

Co-sponsor for the camps is the Center for Native American Studies at Northern Michigan University.



Other co-sponsors for the camp are the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) as part of their youth development program and



University of Wisconsin-Superior Native American Youth/Student Development Program



This camp uses a model developed by the National Indian Youth Leadership Project (NIYLP). The primary objective of the NIYLP Camp is to address the issues of today's youth developing the skills needed to become functional, competent, independent adults and the leaders of tomorrow. The NIYLP sponsors a national camp in New Mexico.



Recognizing the importance of education in general, and leadership education in particular, this six-day summer program at Nesbit Lake in the Ottawa National Forest has been created to develop specific

competencies and skills in students who will assume leadership roles in the future at the family, school, community, tribal and the national levels. The symbol of this program for American Indian students is the medicine wheel. It is important for any program to address the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of all participants. All activities will address these needs, and all students are expected to participate in each activity to the fullest. Each participant is also expected to follow all rules of their school or Indian education youth program and the camp program. Activities at the camp focus on group cooperation and communication, problem solving, leadership skills, self confidence, physical exercise, spiritual; growth, social skills, and responsibility to self and community. Hands-on activities include a group obstacle course, high ropes course, work with staff of the GLIFWC, and cooperative games.

Students also help prepare, serve and clean up after the meals. They also learn and help with many of the cultural activities. Students also participate in a major service learning project and canoe trip.

Recreation will include swimming, games, canoeing, nature hikes and many other activities. Although this program is well structured, there is time for students to enjoy themselves as part of the group. There are no televisions, radios, CD players, cards or other distractions to the program.

In addition to students from the Nah Tah Wahsh/Hannahville Indian School, other Indian youth programs are invited to send up to four participants and one adult to the camp. Applicants must currently be in grades five or six, complete a registration form, and have an adult complete a recommendation form. While grades in all classes are important, desire and potential in leadership is more important. Selection will be made on the basis of application and space available.



Students will be expected to participate fully in all activities of the camp. It is important to the success if the students that they take part in all group and individual activities for service, leadership, recreation, and cultural awareness to the best of their abilities. Students will live in the cabins of the Camp and eat most meals in the dining commons.

At all times students will be under the supervision of the camp staff, including Nah Tah Wahsh PSA staff and other adults and college students.

Staff leadership includes Rich Sgarlotti, camp director, projects coordinator at the Hannahville Indian School/Nah Tah Wahsh PSA; April Lindala, director of the Center for Native Studies at NMU; and Martin Reinhardt of the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

Parents of students accepted for the program will be required to sign a permission waiver for students to participate in all activities. There will also be a form to list any insurance carrier and to allow treatment in case of a medical emergency. These forms will be provided when the student is accepted to the program.

Students accepted will also receive a list of items to bring, contact information, and other permissions and list of camp rules.

Sample daily Schedule

7:00 – Rise and Shine
7:15 – Physical Activity, Circle, Solo Time, Journals
8:00 – Breakfast
9:00 – Team Building Activity
12:00 – Lunch
1:00 – Problem Solving Activity
3:30 – Leadership Development
5:00 – Dinner
6:00 – Group Work
7:00 – Recreation
9:00 – Snack
9:30 – Small Group Circle
10:00 – In Cabins
10:30 – Lights Out



For information or camper or staff applications, contact:
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**National Indian Youth
Leadership Project
Michigan Section
Middle School Camp
June 21 - 26, 2009**



This summer camp program for forty middle school students (current grades 5-6) is sponsored by the Nah Tah Wahsh Public School Academy and funded by a grant through the Corporation for National and Community Service to the Hannahville Indian Community.

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Designed By: Ryan & Max