



Press Release

Northern Pines Camp is pleased to announce our participation in the **Effective Camp Project** in summer 2022. We have been selected as one of more than 20 United Methodist camps from across the country to represent United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries in this important study. This ground-breaking study will reveal the strengths and growing areas of United Methodist summer camp ministries!

With parental permission, we are surveying a selection of summer campers at the beginning and end of camp, and 8 weeks after camp ends, measuring lasting change in critical areas like self-confidence, personal faith, social skills, and faith practices. We appreciate those households that have agreed to participate!

By participating in this exciting project, we hope to take an honest look at how we are doing in serving our summer camp families and achieving desired outcomes. Data from our camp will also help tell the larger story of the benefits of United Methodist camping ministries to families and the church! We are partnering with the experienced and respected research team at Sacred Playgrounds in order to tell the camp story in a new way and improve our camp programs for all participants.

Previous Effective Camp research has identified five fundamentals of Christian summer camping: faith centered, safe space, relational, unplugged from home, and participatory. Dr. Jake Sorenson, Effective Camp project director, says, "This project has demonstrated that, when the five fundamental characteristics are in place, the Christian camp experience has significant, lasting impacts on the lives of participants and their families." Our participation in this study will show us where our camp shines and where focused attention will generate significant improvement in outcomes for our campers.

As of summer 2021, more than 8000 campers and 2000 parents at 38 camps from across the United States and Canada have participated in this project. These camps represent multiple Christian denominations. The research to date is available online at www.effectivecamp.com.

Northern Pines Camp
Leslie Hobson, Director
20033 County 1 Park Rapids, MN 56470
(218) 732-4713
northernpinescamp@campminnesota.org
www.northernpinescamp.org





Dear Parents/Guardians,

This summer, **Northern Pines Camp** is participating in an exciting research project called the **Effective Camp Project**. The study is designed to assess the impact of the summer camp experience on campers. We are one of more than 20 United Methodist camps participating this summer. As part of this study, campers will be asked to complete a short questionnaire on the first and last day of camp. These are very short and can be filled out in about 5 minutes so as not to take time away from the camp experience. A third questionnaire will be sent to campers (**age 10 and older**) after they return home from camp. No names or other identifying information of campers will be used in any research documents or publications. If you consent to allow your child to participate in this research project, please sign below and return this form to camp. Your child will also be given the opportunity to consent or opt out of the project. There is no penalty or reward for participation or non-participation. This is totally voluntary.

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Camp Program Name: _____

Additional Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Camp Program Name: _____

Permission given: Yes No

Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Northern Pines Camp
Leslie Hobson, Director
20033 County 1 Park Rapids, MN 56470
(218) 732-4713
northernpinescamp@campminnesota.org
www.northernpinescamp.org

