



Dear Campers and Parents:

We are looking forward to five fun filled days of Day Camp with your child at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul, MN. This packet provides you with information about camp, including pick up and drop off information, a list of camper expectations, important details about camper medications, and more.

On Monday, August 7th, we invite parents/guardians to join us for the first half hour, from 9:00 to 9:30, for an introduction to Day Camp. We will use this time to fill you in on the week's highlights and answer any of your questions. You may also discuss the possibility of carpooling with other families for the remainder of the week. Siblings are certainly welcome as well. Families are also welcome to join us on Friday, August 11th at 2:00 pm as we bring our week to a close with a talent show, our farewell ceremony, and lemonade and snacks for the whole family. Please RSVP to alison@campodayin.org by Wednesday, August 9th with the number of family members who will be joining us for the Friday talent show and family gathering. We understand that the talent show can be a source of anxiety for some campers. Children are never forced to participate if they are not comfortable.

Many aspects of the Day Camp program mirror our Residential Camp. In order for your child to get the full benefit of our program we expect attendance every day. Day Camp will be staffed with counselors, a director, and a nurse. We will also have a pediatric cardiologist on call. We are all so excited for our twelfth year of Day Camp and we are so glad that your child will be joining us!

If you have questions prior to camp, please contact our office at 651.351.9185. We are looking forward to a fabulous camping season. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Alison Boerner
Day Camp Director

CONTACT INFO

If you need to contact us **during** Day Camp, please call or text Alison on the camp emergency cell phone at 651.491.8673 or call the Dodge Nature Center at 651.455.4531 and ask for Alison Boerner with Camp Odayin.

For any questions/concerns before Day Camp begins, please call the Camp Odayin office at 651.351.9185.

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF INFO

Day Camp is hosted at the Dodge Nature Center Farm Education Building at 1701 Charlton Street, West St. Paul, MN 55118. All campers must arrive at camp by 9:00 am each morning. On Monday morning we invite parents to park and walk with their child to join us in the Farm Education Building for the first half hour. We will use this time to fill you in on the week's highlights and answer any of your questions. You may also discuss the possibility of carpooling with other families for the remainder of the week.

Tuesday through Friday, Campers will wait with parents and be met by their counselors at 9:00 in the parking lot each morning. Counselors will return with children to the parking lot at 3:00 pm for pick-up. Parents are welcome to join us in the Farm Education Building on Friday at 2:00 for the talent show, closing ceremony and snacks.

Within your child's camp application, you included the names of anyone who might pick your child up from Day Camp. If you need to add someone to this list, please email his/her name(s) to info@campodayin.org. We will only release your child to the adults you have listed. All should be prepared to show an ID. If any of these people are unable to pick up your child, please contact the Odayin office or the emergency cell phone.

IMPORTANT MEDICATION INFO

It is our hope that we will not need to administer medications during Day Camp. If your child has a medication that must be taken while at camp please follow these instructions:

- ♥ Please place ALL medications in a zip lock bag with your child's name on the outside of the bag.
- ♥ Each medication bottle needs to be the original prescription bottle, clearly labeled with the camper name, medication name, and dosage.
- ♥ Please put medications requiring refrigeration in a separate bag with "needs refrigeration" and the camper's name written on the bag.
- ♥ Please do not send any over-the-counter medications with your child.
- ♥ All medications must be turned in to the nurse each morning. At no time during camp are campers allowed to carry or be responsible for their own medication.

MEDICAL ATTENTION

If your child should need medical attention, he/she will be evaluated by the nurse on site. Depending on the nature of the event, one of three options will occur.

MINOR – Our camp nurse will treat and monitor until no further attention is needed. You will not be called.

NON – URGENT – If additional medical attention is needed, you will be contacted and your child may be transported off site.

URGENT – If your child should need advanced medical care, paramedics will be called and you will be contacted immediately.

HAPPY CAMPERS

It is our hope that your child comes home from Day Camp happy and confident, with memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. Whether your child is a first time camper or a veteran, there are some important things you can do before your child even sets foot in Day Camp that will help them have a successful experience. Take a look at some of our “tips” and thank you for sharing your child with us!

- ♥ Discuss what Day Camp will be like. Visit our website to look at pictures from last year’s Day Camp, review the sample day of Day Camp included in this packet and call the camp office if you have questions.
- ♥ Make sure your camper has everything on the packing list, knows where it is in their bag and why they might need it.
- ♥ Make sure your child knows that you will not talk by phone while they are at Day Camp. Let them know they can go to their counselors or nurse with ANYTHING they might need, or with any issues they’re having.
- ♥ If your child is hesitant about going to Day Camp, don’t bribe. Linking a successful experience at camp to a material object can send the wrong message. The reward should be your child's new found confidence and independence!
- ♥ Label **everything** your child brings to Day Camp!
- ♥ Avoid “escape clauses”. Telling your child that you can pick them up early if they aren’t happy sets them up for failure. If they are feeling nervous, emphasize all of the fun times, new activities and nice people at camp.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

We want your child to either wear the following items each day or bring a backpack with them. Please make sure that all items are marked with your child’s name as Camp Odayin is not responsible for lost items.

- Tennis shoes (closed toed—no flip flops or sandals—we will be doing some exploring and active games)
- Sunscreen (please apply at home)
- Bug Spray (please apply at home)
- One hat
- Outfits for special activities (see below)
- All medicine in zip lock bag
- Sweatshirt or warm sweater (mornings can get chilly)
- Rain jacket or windbreaker (per weather forecast)
- Optional items: camera and sunglasses

Please **do not** send candy, gum, money, video games, iPods, valuables, water guns, cellular phones, skateboards, scooters, or sharp items with your child. Thank you!

CRAZY THEMES

Below are our daily themes for attire. We have fun themed activities, songs, and games each day. We encourage kids and staff to ‘dress the part’! Check the closet, visit your local thrift store, and hit the garage sales (don’t spend \$\$\$\$ - this is camp and things can get dirty...).

Monday – Wear something that is ‘your favorite’ and closed-toe shoes (for touring the farm)

Tuesday – Wear red, white & blue

Wednesday – Bring a plain white shirt (for an art project)

Thursday – Clothes that can get messy

Friday – Camp Odayin t-shirt (your child will bring this home on Thursday)

SAMPLE DAY OF DAY CAMP

- 9:00 – Drop off (Farm Education building lot off Charlton)
- 9:05 – Flag – greet Paul Bunyan, pledge, name game
- 9:30 – Activity One – Cow craft & the MILK song
- 10:00 – Activity Two – Wacky farm animal relays
- 10:30 – Story and Snack*
- 11:00 – Activity Three – Moo-sical chairs, milk jug bowling, & barn dancing
- 12:00 – Lunch*
- 12:45 – Dodge Nature Center Program: “Meet the Milk Makers”
- 2:00 – Snack*
- 2:15 – ‘Cabin Time’ – Picture journal
- 2:45 – The Squirrel Song and Happiness Runs
- 3:00 - Pick up

*Lunch and all snacks are provided by Camp Odayin

CAPTURING THE FUN

We do our best to post daily pictures on the Camp Odayin website for friends and family to see all the **BIG** fun we have. Visit the photo album at <http://campodayin.org/camp-programs/day-camp/> each evening to see what we were up to that morning!

GET YOUR ODAYIN GEAR

For those of you who would like to support Camp Odayin further, we will offer awesome hats, sweatshirts, duffle bags and much more for sale on Friday, August 11th. We have items in adult and child sizes, and all proceeds benefit Camp Odayin. Camp Odayin gear can also be purchased through our website.

GREAT NON-PROFITS

We are so proud of the fantastic things folks have to say about their experiences at Camp Odayin. Visit this link to read more or write your own review..... <http://www.greatnonprofits.org/reviews/camp-odayin>

FAMILY CAMP

Bring the whole family to an awesome weekend of Camp Odayin Family Camp. Your family can choose to attend at Camp Wapo in Amery, WI (a short hour drive outside of Minneapolis / St Paul) October 20-22 or at Camp Wonderland in Camp Lake, WI (outside of Milwaukee, WI) November 10-12. Registration information will be emailed to all campers in August.

HEART & SOLE

Save the date – September 23rd, 2017 for our annual 5k run and 2.5k walk in St. Paul to support Camp Odayin! It's a great day to connect with many campers and summer volunteers! You don't want to miss this fun fall gathering!

Learn more and register at: <http://campodayin.org/events/heart-sole-run-walk/>