



Welcome to...

# 2026 LITHUANIAN HERITAGE FAMILY CAMP IN ENGLISH

June 28 (Sunday) - July 4 (Saturday) 2026

Program Coordinator: **Gaja Stirbys** – gaja.stirbys@gmail.com

Assistant Program Coordinator: **Dr. Liepa Boberienė** – liepa.boberiene@gmail.com



**For camp information, please contact:**

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General information about English-language summer camp sessions and staff

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Programming consultant / Grants / Scholarships / Employment paperwork / International logistics / Archives

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General Questions

*Community Engagement Manager*

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Rentals / Off-Season Events / Lithuanian Summer Festivals / Membership

**Address:** Camp Neringa Inc., 147 Neringa Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301

**Camp phone:** 802-254-9819 or 802-254-8090 (summer only)

**Neringa website:** [www.neringa.org](http://www.neringa.org)

# The Mission and Vision of Neringa

The mission and vision of Neringa were established by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in 1969 when they brought the camping experience from Putnam to Neringa. Priorities and guidelines emerged for 'the way,' 'the how,' and 'the why' of living the mission. It is our responsibility to continue to stay true to the mission and vision of Neringa today, and into the future.

**THE MISSION of Neringa is to provide a nurturing experience rich in Lithuanian heritage and Catholic faith that encourages the positive character development of campers, counselors, staff, families and all participants.**

## Lithuanian Cultural Heritage

Neringa serves those who want to provide a Lithuanian cultural immersion experience for their child, family, or themselves. All camp sessions and programs include components of Lithuanian culture, (i.e. language, history, literature, customs, folk dancing, songs, music, art, and cuisine) and are adapted to the level of the participants.

## Catholic Faith

The heart of Neringa's mission is to embrace and celebrate God and God's merciful love, and to acknowledge that each person is created in the image and likeness of God. The Roman Catholic faith tradition is the core structure for expressing the faith. Faith is taught not only through daily prayer, but also through activities fostering a faith experience. Christian values are the norm in daily routines and interpersonal relations, e.g. love your neighbor as yourself.

## Positive Character Development

Activities strive to engage the whole individual – mind, body, and spirit. A positive and cooperative environment is created to enable campers and participants to be their natural selves, share skills, attempt the unknown, learn from mistakes, and appreciate everyone's contribution which ultimately fosters growth and a positive self-regard.

**THE VISION is that Neringa will provide a nurturing, natural, and supportive community where campers, counselors, staff, family members and all participants can express and experience their Lithuanian heritage and Catholic faith, thereby enhancing their personal, cultural, and spiritual growth.**

## Nurturing

All activities aim to be meaningful alongside being fun. The teaching method is to create a lived experience e.g. drama/plays/reenactment, experimentation and/or discussions, which at the same time develop character.

Reflection moments and activities fostering self-knowledge are an integral part of a program. Every individual, regardless of their responsibilities at camp, participates in the mission and contributes to the lived experience. Everyone is a role model.

## Natural

Surrounded by the natural beauty of Vermont, activities foster appreciation, stewardship and care of the natural environment. Camp inventory is kept simple and uncluttered and the elimination of city sounds and technology help to absorb and be inspired by nature.

The greatest resources are the natural skills of the individuals at camp. People, not things, are the key to identify what is truly valuable and meaningful; personal interaction is a priority.

Technology is used only to acquire information and is used minimally. Camp is the perfect opportunity to experience the treasures of the world without the screen.

## Supportive

Each participant is addressed with respect, valued for his/her uniqueness, and supported by a safe environment.

Central to daily life at camp are collaboration, mutual support, and team work, which counterbalance the competitiveness and individualism encountered in society.

## Community

All activities, programs, and events should help build an inclusive community and foster healthy friendships and relationships.

Family values and habits of healthy relationships, i.e. love, respect, communication, empathy, understanding, sensitivity, sharing, tolerance, honesty, hard work, forgiveness, truthfulness, flexibility, and similar traits are constantly affirmed and reinforced.



*The šūkis "EINAM, DAROM!" (Let's go! Let's do it! Together!) encourages everyone to participate – together we create the dynamics of Neringa camp life.*

# Know Before You Go

**What is Neringa:** In 1969 the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary relocated Camp Immaculata from Putnam, CT to the rolling hills of southern Vermont and created Neringa. The camp's mission has remained constant: to provide a nurturing experience rich in Lithuanian heritage and Catholic faith that encourages the positive character development of campers, counselors, staff, families and all participants. Named after the beautiful Lithuanian seashore bordering the Baltic Sea, Camp Neringa is often called "Little Lithuania" for how much it resembles the country.

## The 2026 Program

Once you have registered for Stovykla (Camp), a confirmation email will be sent to you. More details regarding the program and how your family can prepare will come after your registration from a Program Coordinator. If your program requires any materials to be purchased, please consult with Gaja and Liepa to discuss.

## Lithuanian Language

The camp programming will be conducted in English, with an emphasis on incorporating common Lithuanian words and phrases throughout the session. Counselors and parents are encouraged to share their Lithuanian language experience and support mutual learning.



## Living Arrangements

Families live in simple cabins, which come with bunk beds, sinks and toilets, while shower facilities are nearby. Please let us know if you would like to stay together with another family.

## Registration Deadline

Please complete registration form by March 31, 2026. This will help us plan the program more easily. Camp registration is done through our UltraCamp platform. If you have any questions about UltraCamp/Finances, please contact [ultracamp@neringa.org](mailto:ultracamp@neringa.org). Registrations will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis, so do not wait!



# Know Before You Go

## Camping Fees

\$50 registration fee (non-refundable)

Camping fees are not refundable as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. Payment in full/final payment - is due **no later than May 31<sup>st</sup>**.

To help ensure both accessibility and long-term sustainability, Neringa offers three pricing options for each session: Base, True Cost, and Sustaining. Camp fees are partially subsidized through donations, grants, and rental income, and do not typically cover the full cost of operating the camp. Families may choose the rate that best fits their circumstances:

		Camping Fee
<b>Base</b>	Registration fee	\$50
	Adult 1	\$540 + \$5 laundry
	Adult 2	\$515 + \$5 laundry
	Child	\$335 + \$5 laundry
	Children under 5	Free
<b>True Cost of Camp</b>	Registration fee	\$50
	Adult 1	\$640 + \$5 laundry
	Adult 2	\$640 + \$5 laundry
	Child	\$440 + \$5 laundry
	Children under 5	Free
<b>Sustaining</b>	Registration fee	\$50
	Adult 1	\$750 + \$5 laundry
	Adult 2	\$750 + \$5 laundry
	Child	\$550 + \$5 laundry
	Children under 5	Free



- **Base** – Covers the basic costs of operating the session, such as food, supplies, and staff.
- **True Cost** – Covers the full operational cost of the session, including administrative expenses and facility upkeep.
- **Sustaining** – Helps support scholarships and strengthen Neringa’s long-term financial stability.

The selected rate is not considered a charitable donation and is not tax-deductible. This structure is intended to provide flexibility for families while supporting Neringa’s continued mission.

## Financial support

Please do not let finances deter any family from attending Neringa. There are several funds that have been generously provided by community organizations and are available for those families in need. Fill out your request along with the registration package. **The financial aid request deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>**. Decisions announced by **April 15<sup>th</sup>**. Questions? Please contact Dana Vainauskienė: [dana@neringa.org](mailto:dana@neringa.org).

## Pre-camp Parent Town Hall

We will invite parents to pre-camp Parents Town Halls closer to camp start date to meet program coordinators, answer questions, and provide all relevant information.

## About Meals

There are three meals daily and two snacks plus an afternoon ice cream treat. We are conscious of serving nutritious meals and vigilant of campers with food allergies. The cost of food is included in the camp fees.

# Know Before You Go

## Cell Phones

Cell phone use is **strongly discouraged** at Neringa and is not allowed during the children's camps. There is very limited network reception and Wi-Fi is reserved for camp administration. Parents should plan accordingly. If parents absolutely need to use the phones or Wi-Fi, please talk with the Summer Director. The main landline at the camp, located in the cafeteria, can be contacted in case of emergencies: (802) 254-9819. Camp is viewed as a time to escape from modern distractions and campers often express that freedom from notifications, calls and pings and dings is the best part!

## Laundry

Camp is equipped with washing machines and dryers. Please pack a small amount of laundry soap (no laundry pods please).

## What to Bring

comfortable summer clothing for daily wear
warm clothes for cool evenings
sleeping bag
pillow and pillow case
mattress cover
towel
regular hygiene items
laundry bag & detergent
warm pajamas
bathing suit
raincoat
rain boots (optional)
sneakers
jacket
flip flops
insect repellent (no aerosol cans)
sunscreen
fishing net and beach bucket (for catching salamanders)
decorations for your cabin

## For Children 12 and Up

For the children 12 and up at this camp, they may be paired up with one of the younger groups during the morning/afternoon lessons in order to help develop their leadership skills and will otherwise be participating in all other camp activities.

## Arrival & Departure

If you have attended this camp in the past, please note new arrival and departure days. Arrival time is **Sunday, June 28 between 1pm and 3pm**. We request that everyone arrive during this window, to reduce disruptions for the program. **Camp departure will be Saturday, July 4 starting at 10am** after breakfast and flag raising. Please let us know if you will need to arrive or depart outside of these windows.

# Guidelines for Heritage Family Camp

## NERINGA VALUES

### Lithuanian Culture

Neringa is a Lithuanian cultural camp. We come to Camp Neringa specifically to learn as much as we can about Lithuanian culture and heritage. Each of us comes to camp with different experiences of our Lithuanian heritage and we enrich each other's experiences as we share our own knowledge and traditions.

### Faith & Spirituality

Neringa is a Catholic camp. Through the beautiful natural surroundings of Neringa and by creating a cooperative family atmosphere, we feel the presence of God and God's loving concern for each one of us. Prayer is included in camp life to help us experience that faith is a part of our everyday lives.

### Personal & Family Growth

Life at camp gives us a different opportunity than the one we have at home to explore who we are personally and as a family. By living closely with other families, by actively taking part in all activities and joining in the creative programs, we experience ourselves in new ways and grow as individuals and families.

## THE DAILY ROUTINE

### Morning

- Each Neringa day begins with breakfast which families eat together in the dining room. After breakfast, there is time for general cleanup and preparations for the day.
- Daily activities begin at morning flag raising. Everyone gathers together with their families at the flag area. At this time directions will be given for the day's activities. During this time families greet each other in the form of a family "šūkis" (cheer). These greetings are fun little jingles that your family will create while at camp.
- Family morning prayer and reflection follows flag raising. Reflection topics, ideas, and resources will be provided.
- The rest of the morning is spent in various activities. Some activities will be for families to do together while some will be for the children and parents separately. Programming is provided for children 3 and older. Children under 3 years old may attend the children's activities but we ask that parents accompany them.

### Afternoon

- Lunch is followed by some free time.
- The afternoon is a free time for families to spend together. Most families enjoy spending this time at the prūdas/pond. As noted below, families are responsible for their children during this free time.
- An afternoon snack follows free time after which there are more activities for families, children, and parents until dinner.

### Evening

- Dinner is followed by a flag lowering ceremony and an evening program. Families will be involved in the evening program together.
- An evening prayer and a night snack conclude each day.
- Parents are responsible for putting their children to sleep. We ask everyone to respect each family's need for quiet at this time.
- Once children are asleep parents are invited into the main lodge for informal fellowship.

## CNI Board of Directors 2025/2026

### President

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### Vice President

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### Co-Treasurer

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Nida Stankūnas-Schmedlen

# Guidelines for Heritage Family Camp

*Family camp is a unique experience to camp together with your children. Camp Neringa works to ensure everyone's safety at camp but as parents, you are responsible for your children and their behavior and safety during common family activities and free time.*

## In particular please be aware of the following:

**The “Skambutis” Bell** – All common activities are signaled by the ringing of the main bell (“skambutis”). When you hear the bell, gather together on the porch of the main lodge or in a previously designated area. A schedule of daily activities (for which the bell tolls!) is posted in the dining hall.

**The Call for Attention** – A counselor's raised hand is the signal for quiet and attention. Counselors will not shout or use whistles, therefore, as soon as a hand is raised, it is important to quiet down your children to be ready to listen.

**Dining Room** – Meals are eaten together with everyone at camp. Each meal begins with a prayer after which families approach the counter to pick up their food. We request that parents assist their children at mealtime to ensure that they are eating properly and not wasting food. The meal will finish with some announcements. Each family must clear their dishes and clean their table before leaving. Dishes, cups or utensils are not to be taken out of the dining room.

**The Groundskeeper's House/Cook's Cabin/Sisters' Residence** – Our groundskeeper has his own house, our cooks have their cabin, and the sisters live in the building adjacent to the chapel. Please respect this property and their privacy.

**The Chapel** – The Chapel is always open to use as a quiet place of reflection and prayer.

**The Woods** – The woods are big and misleading. Do not let your children into the woods beyond the cabins without an adult.

**Smoking** – Smoking is not permitted in all areas except in the workshed, where smokers must dispose of cigarettes safely.

**The “Prūdas” Pond** – Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times when at the pond, whether swimming or playing in the area. During family camp, your child's safety at the pond is your responsibility – there is no lifeguard. A common time for swimming is scheduled every day after lunch. During this time counselors are preparing for afternoon and evening programs and are not available to assist at the pond. Families are responsible for their own family time. The boats can be used with an adult and appropriate personal floatation device. Swimming in the deeper water is allowed only for those who can swim.



**First Aid** – If anyone is not feeling well or is seriously hurt, immediately report this to a counselor/nurse or the Summer Manager. There is an urgent care facility nearby and the camp has arrangements with local doctors to provide health care. Arrangements to see the doctor need to be made through the Summer Manager.

**Keeping Neringa Clean** – Everyone is responsible for camp cleanliness and picks up after themselves, keeping common areas clean. Each family is responsible for the cleanliness of their cabins. Cleaning supplies are provided in each cabin and garbage should be disposed of in the dumpster. A common cleaning time will be scheduled to clean the camp before the end of the session. Parents will be held financially responsible for any damage done to camp property by their children.

**Washers & Dryers** – Machines are available to use during your stay. They are located in the shower houses.

**Pets** are not allowed, however Neringa has chickens on site that camp alongside our families! Egg collection is allowed only with adult supervision.

**Gum chewing** is not allowed.

**Telephones** – The dining room phone can be used to call 911 in case of an emergency. Neringa phone number: 802-254-9819. If you need to make a long-distance call please ask the administration. In case of urgent need to access email, the computer at the end of the dining hall may be used.

**Cell Phones and Internet** – Neringa has limited Wi-Fi access. The Wi-Fi service is needed for administration and camp work. Let us take advantage of the time we have at camp with our family! If parents absolutely need to use the phones or Wi-Fi for various reasons, please talk with the Summer Director.



# Additional Information

## Other Camps

Throughout the year, Neringa offers a variety of camps and events: in Lithuanian and English, for children, adults and families. For more information about children's summer camps, please contact Lithuanian-language Summer Camp Session Director Audra Maciunas-Lafferty: [audra@neringa.org](mailto:audra@neringa.org) or English-language Summer Camp Session Director Christina Heerey: [christina@neringa.org](mailto:christina@neringa.org) or refer to [www.neringa.org](http://www.neringa.org).

## Would you like to be a part of the Neringa Team this summer?

We are looking for kitchen staff, first aid providers, summer managers and program specialists for all camp sessions. If you are interested, please contact Christina or Audra.



### Lithuanian Summer Festival (Putnam, CT) – August 2, 2026

The Putnam Picnic, a cherished tradition organized by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception at their facility in Connecticut for 80 years, was taken over by Camp Neringa, Inc. (CNI) in 2019. A big thank you to all the volunteers who contribute to the Mass, food, parking, clean-up, and event organization. We look forward to another great Lithuanian Summer Festival this summer! More details will be shared soon.

#### *Interested in helping?*

Visit Neringa's website or contact the event Chair, Vida Strazdis, at [strazdis@comcast.net](mailto:strazdis@comcast.net), or Community Engagement Manager, Jonas Jankauskas, at [jonas@neringa.org](mailto:jonas@neringa.org).

### Lithuanian Summer Festival (Vermont, Camp Neringa) – August 15, 2026

We are very excited to announce the third annual "Lithuanian Summer Festival" at Camp Neringa in Vermont. Modeled on the festival in Putnam, CT, everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy a singing and dancing program performance by the campers, Mass, food, music, vendors and more! Bring your relatives and friends to enjoy this festival – it is open to all! A full schedule will be shared soon.

#### *Interested in helping?*

Email Community Engagement Manager, Jonas Jankauskas, at [jonas@neringa.org](mailto:jonas@neringa.org).

### Neringa always welcomes donations

Families who wish to contribute beyond the Sustaining rate may make an additional tax-deductible donation. Checks may be made payable to "Camp Neringa, Inc." or donations may be made online through our website.

Those interested in supporting a specific Neringa initiative, such as scholarships, the historical archive project, bringing specialists from Lithuania, program supplies, counselor training, or campsite improvements, are welcome to contact Dana Vainauskienė at [dana@neringa.org](mailto:dana@neringa.org) for more information.

We are grateful for the generosity of our community, which helps ensure Neringa's mission continues for future generations.

## Membership

If you're interested in our governance, you can become a Member of Camp Neringa, Inc! Members of CNI elect the Board of Directors from CNI's membership and make essential decisions for Camp Neringa at the annual Members' meeting. Membership forms will be available on Neringa's website. If you have any questions, contact Jonas Jankauskas at [membership@neringa.org](mailto:membership@neringa.org).

## Neringa News & Social Media

Neringa shares news on our website at [www.neringa.org](http://www.neringa.org), on the Camp Neringa Facebook page, and our e-newsletter, Neringa News. You can email [news@neringa.org](mailto:news@neringa.org) to subscribe. You can also get a taste of camp life by following Neringa on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/campneringa>) and Instagram: @neringastovykla

## Directions to Neringa

I 91 to Vermont exit 2. Follow Rt. 9 west for 7 miles until you see the sign for Neringa. Turn left onto MacArthur Rd. and in less than a mile you will see the Neringa driveway on your right. Address: 147 Neringa Rd. Brattleboro, VT 05301.