

## Why should your child attend camp?

1. Kids grow emotionally through the temporary withdrawal of their usual support system. Mom, Dad, sister, brother, and the family dog are not at camp. Campers learn to depend on others and the Lord. In so doing, some growing up can take place.
2. Campers get away from their routines, including video games, and enjoy our great God's awesome creation. Camp Okoboji is on prime waterfront, complete with waterfowl and serenading bullfrogs!
3. They learn songs and hymns that will stay with them all their lives. These songs will come back to them at most needed times.
4. Campers learn it's okay to be a Christian, as they are surrounded by a couple hundred other children of God.
5. They experience the arts – including music and theater – and the talented children of God participating in the arts.
6. Friends! Don't be surprised if your son or daughter will stay in contact with camp friends throughout the year...and the years!
7. Some of the young people at camp will be encouraged to consider a career in church work. Many camp alumni are pastors, teachers, and DCEs in the church!
8. The kids get to see pastors and other church workers in a different setting, wearing different clothes and sunglasses, diving for balls on the volleyball court.
9. Campers get to "mess up" in a safe environment. Life is not perfect at camp. There will be more than 250 saint-sinners at camp this summer. When problems happen at camp, the leaders spring into action, calling campers to account for their misdeeds and sins, pointing out the danger of their actions.
10. Campers get to hear the Good News of Jesus' love, when they mess up and when they don't. His love lasts forever. And that love, especially, is the emphasis of this great camp.

## Camp Minneboji

June 21 – June 27, 2026



**Minneboji** is a 7-day/6-night Christian summer camp program for 4th-8th graders that has been enriching lives since 1949. Led by pastoral and lay volunteers from the South Dakota district of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Minneboji takes place at the beautiful lakeside facilities of Camp Okoboji – LCMS in Milford, Iowa. The structured week includes large group Bible study, small group Cabin study, music, crafts, games and outdoor activities including swimming and boating as well as evening entertainment. Campers also have daily free periods, when they can simply enjoy God’s creation and reconnect with friends old and new.

**Honors Camp** is a capstone experience for up to 40 responsible young ladies and gentlemen who have completed the 9th grade (entering 10th grade the following Fall). Honors is a camp-within-a-camp, following its own schedule for morning and afternoon activities. The week includes special service projects as an opportunity to give back for the blessings campers have received through their time at Minneboji—bring work clothes! The program focuses on peer ministry training, team building activities, and overall equipping and strengthening the Christian foundations of young people

## Registration Fees\*

Camp Minneboji	Early Bird Registration before Apr. 1	Registration April 1 – May 1
Grades 4-8	<b>\$465</b>	<b>\$515</b>
Honors Camp Grade 9	<b>\$495</b>	<b>\$545</b>
Deposit (all grades)	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$150</b>

\*PLEASE NOTE: We fill most every available space for housing in the cabins.

In order to guarantee that we have enough counselors to make camp the best possible experience for your camper:  
**REGISTRATION CLOSES MAY 1, 2026, OR WHEN CAMP IS FULL!**

## What to Expect

Every effort is made during Minneboji Camp Week to give your child a wonderful camp experience. Pastors and other professional church workers lead Minneboji activities. Additionally, Minneboji has Christian counselors that devote their time and talents for our camp week. Our volunteers are dedicated to Christian ministry and Christ-centered relationships with boys and girls. The counselors receive no compensation; their room and board are paid out of the general camp fund. Each cabin has a counselor in charge of the group who sleeps in the cabin with the children at night and is with them during the day’s activities. We do all we can to take care of that bit of “homesickness” that some campers experience. You can rest assured that your child will be taken care of in our Christian camp. With Christian influence and under God’s eternal protection, our Minneboji Camp Week is a wonderful, Christ-centered experience for your son or daughter.

## Contacting Campers

Calls to and from home tend to increase homesickness, so we discourage telephone calls (except in emergencies). **CAMPERS MAY NOT BRING CELL PHONES OR OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES!** To stay in touch, use “snail mail” or email:

**MINNEBOJI**  
 &ltcamper’s name, cabin>  
 Camp Okoboji  
 1531 Edgewood Dr  
 Milford IA 51351

**TO:** [minneboji@gmail.com](mailto:minneboji@gmail.com)  
**SUBJECT:** &ltcamper’s name, cabin>

Email is printed and hand-delivered, so it is not private. Please do not attach photos or videos.

## What’s Included

Lodging for 6 nights	Minneboji T-shirt
Meals for the week	Admission to Arnold’s Park
Minneboji program activities	Use of Camp Okoboji facilities
Special off-camp recreation (Honors)	First aid by trained nurses
Leadership by pastors/lay volunteers	Camper Excess Insurance (see note)

**NOTE: Camper Excess Insurance provided by Camp Okoboji is intended to help in case of injury (not illness) and will cover costs not covered by your family policy (i.e., “excess” costs, or the deductible of your policy, up to the limits of Camp Okoboji’s policy). If a family has no insurance, “Camper Excess Insurance” covers that child in the case of injury. Eyeglasses, contacts, hearing aids and other personal possessions are not covered. Parents/ guardians, please carefully provide your insurance information for each camper, in case of illness or emergencies.**

# Homesickness

We take pride in creating a home away from home for our campers. Our staff is well-trained to handle all levels of homesickness and to encourage campers to make the most of their time at camp. Our goal is for every camper to have a successful summer during which they gain independence, learn new things, form connections with one another and grow in their faith in Jesus Christ.

To make that goal a reality, follow these tips for helping your child deal with homesickness at summer camp:

- ▶ Recognize homesickness at camp is normal.
- ▶ Prepare for the inevitable.
- ▶ Give your child time to adjust to camp life.
- ▶ Stay in Touch ... but don't overdo it.
- ▶ Don't suggest that they quit or tell them that you can just pick them up.

# Minneboji Dress Code

Campers are expected to dress appropriately for camp and its activities, i.e. shorts, t-shirts, socks, closed-toed shoes, rain jacket, pajamas, etc. No spaghetti straps or crop tops, please wear shorts with appropriate leg length. Swimsuits need to be appropriate and modest for camp and swimming in the lake.

Staff reserve the right to ask a camper to change into something more appropriate if necessary. Please pay attention to what your camper is packing, we'd hate for them to miss out on activities because they are not dressed appropriately. Out of respect, all campers will be asked to remove their hats before entering a building.

# Minneboji Behavior Code

Campers are expected to behave appropriately towards one another, towards their counselors, camp staff, and the camp property. If a camper is found to be acting outside of our expectations, we will be diligent in correcting and curbing that behavior. If that behavior continues, camp staff reserve the right to call home and ask the camper to be picked up promptly.

# Directions to Camp



**Camp Okoboji**

**1531 Edgewood Dr**

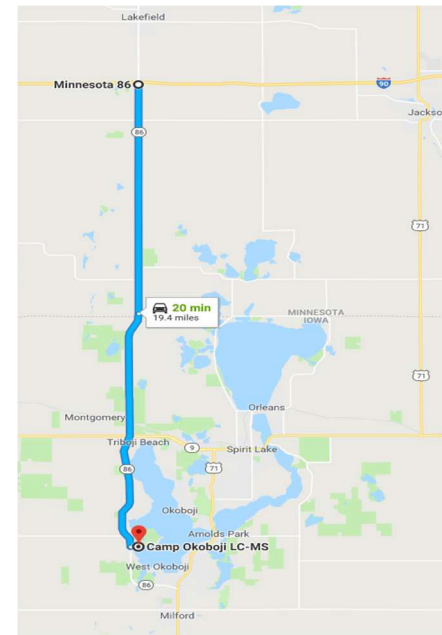
**Milford, IA 51351**

**Toll Free: 866-449-3326**

**Local: 712-337-3325**

**[www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org)**

Minneboji is held at Camp Okoboji – LCMS on the west side of West Lake Okoboji in northwest Iowa.



From Interstate 90 in Minnesota: Take Exit 64 (“Lakefield”) and go south on Minnesota Highway 86, which becomes Iowa Highway 86. After you have crossed Highway 9 (at a 4-way stop), continue south on Highway 86 for about six miles. Turn east (left) onto Edgewood Drive. Proceed about ¼ mile on Edgewood Drive. You will see a large sign with the Camp Okoboji fish and cross logo. At the sign, turn right, onto the campgrounds. If you get to Crescent Beach Family Resort, you’ve just missed the driveway to Camp Okoboji.

**NOTE: Camp Okoboji management does not allow pets on the property. Parents, please do NOT bring pets along when kids are dropped off and picked up.**

## Packing Checklist

- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Warm weather clothes
- ☐ Cool weather clothes
- ☐ Quiet Time Activities – (Books, Crosswords, etc.)
- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Athletic shoes
- ☐ Dance costume
- ☐ Camera (not a phone)
- ☐ Stamps
- ☐ Envelopes/postcards
- ☐ Soap & Shampoo
- ☐ Bath towels & Wash cloths
- ☐ Shower flip flops
- ☐ Beach flip flops
- ☐ Beach towel & Sunscreen
- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ Pillow and blanket
- ☐ Medications/instructions
- ☐ Water Bottle (not fancy)
- ☐ Work clothes (Honors)

### Please do NOT bring:

#### ANY ELECTRONICS ESPECIALLY:

Smartwatch, Fit bit, etc.

cell phones      Switch, etc.  
iPods              iPads/tablets  
laptops          MP3 players

Also, No:

scooters          walkie-talkies  
skateboards      video games  
knives            laser pointers  
WEAPONS        FIREWORKS  
ALCOHOL        TOBACCO

## Daily Schedule

### Morning

- 6:45 Rise and Greet the Son!
- 7:15 Morning Devotions
- 7:30 Sign Up for Sessions
- 7:45 Breakfast
- 8:45 A – Bible Study  
B – Cabin Study  
C – Crafts
- 9:30 Clean Cabins
- 9:55 A – Crafts  
B – Bible Study  
C – Cabin Study
- 10:40 Music
- 11:30 A – Cabin Study  
B – Crafts  
C – Bible Study
- 12:15 Lunch

### Afternoon

- 1:25 Quiet Time, Cabin Check
- 2:25 Get Ready for Session 1
- 2:45 Session 1
- 3:45 Get Ready for Session 2
- 4:30 Session 2
- 5:30 Get Ready for Supper
- 6:00 Supper

### Evening

- 7:00 Evening Program
- 8:30 Canteen
- 9:00 Evening Devotions
- 10:15 Lights Out

## Minneboji Camp Rules

To safeguard each child and manage a good camp, some rules and guidelines are necessary and must be strictly enforced. PARENTS, PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO REVIEW THE FOLLOWING RULES WITH YOUR CHILDREN:

► Campers must be in their Cabins at 9:45 PM and lights out at 10:15 PM—everyone in bed and quiet. All remain in cabins after 9:45 PM.

► Everyone will participate in the Scheduled Program (unless excused by the Minneboji Business Director or Minneboji Camp Dean).

► Anyone leaving the Camp Okoboji grounds during the camp week without permission from the Minneboji Business Director or Minneboji Camp Dean, or anyone flagrantly breaking the above rules will be sent home! At that time, a call will be placed to the parents, and no financial refund will be given, except spending money deposited in the Minneboji Camp Bank.

► If there is any damage done by a camper to any part of the Camp property, he/she will be billed for it, and this must be paid before the camper will be allowed to leave the Campgrounds to return home.

### ► NO ELECTRONICS

Camp Minneboji is a wonderful time to enjoy the outdoors and make new friends. Bringing electronic devices from home can actually make this more difficult and actually increase the likelihood of homesickness. In addition, they create problems with theft and broken items. Please leave them at home.

## BUSSING

Unfortunately, due to the rising costs of transportation, we are no longer able to arrange for bussing to and from Camp Minneboji.

## Non-Discrimination Statement:

Minneboji and Camp Okoboji, the site of Camp Minneboji, do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap.

## Fun Features:

### BOJI BLABBER

Minneboji prints a daily newspaper with schedules, announcements, news, sports scores and chatter of what goes on each day. Campers may submit articles, poems, essays, artwork and other “graffiti” for publication. Save the issues as souvenirs—they are priceless!

### CAMP DANCE

The camp dance is held on Friday night each year. Each year’s dance will have a special theme, to be announced on:  
Facebook/campminneboji.  
Dress up and have fun!

### ARNOLD’S PARK

Weather permitting, we take an excursion to this historic amusement park, featuring the “Legend” rollercoaster and a 63-foot-high Ferris wheel!  
A day pass, chips and water are included with Minneboji registration. Premium rides, carnival games and extra snacks are available for purchase.

### \$5 CASH AT ARNOLD’S PARK

From their registration fee, campers will be given \$5 cash on the day we go to Arnold’s Park to spend on extra snacks, drinks, games, etc.

### CLEAN CABINS

Each day two girls’ and two boys’ cabins are awarded the Clean Cabin banner. This is an opportunity for cabins to enjoy a little competition and teamwork. Staff members inspect during rest time and results are announced at dinnertime.

### VARIETY SHOW

Got an itch to be on stage before a supportive audience? Be in the Variety Show! Share your singing, dancing, piano, guitar, magic tricks, skits, comedy or anything else you like. Please bring your music, instruments, etc., with you. Accompaniment provided if needed.

### CANTEEN

Inside the Christian Life Center, Camp Okobojo operates a convenience store known as The Canteen. It carries pop, candy, ice cream, Okobojo souvenirs, stamps—almost anything you need in the way of “extras.” Minneboji campers get to shop during designated hours posted in the daily schedule.

Campers pay for Canteen purchases by electronic debit from their Spending Accounts.

Adults, Honors Campers and visitors may use cash or credit/debit cards at any time.

## How to Register

We have moved our registration services online through Camp Okobojo. There is a link at our website. You can access them through our Facebook page or at the South Dakota District Website: <https://sddlcms.org/>

- We do our very best to group kids together with other kids their age/grade in school, so they have the best experience possible. You MAY request a roommate for your child when you register, and we will do our best to accommodate these requests when we can. However, the system requires you to have the registration email for the roommate. If he/she is not registered, it will send them a prompt to register. They must **ACCEPT** the roommate request, or it is not reflected in the system, and we have no knowledge of it. In addition, PLEASE double-check their age/grade. Students will only be paired together if they are close in age. (i.e. no siblings 8<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades.)
  - Generally, no more than four campers from one town/school will be assigned to the same cabin.
  - Students will be assigned by age group, so please be careful linking kids from different grades.
- A \$150 deposit will be taken at registration. You will also receive a confirmation email from Camp Okobojo.  
The balance due is payable at check-in, but we encourage payment in advance to expedite the check-in process. Your deposit is refundable if registration is canceled before June 1. If you must cancel, please contact us at [minneboji@gmail.com](mailto:minneboji@gmail.com).
- If your church is paying for any portion of your bill, the church should be in contact with Camp Okobojo about billing. We recommend letting your church know when your child is registered.
- If you need help with registration or billing, please call Camp Okobojo at 712-337-3325.

## Check-In

3:00-5:00 PM, Sunday, June 21

1. Go to the Christian Life Center (main building at Camp Okobojo). Pick up your **personal ID button** from the Minneboji display.
2. Pay balance due, add money to your spending account, and turn in all medications--nurses will dispense them as needed.
3. If you have pre-paid all expenses(registration and spending money) and have completed the health forms, you may check in with the expedited line.



4. Receive a **Boji Blabber/Camp Map**, noting your cabin assignment.
5. Take your gear to your cabin and move in!

## Check-Out 9:30-10:00 AM, Saturday, June 27

Join us for Closing Devotions at 9:30 at the Christian Life Center. Camp officially ends at 10:00. If you need to pick up your camper(s) earlier or later, please contact [minneboji@gmail.com](mailto:minneboji@gmail.com) or call the Camp Director.

### SPENDING ACCOUNTS

At Minneboji, 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade campers do not carry cash. At check-in, these campers deposit ALL spending money in the Minneboji Camp Bank. (Yes—even the money you plan to use on the way home!) Parents can also place money into the bank during the registration process. There is no daily spending limit, so pace your purchases wisely! All unused money in your account will be refunded to you on Saturday morning in the Canteen.

Registration fees do NOT include the cost of optional snacks, postage, souvenirs, etc. **We suggest that \$30 to \$35 is enough spending money for treats for the week.** If planning to purchase hats, T-shirts, etc., additional money would be needed. We encourage you to do that when you drop off/pick up your camper.

Honors campers (9<sup>th</sup> grade) may use cash and are responsible for keeping it secure and will need money for one meal at Pizza Ranch.

## 2026 Minneboji Staff

<b>Rev. Greg Lehr: Camp Dean</b> Zion Lutheran, Sioux Falls, SD	<b>Rev. Dr. Chris Ascher: Bible Study Leader</b> Resurrection Lutheran, Sioux Falls, SD
<b>DCE Hailey Miller: Staff Dean</b> Memorial Lutheran Sioux Falls, SD	<b>Rev. Tom Mueller: Registration and Housing</b> Zion Lutheran, Chamberlain, SD
<b>Jenn Neistadt: Rec. Activity Coordinator</b> Memorial Lutheran, Sioux Falls, SD	<b>Rev. Ed Borchardt: Bible Study Leader</b> Zion Lutheran, Hardwick, MN
<b>Breck Miller: Outdoor Ed./Counselor Assistant Supervisor</b> Memorial Lutheran, Sioux Falls, SD	<b>Rev. Doug Slavens: Honors Camp Leader</b> Memorial Lutheran, Sioux Falls, SD
<b>Chez Shoup: Craft Leader</b> Zion Lutheran, Sioux Falls, SD	<b>Jacob Shoup: Music Leader</b> Zion Lutheran, Sioux Falls, SD

## Program Elements



### Morning and Evening Devotions



### Bible Study

Our team of trained Bible Study leaders develops each year's lessons, teaching from the Bible. We encourage campers to think deeply and ask questions. Minneboji is a safe place to learn.



### Cabin Study

Campers will spend time in God's Word in small group devotions and learning activities with their fellow cabinmates in order to apply these truths to their daily lives. The Cabin study is led by their cabin counselors.



### Crafts

Get creative! Our Christian-themed craft projects allow campers to make unique souvenirs, reminding you that you attended Minneboji.



### Music

Minneboji is one of the best singing camps around. Come ready to sing favorite songs – old and new – about our mighty and gracious God!



**Afternoon Sessions** Afternoons include organized activities including playing sports, as well as a non-competitive Outdoor Education option. Campers can choose different fun activities depending on their interests each morning during the sign ups.



**Swimming** Campers may take advantage of the refreshing waters of Lake Okoboji or relax in the sand. Lifeguards are on duty and swimmers use a "buddy system" for safety.



**Evening Recreation** The whole camp joins in organized entertainment each evening. Campers may take to the stage themselves in the annual Variety Show!