



**SUMMER FUN. OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFE.**



## A SUMMER CAMP THAT INSPIRES

### YOUTH ALL YEAR ROUND



**IMAGINE** stepping far beyond the boundaries of the city into an exciting world of new, enriching experiences.

Set among the rolling hills and wooded forests of beautiful southwestern Wisconsin is Lake Valley Camp. It's an opportunity

for students age 8 through 17 to experience the wonders of nature, while learning and growing in brand-new ways.

Lake Valley Camp grew out of a desire to help young people of Milwaukee fully develop their own unique potential. It is our hope that these young people will ultimately make positive contributions to their communities.



#### LAKE VALLEY CAMP OFFERS MUCH MORE THAN A TYPICAL SUMMER CAMP

- 1 Long-term Commitment.** We are committed to keeping participants involved summer after summer for up to 10 years.
- 2 Year-round Enrichment.** The program doesn't end when summer does. Lake Valley Camp continues to provide activities year-round in the neighborhoods where our participants live. That way, they can share their newfound knowledge, skills, enthusiasm, and leadership with their community.
- 3 Diversity.** Participants come from ethnically diverse neighborhoods of Milwaukee, so they'll live and learn with young people of various backgrounds and cultures.
- 4 Employment Opportunities.** As participants grow up with Lake Valley Camp, they will develop leadership skills through service to others and "behind-the-scenes" planning of camp activities. This prepares them for the opportunity to return at age 18 as our camp counseling staff.

#### LIVE, LAUGH, AND LEARN THROUGH EXCITING SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Programs at Lake Valley Camp are specially designed to help participants try new things and develop skills. These are a few of the fun and exciting activities that make up a typical day at camp:

- Swimming in the camp's pool
- Canoeing, row boating and fishing in the lake
- Horseback riding
- Basketball and a variety of other sports
- Photography, crafts, dance, and creative writing
- Rock climbing and challenge course activities

#### NO-COST OPPORTUNITY

Participants at Lake Valley Camp enjoy this experience completely free of charge. The camp is fully funded by private donations, so each family pays nothing.

Lake Valley Camp consists of over 20 beautifully constructed buildings, including a dining lodge, sleeping cabins and program space.



#### WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE LAKE VALLEY CAMP PROGRAM?

- Young people ages 8 through 13.
- Students who regularly attend programs at one of our partner agencies/schools.
- Students who receive free or reduced lunch under the Federal Lunch Program.
- Students who have demonstrated leadership potential.

Campers live in small cabins with up to seven other participants and two counselors.



#### DEDICATED, CARING CAMP STAFF

Lake Valley Camp recruits staff from around the country to offer the most professional support staff and well-trained camp counselors available. We seek counselors with diverse backgrounds who share a common passion for serving young people. Before we hire, we perform thorough background checks. Upon joining our team, staff members receive extensive training so they're prepared to provide each participant with the highest quality guidance and encouragement.

Meet the directors of the program, who oversee camp operations, program development and staff recruitment:

#### JIM FLINT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Jim Flint has brought energy and leadership to summer camping for more than 15 years. He was the founding Executive Director of Camp Fiver, a free summer camp and year-round program serving more than 300 children from New York City. Under Jim's leadership, Camp Fiver achieved a 90% return rate of camp participants from summer to summer.

As the first Director for Camp Matawa-Milwaukee YMCA, Jim developed a resident camp program for urban youth. Jim also served as the Residential Programs Director at Camp Minikani-Milwaukee YMCA, where he managed a school-season conference camp program and a nine-week resident camp. Jim earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Education from UW-Stevens Point and is a member of the American Camping Association.

#### NATHAN SHEETS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



Nathan Sheets has more than 12 years of experience working with youth in a variety of outdoor settings in Ohio, New Jersey, Colorado and Wisconsin. He has served as camp counselor, backcountry guide, wilderness therapy counselor and program director—all of which have shaped his vision of the outdoors as a powerful environment for growth and change in individuals.

Nathan earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography and Resource Management from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and is certified in Wilderness First Responder, Basic Lifesaving and Therapeutic Crisis Intervention. As Associate Director of Lake Valley Camp, Nathan continues his pursuit of introducing young people to the wonders of the outdoors.

THE ENTIRE LAKE VALLEY CAMP STAFF IS COMMITTED TO OFFERING THE FINEST PROGRAM FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST, THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF MILWAUKEE.





## O U R M I S S I O N

Lake Valley Camp provides a creative and exciting summer camp experience where youth can develop their unique potential by gaining a respect for themselves, others and their environment.

### C R E A T I V E E X P R E S S I O N

We believe that young people become interested in learning if learning is fun and allows for personal creative expression. Lake Valley Camp offers a huge variety of activities that will meet participant's unique interests, get them to laugh and smile as they learn, and encourage them to express themselves creatively.

### R E S P E C T F O R S E L F

Lake Valley Camp presents a tremendous opportunity for youth to develop a respect for themselves as individuals. Time away from home, friends and family helps them build self-confidence and understand their own likes, dislikes and abilities. As participants try new things, they can feel comfortable in their new environment because we've designed our programs for various ability levels and with the highest safety standards.

### R E S P E C T F O R O T H E R S

At Lake Valley Camp, participants meet people who are diverse in age, gender and ethnicity. This gives them a chance to develop a respect for every member of the community. We teach acceptance and effective communication skills. Participants will also learn about other cultures and ethnicities through education, special dinners and events. Our goal is to teach participants how their actions affect their community, whether at camp or at home.

### R E S P E C T F O R E N V I R O N M E N T

Lake Valley Camp is an ideal place for young people to learn about the earth and gain a greater respect for the environment. Our intriguing, hands-on programs are designed to teach and motivate our participants to employ "leave no trace" ethics, conserve natural resources, and learn how their actions affect the environment. Ultimately, they can then apply this respect for the natural environment to the urban environment where they live.