

FAMILY FEST



At Grand View Lodge

February Camp Information



New Camp App This Year!

Check out the **New Winter Weekend App** for your IOS or Android device. Simply Scan the QR Code to your phone. After about 10-15 seconds you will see a screen that asks if you would like to "Add Family Fest Winter Weekend App to Your Home Screen." Go to the upload icon and then scroll down to the "Add to Home Screen" instructions. You should then see your app on your phone screen. This will have a copy of the schedule.



Hello Winter Weekend Campers!

We are so excited that you will join us at Family Fest's Winter Weekend at the beautiful Grand View Lodge on Gull Lake near Nisswa, MN.

This will be a memorable weekend for you and your family. If you have never been to a Family Fest Winter Weekend, you are going to experience a very unique family vacation filled with fun, laughter, relaxation, and great spiritual growth. We believe you will have the time of your life and that God will be present in a very special way.

Inside you will find some information that should be helpful as you prepare for this special Winter Weekend. More specific details and a complete schedule will be given to you upon arrival.

Please read over the information and let us know if you have questions.

Blessings,

Pete Larson

Amy DeLee



Arrival and Check-In

Check-in is on Friday from **6:30-10:00pm** at the Gull Lake Center where most of the children's programs are. Watch for the Family Fest Signs.

When you arrive, you will be greeted by our wonderful volunteers who will give you more important information regarding the weekend.

**Check in
6:30pm to 10:00pm**

Please do not arrive before 6:30pm as our team will be busy getting everything ready.

Late Arrival: If you know you will be later than 10pm, please call us. If you need to call on Friday, here is Pete Larson's cell phone number: 612.865.7884. If you text this info, please be sure to put your name in the text.

Monday Departure: Winter Weekend ends around 12:30pm on Monday following lunch. We really encourage families to stay for the exciting final program on Monday. Grand View has "To Go" boxes if you need to get on the road.

Family Photo

We like to have a photo of every family to put on the photo board. It would help us if you could email a landscape (horizontal -6 inches wide by 4 inches tall) photo prior to camp.

Please send to hello@familyfestministries.org with the subject "WWF24_(your name)" by February 11th. If you can't send a photo prior to camp, please bring your family into check-in and we will take one there.



Friday Dinner

Dinner is not served on Friday night so you will want to stop on the way to Grand View. There are several restaurants in Baxter just before you arrive at Grand View Lodge. Also, Grand View's Main Dining Room and The Cru Restaurant are open until 9pm and the GVL Pub is open until 10pm. Zorbaz Pizza, 8105 Lost Lake Rd, Nisswa, MN 56468 is located about 2 miles west of Grand View on Cty. Rd 77.

Workcrew

There is an extraordinary group of people who will serve you and your kids at Winter Weekend called the "Workcrew". These amazing people volunteer for the weekend to serve you. You will see them helping families in the dining room, assisting the KCs during the Kids Programs, leading free-time activities and much more. If you need anything at all during Winter Weekend, please ask one of these amazing people and they will be glad to help you in any way possible.

Grand View Lodge

Grand View offers a variety of amenities like the Glacial Waters Spa and coffee shop. To book a spa time call 218-963-8700. We ask that you charge nothing to your room while at Winter Weekend, but use your personal credit card or cash.

Winter Weekend Fun



You'll have plenty to do during your free time at Winter Weekend. Your afternoons are pretty much wide open for you to play with your family. We will have information regarding the various activities such tubing, Bingo, Golf

Simulator, Laser Tag, horse-drawn sleighrides, snowshoeing, skiing, ice-fishing, and much more at the Winter Weekend Desk in Norway Center.

Please note that the snow tubing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, and the spa fees are not included in the weekend's cost. Cross-country skis and snow-shoes are available at Grand View Lodge. Let's hope for more snow. If you are interested in getting time at the Glacial Waters Spa, we recommend that you call Grand View Lodge in advance for reservations.

- North Waterpark (Note: The South Waterpark is closed for renovations this year,)
- Down hill skiing & snowboarding*
- Horse-drawn wagon rides
- Cross-country Skiing
- Skating
- Boot Hockey
- Game Room
- Bingo
- Huge Sliding Hills
- Snow-tubing*
- Giant Inflatables
- Ice Fishing
- Snow Shoeing
- Glacial Water's Spa* - Call 218-963-8700

*Additional fee activities outside of Family Fest.



Infant Program

Changing your normal bedtime routine can be tough, but with such a large group, it is impossible to adjust the schedule for individual families. Our workcrew and KCs are experienced and capable of caring for even our youngest campers. Those with earlier bedtimes will be put in the port-a-cribs in their program rooms and will be allowed to sleep while you are at the adult program in the evening.

Prayer Cave

This is an optional event following our morning sessions. It is 10-20 minutes of prayer in the Oak Room. Feel free to drop on by to pray with others at Winter Weekend.

Kid's Programs

All kids from newborns to 9th grade will have age-appropriate programs led by the KC's. We will divide the groups into four groups consisting of infants; children up through 3rd grade; 4th through 6th grade; and 7th through 9th grade.

All kids will experience the love of Jesus Christ with games, activities, crafts, scripture, songs, and stories. Note that all groups except the infants will do outdoor activities and should bring outdoor clothes. These programs are led by Erika Hall, Ruth Lenker, and Dianne DeKoning.

Adult Program

The primary focus of our adult time is Club, with outstanding music, fun skits, relevant presentations, and small group discussions. We meet twice each day in the Norway Conference Center. Kids will join us for the first 25 minutes of Club on Saturday night and Sunday morning and then they will join us for the last part of Club on Monday. Except during the times where all the kids join us at Club, we would ask that you do not bring children to the adult sessions.



KCs (Kid Counselors)

The kid's programs are led by a group of around 30 trained high school/college students and young adults who are directed by our adult teachers. These KCs (Kid Counselors) do a great job leading these programs. Your children will have



a great time playing games, singing songs, and hearing about a great God who loves them very much. They will be led by Ryan Gallagher, Bri Gallagher & Peyton Gallagher.

Lodging

One of the best parts of Family Fest's Winter Weekend is Grand View Lodge's housing. Standard units will have a bedroom with 2 queen beds and a private bath. Most have a kitchenette and a small living room. Some of the larger units have several bedrooms connected to one common living room. This works well if you are coming with friends or family and would like to be housed together.



Note: All housing for Winter Weekend is handled through Family Fest. Please do not call Grand View Lodge for housing questions or requests, but rather refer those to Family Fest.

Sunday Night Adult Dinner:

On Sunday night, we will have a special dinner for adults only. Some people dress up (business casual) for this dinner, but there are no expectations. After you feed and drop off your kids at their program, you will come back to the lodge dining room for a social time before dinner. We would ask that people would not hang out in the Pub, but rather come up to the dining room where you may purchase drinks.

What to bring

For Your Kids:

Lots of outdoor clothes (labeled with child's name on them), night-lights, swim diapers, baby gates, porta-cribs, sleeping bags (if your kids want to use them), room snacks & beverages, humidifier (rooms can get dry), fan (for blocking noise if you are a light sleeper). Grand View has some high chairs, booster seats and port-a-cribs.

Fun Stuff:

Bring ice skates, skating helmets, hockey sticks, sleds, cross country or downhill skis, and other sporting equipment, swim suits, goggles, warm clothes, games, cards, movies, etc.

Treats

In addition to your own room snacks, it would be great if you would bring a pan of **nut-free** bars or cookies to share during adult Club time. These will be out during breaks along with coffee, tea and water.

Allergies & Special Diets:

Family Fest desires to meet the needs of everyone who comes to Winter Weekend. We understand that some people may have allergies or special dietary needs.

It is important that we know about allergies or other pertinent medical information of children so we can alert the teachers and KC's. If you have a child with an allergy or medical condition, please go to <http://familyfestministries.org/camp-allergy-diet-form/> and fill out the form for each individual.

We will do our best to meet those with special diet needs with substitute/alternate food options. If you have special dietary needs, please complete the Family Fest Dietary Needs Form from our website one week before camp.

Our Speaker - Andy Swanda

We are thrilled to welcome Andy Swanda as our speaker for Winter Weekend. Andy is a 26-year veteran of non-profit and youth ministry leadership. He currently serves as a Young Life Regional Director over the Twin Cities and Southern Minnesota.



Andy's faith was formed and nurtured in the mission of Young Life when he felt called to "trade in being a bored Christian kid" and instead chose to follow Jesus.

Andy currently resides in Minneapolis and is married to Ashley, who he met while serving on Summer Staff at Young Life's Saranac Village in 1996. They have been married for 24 years and have two sets of boy/girl twins - ages 21 and 19. All four children are currently in college and much of Andy/Ashley's free time is spent between Bethel University soccer games, cheering on three of their kids, and visiting San Diego to see their daughter at Point Loma University.

In his free time, Andy loves to read mystery fiction, sip on Starbucks cold brew, watch English Premier League soccer, and go for runs with his Aussiedoodle, Joey.



Directions To Grand View and More.

To Grand View Lodge from Twin Cities

Address: 23521 Nokomis Avenue, Nisswa, MN 56468

From the Twin Cities, take Interstate 94 west to the Clearwater/Annandale exit (#178). Turn right through Clearwater and Clear Lake. In Clear Lake, take Highway 10 west past St. Cloud and Little Falls to Highway 371. Stay on 371 to Baxter. Proceed 13 miles north on Highway 371 to the second intersection of County Road 77. There will be a Holiday Gas Station on your left. Turn left and follow County Road 77 for one mile to the resort on left. (Travel time 2 hours, 45 minutes from the Twin Cities) Link to Grand View's website for map: www.grandviewlodge.com.

To Roy Lake Ice Houses

To get to the ice houses, take Nokomis to Cty Rd. 77 and turn left. After about a 1/4 mile, turn right onto Lower Roy Lake Road. Turn left (3rd left) on Lodge Road. There is a small area to park near 3786 Lodge Road. You may also dial "0" on the house phone and request a shuttle.

To Ski Gull:

Ski Gull is 7.7 miles from Grand View Lodge. Go west on Cty Rd 77 around Gull Lake. Ski Gull will be on your left.

To The Preserve Sliding Hill:

From Grand View Lodge – Take Hwy 371 North 5.7 miles; turn right on CR 107; continue approximately. 2.3 miles; turn left at Preserve sign.

To All Saints Catholic Church:

16898 Carlson Lake Rd, Brainerd, MN 56401 Mass time on Saturday is 4pm.



Other Questions???

If you have other questions, please call us at 952.881.0939 (office) or 612-865-7884 (Pete Larson's cell). Website: www.familyfestministries.org.