

Family Fest winter weekend


Getaway

February Camp Information Packet


Winter Weekend Camp App for iPhone IOS and Android



Check out the **Winter Weekend App** for your IOS or Android Device.

For your iPhone IOS device, simply scan the QR Code to your phone. The Winter Weekend page will appear. Look to the bottom of your phone screen and click on the upload button that looks like: 

Then click:  Add to Home Screen

For you Android device, scan the QR Code. The page will appear. Click on the three snowman dots at the top right of your screen. Scroll to the bottom of your screen and click:  Add to Home Screen

You should now see a favicon on your screen that will take you directly to the Winter Weekend page.

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

Arrival and Check-In

Check-in takes place on Friday from 6:30–10:00 PM at the Gull Lake Center, where most of the children's and adult programs will be held. Look for Family Fest signs to help guide you. Upon arrival, our amazing volunteer work crew will greet you and provide essential information about the weekend.

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

Please do not arrive before 6:30 PM, as our team will still be preparing and your key cards will not work prior to this time.

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 morning.

Family Photo

We like to have a photo of every family to include on our photo board. It would be very helpful if you could email a landscape (horizontal) photo, approximately 6 inches wide by 4 inches tall, by Friday, February 6th.



Please send the photo to hello@familyfestministries.org with the subject line "WWF26_(your name)". If you are unable to send a photo prior to camp, please bring your family to check-in, and we will be happy to take one for you 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 Char Restaurant, Freddy's and The Pub is open until 9pm. 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 largely open for you to relax and play with your family. We will provide information about a wide variety of activities, including tubing, Bingo, laser tag,

horse-drawn sleigh rides, snowshoeing, skiing, ice fishing, and much more.

Please note that snow tubing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, the golf simulator, and spa services are not included in the cost of the weekend. Cross-country skis and snowshoes are available at Grand View Lodge at no additional charge. If you are interested in scheduling time at the Glacial Waters Spa, we recommend calling Grand View Lodge in advance to make a reservation.

- ☐ North Pool and South Water Park
- ☐ Down hill skiing & snowboarding*
- ☐ Horse-drawn wagon rides
- ☐ Cross-country Skiing
- ☐ Skating
- ☐ Boot Hockey
- ☐ Game Room
- ☐ Bingo
- ☐ Huge Sliding Hills
- ☐ Snow-tubing*
- ☐ Golf Simulator*
- ☐ Laser Tag
- ☐ Ice Fishing
- ☐ Snow Shoeing
- ☐ Glacial Water's Spa* - Call 218-963-8700

**Additional fee activities outside of Family Fest.*



KCs (Kid Counselors)

Our kids' programs are powered by an amazing team of more than 28 trained high school and college students, along with young adults, all supported and guided by caring adult teachers. These KCs (Kid Counselors) bring incredible energy, creativity, and heart to everything they do!

Your children will have an absolute blast playing games, singing fun songs, building friendships, and discovering a great God who loves them more than they can imagine. They will be led by **Halle White**

Infant Program

Adjusting your usual bedtime routine can be challenging, but with a group this large, it isn't possible to tailor the schedule to individual families. Please be assured that our Workcrew and KCs (Kid's Counselors) are experienced and well-equipped to care for even our youngest campers. Children with earlier bedtimes may be placed in port-a-cribs in their program rooms, allowing them to sleep comfortably while you attend the evening adult program.

Kid's Programs

All kids from newborns to 9th grade will have age-appropriate programs led by the KCs. 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. Our leader for the **Infant through 3rd grade** is **Erika Hall and Hayley Farris**. The **4th-6th grade** leader is **Ruth Lenker**. And the leader for the **7th-9th grade** program is **Dianne DeKoning**.

The programs for infant through 3rd grade will be held in the Gull Lake Center. The 4th - 6th grade group and the 7th-9th grade will meet the first morning in the GLC lobby and then walk down to the Upper Room of the South Pool and the Norway Center for their program.

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 daily in the GLC Ballroom A.

On Saturday night and Sunday morning, kids will join us for the first 25 minutes of Club, and they'll return for the final portion on Monday. Outside of these designated times, we kindly ask that children not attend the adult sessions (except for non-mobile newborns).



Weekend Meals

With our move to the Gull Lake Center Ballroom A as our main meeting room, the dining area may feel a bit crowded. To avoid longer waits and enjoy more space, **consider arriving earlier for breakfast and dinner**. For lunch, we will implement two shifts to help distribute people more evenly in the dining room.

We kindly ask that you avoid lingering at your table for too long, especially if you notice others searching for a place to sit. If there's space available at your table and you see someone in need of a spot, please feel free to invite them to join you.

KCs who have families at the weekend will eat with their family on Saturday evening dinner.

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.



Prayer Cave

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

Sample Schedule:

7:45am-8:45am	Breakfast Buffet
9:00am-11:45am	Kids and Adult Programs
11:50am	Prayer Cave
11:50am-1:15pm	Lunch Buffet
12:00pm-5:00pm	Free Time Activities
5:15pm-6:15pm	Dinner Buffet
6:30pm-8:30pm	Kids and Adult Programs
8:30pm	Family Free Time



Our February Speaker - Kevin Thomas

We are thrilled to welcome Kevin Thomas as our speaker for the weekend.

Kevin grew up in sunny San Jose, went to college in Los Angeles, and in 1989 drove a banana-slug-yellow 1981 Toyota pickup to Minnesota to attend Bethel Seminary—where he discovered both theology and real winter.

Since then he's worked as a youth pastor, associate pastor, senior pastor, and church planter. In 2018 he joined the staff of Young Life, helping start new local areas while doing his best to pretend he still understands pop culture.

Along the way, Kevin and his wife Becky raised five kids (ages 23-30), settled on a Shoreview Minnesota cul-de-sac (two blocks from the in-laws) and survived it all thanks to odd humor and a faithful—and greatly missed—2006 Honda Odyssey





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 The Cottages Sliding Hill

The Cottages Sliding hill is just west of the hotel on Garden Cottage Drive. There are usually sleds available for use, but you may want to bring your own.

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. There are no sleds there so you will have to bring your own.

To All Saints Catholic Church

16898 Carlson Lake Rd, Brainerd, MN 56401 Mass time on Saturday is 4pm. It is about a 15 minute drive from GVL.

Family Fest Merchandise

Be sure to check out the shirts, hats, sweatshirts, mugs, blanket, Family Question Cards, Family Fest Band CDs, and more at the Family Fest Merchandise Table in the Gull Lake Center Ballroom A. Also, you can listen to the worship songs we will be doing on Spotify and Apple Music by searching for "Family Fest Band" in those apps.

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. If you think you may need these, please let Amy DeCrans at Family Fest know and she will work on getting them to your room before you arrive.

Fun Stuff:

Bring ice skates, skating helmets, hockey sticks, sleds, cross country or downhill skis, and other sporting equipment, swim 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.

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.

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 www.familyfest.org under the Winter Weekend tab 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.

Auxiliary Workcrew:

We're so blessed to have an incredible group of workcrew volunteers dedicated to serving you during Winter Weekend. There are a few moments when they could use extra hands. If you're available and willing to assist, please let us know before camp so we can find a good fit for you. Once at Grand View, you can connect with our workcrew leader Scott Winker

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.