

FAMILY CAMP 2026

PARENT RESOURCE PACKET



**“REJOICE
ALWAYS.
PRAY WITHOUT
CEASING. IN
EVERYTHING,
GIVE THANKS,
FOR THIS IS THE
WILL OF GOD FOR
YOU IN CHRIST
JESUS.”**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

DEAR 2026 FAMILY CAMP FAMILIES:

We are excited to welcome you to our seventh annual family camp at Camp Tekakwitha, celebrating our 100th Anniversary! It's a huge blessing to have you with us at Camp, and we can't wait for all the fun to be had. Know that we are looking forward to your arrival and the opportunity to serve your family through our ministry of faith-filled outdoor adventure. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions leading up to that Saturday.

Please take a moment to read over this parent packet - it will be a helpful guide for you and your camper(s) as you prepare for your week at Camp this summer.

Stay connected through our "2026 Families of Camp Tekakwitha" Facebook group and don't hesitate to reach out to our staff with any questions you might have.

We're praying for each of you!
+ the Camp Tek team

📍 W5248 Lake Drive
Shawano, WI 54166

📞 715-526-2316
🌐 camptekakwitha.org

A DAY AT CAMP

8:45 AM

CHECK-IN

9:15 AM

WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS

9:30 AM

CAMP SCAVENGER HUNT

10:10 AM

MORNING SESSION OPTIONS (X2)

11:50 AM

LUNCH

12:50 PM

AFTERNOON SESSION OPTIONS (X2)

2:20 PM

FREE TIME

4:00 PM

CLOSING MASS

5:00 PM

DEPARTURE

TIME TO PACK!

PACKING LIST	
	Clothing for variable weather
	Jacket/Raincoat
	Closed-Toe Shoes and Sandals
	Swimsuit and Beach Towel
	Water Bottle
	Insect Repellant and Sunscreen
	SNACKS (snacks will be available for purchase at the Trading Post in the afternoon on Saturday, but a lot of families find snacks helpful for Saturday morning)

LOST-N-FOUND

Please label anything you would want returned if lost! We will hold lost-n-found items for several weeks and will make every effort to return a lost item if you contact us.

Please note: we do our best to return all lost articles, but we cannot assume the responsibility for lost or damaged property.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

To ensure all of our families have a positive and safe experience, we ask you to refrain from bringing the following items to Camp:

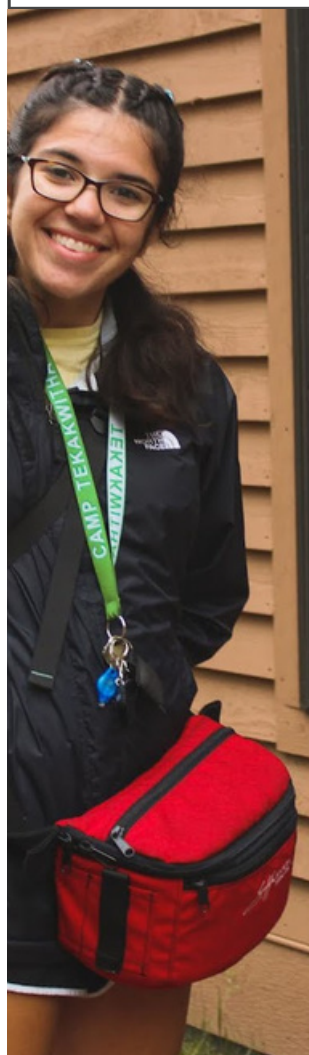
- Knives & Weapons
- Alcohol/drugs/illegal substances
- Fireworks/explosives
- Pets/animals
- Personal sporting equipment - i.e. shooting equipment, archery equipment, etc.
- Inappropriate or offensive clothing
- Drones

camp POLICIES

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents/Chaperones are responsible for damage to Camp property or equipment caused by the members of their family/party.

Behavioral Supervision of minors is the responsibility of the family. At least 1 adult is expected to accompany children to any program/living area or activity; 2 adults are required for 5 or more children. During Tekakwitha-staffed program activities, camp staff will have the final say regarding appropriate behavior for that area.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Family Camp adults are responsible for the healthcare and first aid of those in their family while at Camp. This includes necessary medications as well as their safe and secure storage away from children. It is advised that at least one family leader be aware of any health conditions of their group and have signed 'permission to treat' statements for any minors whose guardians are not in attendance. In the event of a health care emergency, notify the Camp staff at any program area, Camp office, kitchen or staff housing area for assistance. Our Camp Tekakwitha staff members are certified in emergency first aid and CPR, and there is an AED located in the main lodge office area.

Camp Tekakwitha is served by the Shawano County 911 system with quick response time by first responders and paramedic ambulance. If 911 is called, please be sure to contact the Camp staff for assistance in getting the responders to your location at Camp.

In order to maintain the health, safety and quality of our Camp and our campers' experience, Camp Tekakwitha staff reserves the right to deny entry, restrict or deny use of facilities and programs, or remove from the property any person whose behavior they deem inappropriate or may present a risk.

Emergency PROCEDURES

IN AN EMERGENCY, THE BELL OUTSIDE THE LODGE WILL BE RUNG CONTINUOUSLY. AT THAT TIME, PLEASE PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO THE STAGE AND AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTION.

SEVERE WEATHER

In the case of thunder and/or lightening, all persons should move inside. In the case of a tornado warning, a designated staff member will instruct you to proceed to the Thunderdome. Account for all of your group members; immediately report any missing persons to the Camp Staff. Camp administration will update group members on status of storm.



FIRE

A present staff member or group leader will direct all persons to evacuate a building. The leaders will practice a safe and calm evacuation from the building, give clear and specific directions and move all people to single meeting place at the stage. After you proceed to the stage, the staff member there will direct you to a safe place. Account for all of your campers; immediately report any missing person to the Camp Staff. The leader will instruct someone to call 911.



MISSING PERSON

Check the person's cabin and the immediate area, including bathrooms; check activity areas that the person most recently visited. Check with other staff members. **Notify Camp staff if person is not found within 3 minutes.** Camp staff will assign people to 1) assume supervision of the other participants in the group 2) search the waterfront 3) search each cabin and building 4) search main activity areas. If the person is not found, Camp Staff will assign people to search the woods. If person is not found within 30 minutes, Camp Staff will notify the Sheriff, and group leader will notify person's parents.



INTRUDER

All persons who are unescorted on camp property should only be approached by Camp Staff. If an intruder is spotted, do not approach if you are in direct care of participants. Tell another group leader to contact the office staff and remove group participants from the area. If you suspect the intruder is dangerous, please get all participants to the Thunderdome and close window guards and doors.



EVACUATION

If an extreme fire or other emergency makes it unsafe for visitors or staff to remain on the site, arrangements have been made with Sacred Heart School/Parish in Shawano to house us temporarily in their school gymnasium. In this case, group leaders would be notified and would carry out their evacuation plan. Camp staff would assist and support group leaders with communication services. A phone team stays by the phones to answer calls.



other INFORMATION

TRADING POST (CAMP STORE)

Families may purchase snacks (i.e. soda, ice cream, candy bars; priced at \$0.50 to \$5.00 per item) and miscellaneous souvenirs (i.e. t-shirts, hats, sunglasses, stuffed animals, sweatshirts; priced at \$0.50 to \$30.00+ per item). Trading Post is open during the afternoon and can be visited with cash, check or credit/debit card. Most items are available through our online store. If you would like to look before arrival – visit <https://www.camptekakwitha.org/trading-post> for more information



CAMP TEKAKWITHA REGULATIONS

- To maintain the natural beauty of Camp, please do not peel birth bark, move rocks, chop trees, pick flowers or otherwise deface any part of the natural setting. Please be aware that the Wisconsin State Law protects many wild flower and certain plants may be harmful to one's health and well-being. Ex) Poison Ivy, stinging nettle, etc.
- Smoking in any form is not permitted in any of the Camp housing, program areas, or buildings.
- No swimming, boating, or water activities except in specified places/times and with the permission of Camp staff.
- No children are allowed on the boat docks. For watercraft activities, ALL participants must wear an approved life jacket. Participants are not allowed in the boathouse without the Camp Waterfront staff.
- Use of all program equipment and program areas must be cleared with the Camp staff. Please report all damage to Camp property and equipment to the Camp staff.

all about SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA



Tekakwitha was born in 1656, in a Mohawk Indian village. When she was only four years old, smallpox hit her village and killed many people including her parents and brother. Tekakwitha survived but was weakened and left with scars which partially blinded her and served as a source of humiliation throughout her childhood.

After her parents' death, Tekakwitha was raised by tribal relatives and became an expert in domestic tribal arts and grew in deep appreciation for nature. As she got older, she encountered some visiting Jesuit missionaries and was drawn to their joy and relationship with Christ. She began to lead a life inspired by their example. Tekakwitha fell in love with Jesus, refused an arranged marriage by her family, and was baptized at age 19 taking the name of Kateri (a Mohawk form of Catherine). She later took a vow of chastity and pledged to marry only Jesus Christ.

Kateri's village did not approve of this decision, leading to great suffering and persecution from her family and neighbors. She fled to the Christian Indian mission of St Francis Xavier in Montreal where she became known as the "Lily of the Mohawks" in recognition of her purity, kindness, prayer, faith, and heroic suffering.

Sadly, just five years after her conversion to Catholicism, Kateri became ill and passed away at age 24, on April 17, 1680. Her last words were, "Jesus, I love you." Moments after dying, her scarred face was miraculously healed and "shone like the sun."

fast facts

- She is the **first Native American saint**, canonized on October 21, 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI.
- Because of St. Kateri's example of chastity and virtue, she is often called **Lily of the Mohawks**.
- It's said that Kateri would create **crosses** out of sticks and place them throughout the forest, often while traveling to the nearby village for Mass. We create these crosses at Camp Tekakwitha while praying for specific intentions. Then, they serve as a reminder to pray for others!
- Images of her are often decorated with a **lily and cross** along with feathers or turtle as representation of her culture!
- Her final words were **"Jesus, I love you"** / "Jesos Konoronkwa."
- Kateri is the **patron saint** of ecology, orphaned children, & Native Americans.
- One of Kateri's '**mottos**' was, "Who can tell me what is most pleasing to God that I may do it?"

NOTES TO REMEMBER:

