

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS: NERINGA CAMPER LIFE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

NERINGA VALUES

Lithuanian Culture

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

Faith and Spirituality

Neringa is a Catholic camp. We believe we are all created by God and are brothers and sisters to each other in Spirit. Through the beautiful natural surroundings of Neringa and by creating a cooperative family atmosphere, we help each other feel the presence of God and God's loving concern for each one of us. At the beginning of each season, the campsite and all the activities during the summer are placed under the protection of Our Lord and His Blessed Mother Mary. All that we do at Neringa is done in the presence of God. It is important that during our time at camp everyone takes time to grow in our relationship with God and in understanding our Catholic faith.

Personal Growth

God has created us with various talents and gifts. Life at camp gives us a unique opportunity to explore these gifts. By living closely with our peers, by actively taking part in all activities and joining in the creative programs with all the campers, we experience ourselves in new ways and grow as individuals.

Community Living and Cooperation

We live together and form a community like a large family. Cabin members form special bonds with each other and all the cabins interacting together experience each other as a big family. We learn to be aware of the needs and appreciate the gifts of everyone; we learn self-giving by helping, encouraging, working together, and being responsible for one another. When we disagree or have problems with each other, we learn how to communicate, understand and forgive each other, be fair and solve disagreements positively.

THE DAILY ROUTINE

For the fun and safety of all, participation in all activities is required of campers.



Morning

- Each day begins with morning prayer, followed by breakfast, cleanup and flag raising ceremonies.
- The morning is spent in various classes and activities. These are always a combination of a spiritual component or prayer, lessons in Lithuanian culture, singing, folk dancing, history, literature, nature, art, drama, sports, games, discussion groups, etc. A schedule of activities is posted in each cabin; each counselor also has a copy for campers to check if they are not sure where to go.



Afternoon

- Lunch is followed by free time.
- After receiving an ice cream snack, children go to the pond with counselors. Campers may not go to the waterfall or any area beyond the beachfront without a counselor. Boat use also requires counselor supervision. Swimming in the deeper end is allowed for those who have passed the swimming test with the camp lifeguard.
- After swimming there is some free time and an afternoon snack, followed by the afternoon classes and dinner.



Evening

- Dinner is followed by some free time, evening program preparation, a flag lowering ceremony, and an evening program.
- An evening prayer and a night snack conclude each day.
- After evening snack, campers are supervised in returning to their cabins for bedtime. It is understood that campers will remain in their cabins until the wake-up bell rings in the morning. Leaving the cabin at night is strictly forbidden.

SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

Respecting Fellow Campers – Bullying or hurting other campers (physically or verbally) is never acceptable. Such behavior is grounds for dismissal from Neringa.

Keeping Neringa Clean – Everyone is responsible for cleanliness at camp. Campers are expected to participate in a schedule of chores for their cabins as well as for common areas. Campers are also expected to respect Neringa's natural surroundings, equipment, and facilities by not writing on any walls, not throwing sticks in the field, not peeling birch bark, and the like.

Dining Room/Food at Neringa – Campers eat with their counselor and cabin mates following a common prayer. Campers are expected to clean up after meals as instructed, and to participate in camp-wide dishwashing responsibilities if required. Dishes, cups or utensils are not to be taken out of the dining room.

We ask you not to bring food or candy to camp as that places campers with allergies at risk. Food/candy also attracts rodents. Campers receive three meals and three snacks daily.

The Chapel – The Chapel is always open to use as a quiet place of reflection and prayer. Campers can't visit the chapel without telling a counselor.

Areas Off Limits – Various cabins and areas on the grounds are private property or considered unsafe to use without supervision, and campers do not enter these areas unattended: the main building's basement, second floor, and library; the pond; the woods; the art house; the Lithuanian house; the work shed; the sisters' residence; the caretaker's home; the chaplain's cabin; the cooks' cabin; counselor rooms; other campers' cabins.

Shower House – Girls and boys have separate shower houses. Younger campers have scheduled shower times, while older campers are expected to shower during free time.

Appropriate Dress – Campers should be dressed in clean, modest attire with sensible footwear. Inappropriately dressed campers will be required to change. Clothing displaying alcohol, drugs, sexual references, or other inappropriate sayings, graphics, or symbols, as well as low-hanging pants or shirts that expose underclothing or skin of the upper thighs, torso, chest, or back are not appropriate at camp. Supporting underclothing must be worn when age appropriate.

Washing Machines and Dryers – Campers may wash their clothes while at camp. Clothing for younger campers will be washed by their counselors, and older campers may do their laundry during free time. A limited supply of quarters and laundry detergent (please do not

pack laundry detergent pods) is required for campers who foresee needing to do laundry while at camp.

First Aid – A first aid is available for camper health issues. More serious injuries or illnesses may be referred to local physicians upon consultation with parents. No medicine is kept in the cabins, except with the permission of the camp nurse.

Chewing Gum is not allowed.

Telephone and Visiting – The experience of being away from home and independent from parents builds character. Campers are not encouraged to call home but may do so if necessary. They ask the program coordinator's permission and call from the administration building. Parents are also asked to refrain from calling unless there is a serious reason for doing so (family celebrations, etc.). Similarly, visiting can instill homesickness in your own child or in the other campers. While parents have the right to have access to their children, we urge parents to consider issues of homesickness and activity disruption before contacting their children by telephone or visiting. Rather, the experience of getting letters is exciting so we encourage parents to write letters to their children. Mail is delivered and mailed daily! We usually share with parents and guardians updates on camp activities and program through an e-newsletter twice a week.

Mail is delivered to and posted from campers daily. Parents should pack stamps and envelopes for children who intend to send letters.

Packages will not be delivered to campers, as these instill unhealthy competition among campers. Any package received at camp will be withheld from campers and returned at the closing of camp.

Electronic Devices – Electronic devices, such as cell phones, laptops, or video games, are prohibited. Music devices are also prohibited. If electronic or music devices are brought to camp, they will be taken away and returned at the end of camp.

Money – There is no need for campers to have cash at Neringa, except for the small amount of quarters possibly needed for laundry. Neringa cannot assume liability for money brought to camp by campers.

Damage – Campers are responsible for any damage that they have caused. If they are unable to fix the damage, their parents must reimburse Neringa for any damage expenses incurred.

Substance abuse – Campers are not allowed to bring weapons or knives, to smoke, drink alcohol, or use drugs.

