



### Welcome

This summer is going to be incredible and we are so excited to welcome you to Camp Michawana! Thank you for letting your child(ren) spend part of their summer with us on the beautiful shores of Long Lake.

Our goal for this Summer Camp Guide is to answer all of your questions. If it doesn't, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. We want to do everything we can to help you and your camper feel prepared and excited for your upcoming experience at Camp Michawana.

A staff member is available to answer questions Monday - Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm at (269) 623-5168 (Option 3). If someone is unable to answer your call, please leave a message and we will get back to you quickly. You can also send us a message anytime at [reg@michawanacamp.org](mailto:reg@michawanacamp.org) and we will respond to you as soon as possible.

### Camp Philosophy

Camp Michawana's mission is to **Plant the Word of God into lives so that each camper will know Christ as their Savior and become unashamed in their faith, living purposely for the Lord.**

We believe that a Camp Michawana experience should be available to all. We believe that all human life is sacred because it is created in the image of God, and we are called to respect every camper and guest regardless of their ability, gender, culture, religion, race, region, or socio-economic status.

Camp Michawana has been serving campers, families and guests since 1938. The camp experience draws a camper or guest away from the routine of everyday life and has the power to transform lives. Camp combines intentional programming, activities, Bible teaching, and opportunities to try something new in a safe environment. Staff members are energetic, encouraging, compassionate, fun-loving Christian role-models and have a lasting impact on campers' lives. Camp Michawana serves campers and guests of varying faiths, as well as no faith at all. It is our hope that everyone who comes to Camp will see the love of Jesus through our staff and programs.

## Summer Camp Goals + Objectives

We desire:

1. That our mission would be carried out and that by learning God's Word each camper would:
  - Have a clear invitation to place their faith in Jesus.
  - Go home with a desire and ability to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. That campers would have meaningful memories and a joyful experience knowing that they and every human is sacred because they are made in the image of God on purpose for a purpose.
3. That each camper will experience new adventures, knowledge, skills, and habits.

## The Camp Experience Defined

The Michawana experience intentionally combines faith and fun by providing tangible, physical parallels to our spiritual journeys in a place where young people not only hear, but also see and experience Jesus. Campers live in small, welcoming lodges where they are able to “start with a clean slate”, have healthy interactions with peers, and develop personal, loving friendships with our staff. We constantly seek feedback to be sure that our programs and facilities continue to be innovative, creative, exciting, relevant, and in alignment with our goals. We also ensure that our staff is thoroughly trained to be mission-driven and mission-effective in order to exceed expectations.

This experience stems from the foundational truth that our work is about how God, through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, changes lives. Because of this, we love kids without pretense or judgment.

## Summer Camp Theme 2025



Explore Better: On Tour

Searching the Word of God and discovering that IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!

This summer, where adventure meets music, get ready to embark on **"The Explore Better Tour!"** Through travel, discovery, and Scripture, we'll explore the lives of Moses, David, Joshua, and the prophets—key figures who aren't the final stop but signs pointing toward something greater.

Together, we'll dive deep into God's Word, learning how every story leads to Jesus, the ultimate fulfillment. Along the way, you'll see that He is better than the Law, the prophets, and anything the world promises. Through hands-on activities, group discussions, and powerful teaching, you'll discover that following Jesus changes everything.

## Camp Michawana Arrival & Departure Information

### Directions

*For directions use this address: 6475 Wilkins Road Hastings, MI 49058.*

After coming in the main entrance, turn right and follow registration signs to the parking lot. Please keep your **speed 10 mph** to ensure safety for all families. A parking lot volunteer will help you find a parking spot. Please do not leave your car unattended while running. Leave camper belongings in the vehicle until after checking in. Head to the Dining Hall to check in your camper. Look for a volunteer if you have any questions. Once your camper is checked in, you may walk or drive to the camper's lodge to find their cabin. After your camper is moved into their cabin you are free to leave camp. **Please leave your Camper's free t-shirt with them for their group picture.**

### Arrival

***Opening Day: Sunday 4:30 PM—5:30PM (Please do not arrive before 4:15 PM)***

Opening Day is an exciting time for everyone! When you arrive to the Dining Hall you will be greeted by a staff member who will direct you to one of the Registration Tables where the check-in process will begin right at 4:30 pm. Camper account balances will be paid at this time. You may make payments using cash, check, or credit card. Cabin assignments will be provided upon check in and your Counselor will be waiting in your cabin to meet you and welcome you to Camp!

All campers will go through a head lice screening by our Nursing Staff. All campers with medication (both prescription and over the counter) will need to check-in their medication with the Nursing Staff. Please see the **Medications** section for more information.

On Opening Day the **Trading Post** (camp store) will open at 4:15 PM, where you can purchase Camp Michawana gear. Spending money for your camper can be placed in a store account in advance online or on opening day. The Trading Post will be open again on Closing Day.

### Departure

***Closing Day: Friday 1:30 PM - 3 PM***

There will be a short closing program that begins at 1:45 pm on Friday afternoon in the chapel. Campers will be packed and ready to go. When arriving to pick up your camper please remember to keep **speed at 10 mph**. Park in the parking lot and walk up the chapel hill to sign out your camper at the entrance of the chapel. **Photo I.D. is required to be shown prior to signing out your camper.** After you sign out your camper, you will be given a camper release card. You will need to personally hand this card off to your child's counselor in exchange for your child following the closing program. Campers picked up after 3:15 pm on Closing Day will be subject to a late pick-up fee.

### Mini-Camp Parents

***Opening Day: Sunday 4:30 PM—5:30 PM (Please do not arrive before 4:15 PM)***

***Closing Day: Tuesday 1:30 PM - 2:15 PM***

There will be a short closing ceremony (location TBD) at 1:45 PM. You will sign out your child at the closing ceremony, Then you will be able to park near your camper's cabin to get all of their possessions including their group photo and trading post money. **Photo I.D. is required to be shown prior to signing out your camper.** Campers picked up after 3:15 pm on Closing Day will be subject to a late pick-up fee.

### Mid-Week Pick-Up & Drop-Off

To ensure the security of our campers, all pick-up or drop-off during the week must be done during the office hours of 9am-5pm Monday – Friday. Campers must be signed in or out at the Main Office in the presence of a Michawana Staff Member. Photo I.D. is required to sign out campers. Please call ahead of time to make arrangements.

## Planning for Camp Michawana

### Your Online Account

Every camper and family has an online account. You can log in using the email address associated with your account. Once you've logged in, under "View My Registrations" you can see your completed registrations. From there you are able to make a payment, complete your camper's health form, and add money to your camper's store account. If you have questions about your online account, you can call the office at (269) 623-5168. If you add funds to your child's account please notify them via an email (See more details under "Camper Communication" below).

### Cabin Assignments

Campers are assigned to cabins by gender, age and grade level. Cabins are intentionally mixed with new and returning campers. Campers may request to be with another camper. This can be done while filling out your online registration. Groups of more than three campers requesting to be with each other may be split into groups and placed in different cabins. Please list only one cabin partner request. We do our best to accommodate requests.

### Camper Communication

#### Mail and Packages

- Send a letter to: 6475 Wilkins Rd Hastings, MI 49058
- Free post cards will be available for you to fill out on Opening Day for your child(ren)
- Send an email to : camper@michawanacamp.org with the camper name in the subject line
- Purchase a Survival Pack (\$20) during registration or at check-in to have Michawana souvenirs delivered on Tuesday (value is greater than items purchased individually)

#### Visiting/Phone Calls

We ask that parents and families refrain from visiting camp during the week, but we welcome letters, emails and packages. Families are invited to tour the facilities and meet the staff on Opening and Closing Days.

Camp Michawana does not permit campers to make or receive phone calls. The staff will make case by case decisions for homesickness or other situations. If an **emergency** situation arises at home, we ask parents to call 269-623-5168 during Office Hours or (269) 206-8824 after hours and a Camp Michawana Leadership Staff will answer or return your call. Our staff will gladly assist you and your camper in every situation.

### Camp Store

Our Trading Post carries Camp Michawana apparel, water bottles, flashlights, souvenirs, snacks, ice-cream and more. Families can shop the Trading Post on Opening and Closing Days. Campers will have a chance to visit the Trading Post each day during the week.

Spending money can be deposited into their Trading Post Account in advance or on Opening Day. Items for sale range in price from \$0.25 - \$40. Any amount \$1 or more left in a camper's Trading Post Account at the end of the week will be refunded to a credit card on file with 2-3 business days. If there is no credit card on file then a check will be mailed for any amount above \$5 within 1-2 weeks. Any account that does not have a CC on file will be returned in cash at checkout. Any amount under \$1 will not be returned.

#### Keepsakes

All campers receive a FREE summer camp t-shirt and a cabin photo. An all camp group photo can be ordered at registration for \$6 each. Survival Packs can be ordered at registration for \$20. The packs are given out at mail call Tuesday night (Monday for Mini-Camp).



## Camp Michawana Packing Information

### Packing List

Please label all items with your camper's first and last name. Counselors do their best to help campers keep track of their belongings; however, Camp Michawana cannot be responsible for lost items. Please consider this when making decisions about what to pack for camp.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Swimsuit (see guidelines)</li><li>• Beach towel</li><li>• Sleeping Bag</li><li>• Pillow</li><li>• Raincoat</li><li>• Sweatshirt</li><li>• Shirts</li><li>• Shorts</li><li>• Long Pants</li><li>• Shower towel/wash cloth</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flip flops/sandals</li><li>• Tennis shoes</li><li>• Flashlight</li><li>• Water bottle</li><li>• Bug spray</li><li>• Sunscreen</li><li>• Toiletries (soap, shampoo, tooth paste, deodorant, etc.)</li><li>• Bible, Notebook, and a pen or pencil</li><li>• Old clothes that can potentially get dirty or stained</li><li>• Necessary RX medications ( See "Medications" section below)</li></ul> |
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#### *Optional Items:*

- Personal Equipment for activities
- Hat
- Stationary/Envelopes/Stamps
- Dress up Clothes for Themed Days

#### *Theme Days:*

- Wacky Wednesday
- *More themed info to come...*

### Swimwear Guidelines

Swimwear should provide adequate coverage and fasten securely. For the girls: modest one pieces or Tankini style bathing suits that covers the midriff. If the camper does not come with an appropriate swimsuit, a t-shirt will be required to cover bathing suit. For the guys: modest length swim shorts.

### What Not to Bring

Counselors will be on hand while campers are unpacking, and if any of the following items are found, they will be held in the office and returned to a parent/guardian on Closing Day.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cell phones</li><li>• ipad, ipod, etc.</li><li>• Electronic Games</li><li>• Fireworks</li><li>• Valuable jewelry</li><li>• Cash</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Laptops</li><li>• Knives or Firearms *</li><li>• Tobacco Products *</li><li>• Alcohol *</li><li>• E-Cigarettes/Vaporizers *</li><li>• Illegal Substances *</li></ul> |
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*\* Campers with these items will be dismissed from camp without refund.*

*—> Camp Michawana is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged items.*

### Cell Phones

We want to give campers a break and a chance to disconnect from the outside world while they are at camp. Cell phones create distractions and disturbances and don't help in fostering a camp environment with new connections and fresh starts, therefore they are not permitted. Staff will look through their cabins, including camper belongings, throughout the first 1-2 days of camp. If/when cell phones are found they will be turned into the office and returned at the end of the week.



## Health, Medications & Food Service

### Health Center - Infirmary

Our infirmary is staffed with Health Care Officers or Licensed Nurses each week who meet all State of Michigan requirements. They are on duty 24/7 to meet any health needs. Campers who are not feeling well or have an injury should visit the Infirmary. A doctor is on call 24/7. If necessary, an E-unit ambulance may be called.

Calls are placed to parents when:

- A camper goes to the hospital
- A camper needs to be seen by a doctor
- Other situations left up to the discretion of the health care officer/nurse

### Health Form

Camp Michawana is required to have a Health Form on file for each camper. Parents/guardians can complete the Health Form by logging in to their online account. **Health forms not completed during initial registration must be completed by one week prior to the start of the camp week.** If any major changes happen please notify the Camp Office.

### Medications

All medications, both prescription and over the counter, including vitamins and supplements, must be checked in at the Health Center with the Health Care Officers on Opening Day (i.e. eyedrops, hydrocortisone, allergy medications, etc.) *No medications are allowed in cabins (with the exception of inhalers and epi-pens).* All medications must be in their **ORIGINAL** container noting RX number, camper name, physician name, and dosage. We recommend only bringing the amount needed while at camp, plus one additional dose. Camper medications are dispensed prior to each meal and bedtime. If a camper needs to receive medication at a different time, special arrangements can be discussed with the Health Care Officer on Opening Day. Camper medications must be noted on the camper's Health Form. You can access the Health Form by logging into your account.

The Infirmary is stocked with Over-The-Counter meds for campers who may need an unexpected medication. If no med should be given, please note that on the Health Form.

Any leftover camper medications will be returned to parents/guardians on Closing Day.

### Health Screening

We screen all campers for good health prior to admission. We request that no campers come to camp ill or with a contagious condition. Campers must be fever-free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicine. All campers will be screened for lice on Opening Day. If a camper is found with lice, they must leave to be treated, and may return after treatment.

### Meals

Trained food service staff prepare nutritious meals for campers. Fresh fruit, vegetables and other healthy options are offered every day. A salad bar is available at lunch and dinner most days. Campers are encouraged to drink water at every meal and throughout the day to prevent dehydration.

### Food Allergies & Restrictions

Please indicate food allergies and dietary restrictions on your camper's health form. Please email our Food Service Director with any dietary needs or concerns at least two weeks prior to your camp week.

Email: [reg@michawanacamp.org](mailto:reg@michawanacamp.org) Subject: Camper Dietary Needs

## Life at Camp Michawana

### Birthdays

Many campers celebrate their birthday while they are at Camp Michawana. We make their day special by recognizing them with our staff singing to them in front of the Dining Hall at lunch or dinner.

### Typical Daily Schedule

7:15	Wake-Up
7:30	God & I Time/Cabin Clean-up
8:15	Flag Raising
8:30	Breakfast
9:30	Chapel
10:00	Bible Hour
11:00	Morning Activity
11:45	Cabin Adventure
12:30	Lunch
1:15	Quiet Hour
2:15	Activity Time
5:00	Skill Hour
6:00	Dinner
7:00	Group Game
8:00	Chapel
10:00	Cabin Devotions/Lights Out

### Laundry

Laundry facilities are not available for camper use. In the case of an emergency, our staff will work with campers to meet their needs in a timely manner. (Limited laundry will be available for Team Timothy on the weekends)

### Camper Behavior Expectations

Camp Michawana has established rules to ensure the safety and happiness of all campers. If a behavioral problem is significant or persistent, parents will be contacted. Campers who do not demonstrate appropriate behavior will be sent home from Camp at the discretion of the Directors. Early dismissal will not warrant the refund of fees.

For the best camp experience, please send behavioral meds to Camp as you would give during the school year.

### First Time Campers/Homesickness

Homesickness with campers is common. Parents can help with the adjustment of their campers by leaving on a positive note. Set campers up for success by setting goals with them and being enthusiastic about their upcoming experience. It is best not to promise that campers can call home or leave Camp early if they are homesick.

Our camp staff are well-trained to help campers adjust to life at Camp by immediately involving them in fun activities and team bonding. Though homesickness is common in some campers, it is usually short-lived due to all the fun and people encouraging them at Camp Michawana. A leadership staff member will contact parents in persistent home sickness cases.

