Saturday Visiting Weekend activities. Families of First Session campers are welcome to attend Saturday programming if registered.

If you are not staying for Saturday activities, thank you for an incredible first session. We loved every moment with your boys.

Information for 8-Week Campers

Friday, July 10

3:00 PM – Parents of 8-week campers invited into camp.

3:15 PM – Brief welcome from Ty on Diamond 2 (first baseball field upon entering camp).

3:20 PM – Families reunite with campers.

There is no structured evening programming. Families are encouraged to explore camp, visit cabins, and spend time together.

5:00 PM (or earlier) – Parents may depart camp with their sons for dinner.

9:00 PM (or earlier) – Campers must return to camp. No exceptions.

General Visiting Weekend Schedule (All Families)

Saturday, July 11

9:00 AM – Families welcomed into camp.

9:30 AM – Visiting Weekend Saturday morning service.

10:15 AM – Open areas and activity time.

11:00 – 1:00 PM – Lunch.

3:00 PM (or earlier) – Parents may depart camp with sons for dinner.

9:00 PM (or earlier) – Campers must return to camp. No exceptions.

We encourage families to spend time meeting counselors, touring cabins, and connecting with other Kawaga families. Please also look for Lauren and Ty during your visit – we would love to catch up.

Information for Second Session (4-Week Campers)

Sunday, July 12

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Second Session camper drop-off.

Only parents of Second Session campers will be permitted into camp for drop-off. Parents of 8-week campers will say their farewells Saturday evening.



Preparing Your Camper for Success

Whether this is your child's first summer at Kawaga or he is a returning veteran, our goal is the same: to help every camper have a meaningful, successful, and growth-filled experience. Parents play an important role in setting the stage for success. Please take the time to complete the **Camper Confidential Form** thoroughly and honestly, sharing any special concerns, habits, or needs. We also ask that each camper thoughtfully complete the **Camper Questionnaire**.

The more we understand your child before he arrives, the better we can support him from day one.

Below are a few common areas families often have questions about. In each case, our staff works discreetly and thoughtfully to ensure these situations do not interfere with your son's experience.

Homesickness

Homesickness is a normal and healthy emotion, especially in new environments. Most cases are mild and are managed effectively by our well-trained staff.

Helpful preparation at home:

- Send a favorite stuffed animal or small comfort item
- Pack pre-addressed, stamped envelopes
- Talk positively about camp and reinforce your confidence in your son

We strongly encourage parents not to tell their camper that they can call home if they are homesick or that they will be picked up early. These messages unintentionally make adjustment more difficult.

Our staff is experienced in helping campers work through initial discomfort and build resilience. In the vast majority of cases, homesickness fades quickly as campers become engaged in camp life.

Bed Wetting

If bed wetting is a concern, please inform both our medical team and camp directors prior to arrival and clearly indicate it on health forms.



Our staff handles this matter privately and respectfully. Counselors can assist by:

- Monitoring evening routines
- Limiting fluids before bedtime
- Managing any incidents discreetly

Please share any strategies you use at home so we can provide consistent support.

Behavioral Concerns

Our staff is trained to work with campers through a wide range of behavioral and social situations.

If you have specific concerns about your son's behavior, social dynamics, anxiety, or emotional regulation, please contact Ty or Lauren prior to the start of camp. Early communication allows us to prepare appropriately and set your child up for success.

While we work diligently to support growth and positive development, certain behaviors are not tolerated, including:

- Bullying (physical and verbal)
- Physical aggression
- Destructive behavior
- Repeated refusal to follow camp policies

In cases of serious or repeated violations, parent involvement may be required and dismissal may occur.



Thank You

We view our relationship with you as a true partnership. Together, we can provide the kind of summer experience we all want for your son – one filled with growth, friendship, challenge, and joy.

Thank you for taking the time to carefully review this guidebook and for partnering with us in following the guidelines outlined above. Clear communication and shared expectations allow us to create a safe, supportive, and meaningful environment for every camper.

If you have any questions at any point, please do not hesitate to call or email us. We are here to help.

We look forward to welcoming your son to The Shores and to another safe, fun, and rewarding summer at Kawaga. Thank you for the trust you place in us. Our hope is that Kawaga holds a special place not only in your son's heart, but in yours as well.