



Summer 2023 Family Handbook

Stearns Family Campground

**Stearns Scout Camp**

3303 Co Rd 44, South Haven, MN 55382

<https://camp.northernstar.org/Family-Rentals>

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## Philosophy

With 1200 acres of open fields, miles of trails, shady forests, and a meandering river to explore, Camp Stearns is an ideal spot for a summer family get-away!

Experience our newest family vacation opportunity where you can stay in a fully furnished yurt, cabin or in your own tent. Choose your length of stay and take full advantage of the properties self-serve amenities for activities like exploring, hiking, biking, boating, and swimming.

We are extending this family campground opportunity to all families in the community as a way to introduce the benefits available when participating in a Scouting program.

## Contact Us

### Questions About Reservations

Customer service

Phone: (612)-261-2300

Email: [camping@northernstar.org](mailto:camping@northernstar.org)

### Questions Prior to Camp

Victoria Hurley

Phone: (612)-261-2452

Email: [vhurley@northernstar.org](mailto:vhurley@northernstar.org)

### Questions While at Camp

Anthony Hensel

Phone: (309)-335-4779

Email: [ahensel@northernstar.org](mailto:ahensel@northernstar.org)

## What to bring

- Food for your stay
- Bedding or a sleeping bags
- Pillows
- Towels, dish towels, potholders
- Flashlights and batteries
- Matches or lighter
- First Aid Supplies
- Cleaning supplies and dish soap
- Pots, pans, utensils, cups
- Coffee Cups
- Paper towels and Napkins
- Garbage bags
- Small plastic containers, Tinfoil, baggies
- Clothes for warm and cool days
- Jackets and rain gear
- Footwear for the beach and hiking
- Swimsuits and beach towels
- Hat for the beach and hiking
- Toiletry items
- Sunscreen and Bug repellent
- Bike helmet and bike
- Sunglasses
- Clothesline and clothespins
- Camera
- Fishing gear and bait
- Fan, Reading lamp, Extension cords
- Books, games, crafts
- Beach toys
- Mirror
- Lawn chair
- Slippers (for yurt floors)

## Planning for your stay

### ARRIVAL AND CHECK IN

#### Check-in

Call or text Ranger Anthony (309-335-4779) once you arrive at Akela Lodge, finish your check-in paperwork. If texting, please include your last name and cabin name, yurt, or site number in the message. Check in is from 3-5PM.

#### Check-out

Please call or text Ranger Anthony (309-335-4779) when you have departed. If texting, please include your last name and cabin name, yurt, or site number in the message. Please leave the cabin or yurt in, clean condition as described in check out procedures. Check out must be completed by 11AM.

### PROGRAM AREA

#### Akela Lodge (June-August)

Located just a short walk from the yurts and campsites is an open space for families to use. There is a small kitchen that campers can use for group cooking but you will need to provide your own cookware.

The lodge also has a seating area and patio that families can use for eating, playing board games, and hanging out. There is a craft area with supplies available for campers to get creative. This is community space that is to be shared with all families at camp.

## **Waterfront and Swimming**

The Stearns beach on Lake Caroline is located south of the ranger's residence. It is a 20-minute walk or 5-minute drive from yurts and campsites. The beach can be used for swimming or as a launch for camp provided canoes, paddle boats, or row boats. The hours are from sun-up to sun-down. Campers are expected to follow posted rules and return any items used to the proper storage location.

### **Beach Rules**

- No lifeguard on duty – swim at your own risk.
- Swimming and boating is restricted to daylight hours.
- Swim only in designated areas.
- Children must be supervised at all times.
- No fishing in swimming area.
- Life jackets required for all boating participants.
- No solo swimming or boating.
- In case of emergency, dial 911.

### **Boating**

Stearns beach is located on Lake Caroline, canoes, row boats, and paddle boats are provided for your family to enjoy. Lake Caroline is a beautiful lake however does not have public boat launch.

If you would like to bring a boat, the best option is to launch it on Clearwater Lake, which is roughly 5 miles from Camp Stearns. Temporary slip rental may be available at BJ's Bait and Tackle. <http://www.bjsbait.com/>

### **Program Field**

The program field is located behind Tonkawa Lodge just a short walk from yurts and campsites. The program field is great for setting up outdoor games or activities. The GAGA ball pit, obstacle course, bounce pillow, petal karts, and all-season sled chute are in this field.

## Camp policies and procedures

**Expected Behavior:** The Scout Oath and Law are the foundation of what we expect to be appropriate behavior at our camps. Though not all participants are Scouters, we still expect all to act accordingly.

Scout Oath:

On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Scout Law:

A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.

**Sharing the Property with Scouts:** Stearns Scout Camp is an active property utilized by Scouting youth and volunteers. Youth safety is our highest priority, and all participants receive training identifying that one on one contact between youth and adults is prohibited. Please respect this policy when interacting with Scouting participants while on the property.

Additionally, we require all Scouting participants to utilize the 'buddy system', which means that participants never travel or participate in activities alone. We believe this increases the both the fun and safety. We encourage you to use this practice while here at camp too.

**Firewood & Campfires:** Firewood is not to be brought into camp unless purchased from a DNR certified vendor. However, we supply wood at no additional charge, and ask that you use firewood conservatively for campfires. Campfires are only allowed inside designated fire rings around camp. Fires should never be left unattended.

**Trash:** All trash should be disposed of in the appropriate trash can outside of Akela Lodge prior to check-out.

**Wildlife:** Please help us prevent visits from wildlife by making sure that any food and garbage is properly always store away. If you are staying in a tent site, please store food in your vehicle. Please regard local wildlife and maintain safe distance.

**Polices on Pets:** Please leave your pets at home as we have a collective no pets in camp policy.

**Smoking and Drinking:** THC, Alcohol and illegal substances are not allowed at any of our camp properties.

Smoking is prohibited indoors and please be discreet and courteous around other camp participants.

**Lost and Found:** Please keep track of all personal items brought to camp. Lost and Found items will be donated at the end of summer.

**Cell Phones and WiFi:** Camp-wide Wi-Fi is not available. Verizon and Sprint are the strongest signals for cell coverage.

**Emergency Equipment:** An AED and a basic first aid kit is available at Akela lodge. If you have a medical emergency, please call 911 or proceed directly to the closest healthcare facility; BayCare Urgent Care in Clearwater. Please notify Ranger Anthony after you receive medical care.

**Child Supervision:** Children should be under the supervision and care of their parents or guardians at all times.

**No open flame cooking or candles are allowed inside of yurts.**

**Cars at Camp:** Cars must be parked in designated parking spots.

**Quiet Hours:** 10:00 p.m. – 7:30 a.m.

**Safety:** please always wear shoes!

**Campgrounds clean up:** Our caretaker will clean program areas and bathrooms daily.

**Cabin and yurt clean up expectations:** Care of the cabins and grounds is the responsibility of all campers. Please clean your yurt, cabin, or tent site prior to check-out.

Cleanup of should include wiping down surfaces, sweeping and/or vacuuming floors, and taking out garbage. A cleaning list is posted inside your cabin or yurt.

To allow enough time to transition for the next camper, remember to check-out on or before 11AM. Thank you for helping us keep camp in good condition.

## Facilities

### YURTS

Yurts are round canvas structures with wood floors, doors, window panels and an operable skylight in the domed roof! Yurts range in size from 20ft to 30ft in diameter and sleep 5 to 7 people.



Furniture: Yurts have a futon, side chair, side tables, small dining set and a twin over full size bunk bed.

Electricity: Yurts have electrical outlets and built in overhead lighting.

Cooking: Yurts include a small refrigerator, microwave and counter for food storage. We recommend keeping all food in secure scent-proof containers. No open flame cooking or candles are allowed inside of yurts. Crockpots and small appliances are acceptable. A picnic table and fire ring area for cooking is available outside.

Water/Bathrooms: Yurts do not have indoor plumbing but are located very close to a full-service shower house with flush toilets, hot water and showers. A spigot for water is located between each yurt site.

Yard: Yurts have a small deck as well as adjoining yard area with picnic table, fire ring and space for activities



## CABINS

Two cozy sleeping cabins are available on the camp property. Both have separate bedrooms. Each facility sleeps between 5 to 7 people.



**Furniture:** Each cabin has a sitting area with a futon/couch and a side chair. Each cabin has a dining set that seats four to six, with space to set up an additional table. Sleeping spaces include a full-size bed and bunk beds.

**Electricity:** All cabins have electricity.

**Cooking:** Cabins contain full or partial kitchens with refrigeration. Each is equipped with cooking supplies and dishware for eight.

**Water/Bathrooms:** Cabins have full indoor plumbing and  $\frac{3}{4}$  baths.

**Yards:** Cabins have a yard area with picnic table, fire ring, a small deck, and space for activities.

**Internet:** Camp-wide Wi-Fi is not available at this time. Verizon and Sprint are the strongest signals for cell coverage.

## CAMPSITES



All campsites include a space large enough to accommodate a 10-person tent, a picnic table, a fire ring, and access to a water spigot. Outdoor primitive toilets and full shower/toilet building are nearby.