



Volunteer Counselor and Director Manual

Thank you for your commitment to volunteer at Wanakee! As a volunteer at Wanakee United Methodist Center, you are one of the keys to the success of our program. Directors have taken on the challenge of designing a program that will bring joy to campers, as well as help them learn more about their relationship with God.

This manual is designed to help you understand how Wanakee operates so your camp can be more successful. We hope that you will attend Volunteer Training as well to answer any further questions and help you plan your event.

Philosophy

The camp philosophy statement as published in our brochures is a fine statement of mission, but it doesn't tell you too much about the day to day camp routine. This philosophy is interpreted at Wanakee as follows:

All of our camps are Christian Adventure camps. We are a Christian camp that uses recreation to strengthen our faith and commitment to God. We are committed to telling the story of Jesus in an outdoor setting.

Wanakee consists of small campsites which are made up of 2 cabins or 2 yurts, with a capacity of 16 people per site. The cabins and yurts have no electricity or plumbing. We avoid the distractions caused by electronic media, and we accept all persons for who they are in a spirit of love.

Music is used to praise God and or fun. We sing in the Dining Hall, at campfires, and at many other times during the day.



Camp Concepts

At any given summer session, Wanakee hosts multiple camps. Camps range in size from 10 campers to 60 campers, and it is not unusual for 6 camps to be running concurrently.

Each camp has its own Director and its own staff. Each camp has its own program and identity and takes place independently of the other camps. Most of the camps follow the national curriculum for their overall theme, and the Director of each camp can decide how this curriculum is interpreted and used.

Interaction of Camps

The primary time for interaction of camps is during meal time, when most camps dine together and sing songs after meals. A camp, however, may invite other camps to interact with their program. For example, Footnotes has traditionally invited other camps to participate in their variety show. Clown and Mime invites other camps to their worship services. A camp is welcome to accept or decline these invitations.

Sharing of Facilities

Wanakee has a number of facilities and staff that are shared by all of the camps. These include:

- rainy day areas
- program areas
- support staff

Some of these areas are designated prior to the season at the fall program meetings. For example, Swim Camp will use the swim area for lessons. Other camps will still have swim time but will work around this schedule.

Those staff and facilities which are not pre-scheduled will be scheduled during the Saturday evening prior to the start of each week, with all Directors present. In addition, adjustments can be made, as needed. We ask that you make these adjustments with the program director.

Program Offerings

GWEEN Kits: Wanakee offers a variety of ways to study our environment. The GWEEN kits are a series of 5 portable activity centers which give campers “hands-on” learning experiences. The activities can be varied in length, but 1-2 hours is generally the most appropriate.

The topics of the different kits are:

- Night prowlers
- Pond Life
- Plants and Trees
- Environment
- Orienteering
- Nature Explorations



These activities are geared for multi-age levels and all necessary materials and instructions are included. They can be checked out of the Program Office. More information is available at volunteer training and when you arrive at camp for your event.

Hiking in Camp: Wanakee has two popular hikes: “Lookout” is a 20 minute hike up to a cliff with a great view of the valley where Wanakee is situated. It’s a great place for an outdoor worship service or for storytelling.



“Lookout” also has an Adirondack lean-to for overnight sleeping. Another popular hike is “Lemon Squeeze”. It is a 20 minute hike to a cliff which has a major separation forming the “Lemon Squeeze”. On the way to the cliff is an old farmhouse foundation which offers a good opportunity to talk about Early American Farming. Campers can discover the old barn site, fireplace, well and even the front step of the house.

Note: since the camp itself is spread out, hiking is part of everyday life in camp. It takes a good 15 minutes to hike from Site 8 to the waterfront. With a group of campers it may take longer.

Swimming: Wanakee has a swim area located at the end of a peninsula on Lake Pemigewasset and has a changing area in the vicinity. Wanakee’s waterfront is a fun place to be. It is also important to have it be as safe as it can be. This means that qualified life guards are on duty, the buddy system is incorporated, and campers only swim in areas which are appropriate to their abilities. When swimming takes place off-site, ACA standards for lifeguards must be followed.

Rowing: Wanakee has two 8-passanger aluminum rowboats. Sites will often row to “Monkey Island” for lunch or games. These boats are especially good for young campers who may have difficulty handling canoes.

Canoeing: Sites can use the canoes to Canoe to “Monkey Island” or just around the lake. The canoes are used for off-site trips as well. The sites that take canoes off-site will have a session of canoe instruction beforehand. This will include safe canoe handling, skills and tip-tests.



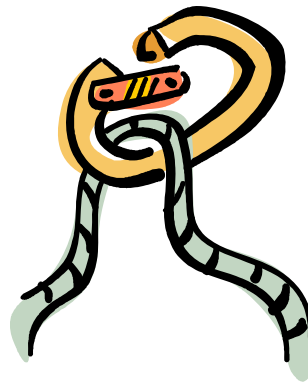
Canoes can also be used for “Swamp-um”, which involves 4-5 campers per canoe with lots of plastic bailing buckets and no paddles. The goal is to try to sink the other canoe before yours goes over (and to have a lot of fun doing it.)

“New Games”: The Wanakee Staff knows a number of non-competitive group games. These games are designed to encourage communication, teamwork, and mutual respect.

Low Ropes: Wanakee has a Low Ropes program which includes a number of activities designed for fun, communication building, and group building. These activities can be scheduled through the Program Director’s Office.

High Ropes: (for sites whose campers have **all** completed the 6th grade)

Wanakee has a High Ropes course designed as a challenge-by-choice program area. This area includes High Ropes elements as well as a climbing wall. These are great group building as well as individual confidence building activities.



Note: One of Wanakee’s primary goals, in its summer program, is to help each campsite become a stronger group of Christians. “New Games” and Low Ropes are two of the means to this end. Once a site has established itself as a strong group, it would then be eligible for High Ropes. If members of a site do not support each other and communicate well, High Rope activities would not be recommended.

Also, these games, initiatives and incentives cannot be easily “boxed” into a specific time period. Some groups need more time than others to complete a given task. A general guideline would be:

- New Games 1 hr.
 - Low Ropes 2hrs.
 - High Ropes 6hrs.
- (Plan to have a pack-out lunch.)

Crafts: Many of the camps held at Wanakee make special arrangements for their own crafts. In addition, Wanakee offers craft activities. These activities are lead by our resource coordinator. If you have a special craft that you would like to have

your campers do at Wanakee, please let the program committee know the cost per camper as this will need to be added to your camper’s fees.



Heifer International: This is an international Christian world hunger organization that works with many denominations. There are a variety of projects designed to empower the poor and feed people.

Wanakee is able to take care of a variety of animals during the summer. We often have goats, sheep, rabbits and chickens. During a one hour session, campers learn about Heifer International and its important programs. All campers have the chance to care for the animals as part of the shared daily chores we do at camp.

THE SCHEDULE

The outline of the week's schedule will be designed collectively by all of the Directors when they meet on Saturday evening, the day before campers arrive. In addition, the program will be adjusted if needed.

A TYPICAL DAY... (If there is such a thing)

7:00 AM	Wake up/wash up
7:15 AM	Hoppers set tables (one from each cabin)
7:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30-11:30 AM	Program time
12:00 PM	Hoppers
12:15 PM	Lunch
1:15-2:15 PM	Rest time (duration is dependent on age)
2:30-5:30	Program Time
5:15 PM	Hoppers
5:30 PM	Dinner
7:15-9:00 PM	Program Time
9:00-10:00PM	
Campfires	



While meal times are set*, many of the other times are approximate. Bed time and evening program time will vary according to the age of the campers.

(*Dinner Time does change for Swim Camp week and Footnotes.)

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Wanakee is a place of Christian love and encouragement. Our staff members are flexible and always willing to try new things. There is, however, no room for compromise when it comes to issues of health and safety.

Health and safety issues are supervised by the Site Directors. In this very important area, all staff, including volunteers, must work under their direction. The Site Directors, in turn, follow policies and regulations issued by the Wanakee Site Board, the various agencies of the United Methodist Church, and government agencies.

Vehicles: All vehicles used to transport campers must be driven by qualified, licensed drivers. All drivers must be at least 21 years of age. Personal vehicles are not to be used to transport campers.

First Aid Training: All of our paid staff members are certified in CPR and Basic First Aid through the American Red Cross. First Aid Training is recommended, but not required for volunteers.

Equipment: All equipment used in programs must be in proper working order, safely stored, and used only by trained personnel.

Child Abuse: These policies must be reviewed annually by all staff prior to working with youth. All volunteers and staff must have applications, references, and state background checks on file **prior to the start of their event**. The Site Directors have the authority to refuse to allow a volunteer or paid staff members to work with campers if they are convinced that decision is in the best interest of the camper. If you suspect an instance of child abuse, notify the Site Directors immediately.

If you have any questions or need any clarification on these policies, please contact Michael or Jean Moore for clarification or more information.



SUPERVISION OF CAMPERS

Wanakee is beautiful, but it is a large piece of property in a rural location. It is more likely for a camper to get into difficulty if the site does not stay together under staff supervision. If it is necessary for campers to travel without staff, they should travel in pairs.

The rule of 3

Wanakee also has a policy which does not allow adults to be alone with campers. For your safety and campers, make sure that you follow the rule of three. Always have another camper or staff member with you when you are with a camper.

***Thank you for volunteering to be a part of Wanakee's
important ministry! We can't wait to see you at camp.
Grace and Peace.***