

# Welcome to the Northern Yearly Meeting Annual Session

This guide is intended to help you understand and enjoy NYM Annual Session. A lot happens at camp, the schedule is full, and hopefully this helps you have the least confusing and best time possible!

The main purposes of the Annual Session are:

- to reconnect with old and new Friends from far and wide in Northern Yearly Meeting (NYM) for fellowship. We mostly come from Minnesota and Wisconsin, with a few others from Iowa, the Dakotas, and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.
- to accomplish the business of the yearly meeting
- to reconnect with Spirit through worship, discussions, recreation, and fun

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is conducted by the clerk's team.**

The business of the Yearly Meeting includes using Quaker process to make decisions, and to hear reports from committees like Finance, Communications, Children and Youth, and from representatives of Quaker organizations we support. Attendance is not mandatory. If you do not feel led to go to business sessions, consider volunteering with the children's programs, which happen at the same time.

## **The Children and Youth programs**

These take place in the mornings while adults attend the plenary, small groups, or Business Meeting. There will also be childcare Saturday afternoon if parents choose to attend the parent support group. At all other times parents are responsible for their own children (excepting the Older Teen program), or parents may coordinate childcare with other parents. Many activities for children occur during free time (afternoons) or in the evening – boating, swimming, Capture the Flag, Frisbee, campfires, and our kid-friendly Talent Show.

The Annual Session is coordinated by the **Annual Session Planning Committee (ASPC)**. This group in turn finds Friends to lead the Children and Youth programs, campfires, housing, registration, and other things that are required to support us in our gathering. NYM is entirely run by volunteers, except for the teen and middle school coordinators who run year-round youth retreats. ASPC chooses a theme for the weekend. It is presented Saturday morning, and small group discussions during the weekend reflect the theme.

## **Newcomers find these social activities help them meet new Friends:**

- Friday evening Get-Acquainted Fun program (all ages welcome) is fun, creative, and highly recommended for newcomers as a way to start getting to know people.
- Lions Camp tour Saturday at 2:00. It starts with the main campus. If you want to see the more distant parts of camp wear good shoes and tick repellent. Meet outside near the entrance to the dining hall.

- Joining others for meals: You may sit at the "Meet New Friends" table, but you may also ask to join any table in the dining hall. This is a great way to get to know people. Rarely Friends will sadly tell you they are in a committee meeting over that particular meal and cannot have you join them, but that is unusual, and most Quakers are very interested in meeting and talking to newcomers.
- Outdoor activities offered at this beautiful camp (swim, boat, walk around the lake)
- Parent Support Group: Saturday 4:30 pm and Sunday 8:45 am. Meet other parents to explore parenting challenges generally, and parenting as Quakers. Childcare provided.
- Interest Groups--watch the dining hall registration table and bulletin boards for information. See more information below.
- Campfire: Saturday and Sunday nights singing around the campfire, down the hill from the dining hall. Starts at 7 pm. S'more fixings are provided!
- Board games, card games, jigsaw puzzles, discussion topic tables, and visiting in the dining hall, evenings.
- Nightingales is for those who like to sing. Copies of songbook "Rise Up Singing" will be available, bring yours if you have one. Held in the Eyeglass Building, Saturday and Sunday evenings, sometimes till very late.
- International Folk dancing (easy to do, taught by Mark Helpsmeet and others) Saturday and Sunday evenings in Memorial Building.
- Talent Show (you will be amazed) Sunday afternoon 4:00 to 5:15

**Need answers to NYM questions? Ask the people with the ASK ME signs!**

## **+Main program events at Northern Year Meeting Annual Session:**

### Children's programming

- Each morning, see schedule.
- Orientation for parents of young children (Infant to Older Elementary groups) – Held in Memorial Hall, Friday at 6:30 pm, makeup session for latecomers is on Saturday morning at 8:15 am.
- Younger Teen orientation – Mandatory orientation for parent or sponsor and teens. Friday evening, 8:45 – 9:30 pm in Younger Teen cabin.
- Older Teen orientation – Mandatory orientation for parent or sponsor and teens. Friday evening, 8:45 – 9:30 pm in Older Teen cabin.

### Plenary

- Main programming event for adults; speaker addresses the theme, followed by small group discussion of the theme. Groups continue on Sunday and Monday.
- Saturday morning starting at 9:15 in Memorial Building.

### Small Group Discussions

You will be assigned to a group of 5 to 8 adults to share deeper explorations of the theme. An excellent way to make spiritual ties with new Friends. Each morning, see schedule.

Early Meeting for Worship – Each morning, 6:30 – 7:30. Location TBD.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB) – See schedule.

### Interest Groups

- May be scheduled any time during free time.
- Groups of Friends getting together around an issue or activity. Anyone can form an interest group by placing a sign-up sheet on the tables at the front of the dining hall, listing the leader, topic, what day and time, and location. (Add a location from the locations listing in dining hall).
- Signing up is encouraged but not necessary, unless there's a size limit stated on the signup sheet.

### Other Aspects of NYM:

- Displays and information from other Quaker organizations are in the Healthcare Lodge.
- Representative from other organizations will give brief talks and be available for questions during the Organizations Fair Saturday afternoon 4:00 - 5:30.
- An exhibit of art by NYM Friends is in the annex of Memorial Building. Bring yours!
- Memorial minutes for Friends who have died in the last year are posted in dining hall hallway. Sunday morning Meeting for Worship at 8:45 is especially dedicated to remembering these Friends.

## **Expectations around Annual Sessions**

Registration -- Upon arrival, all attenders are required to check in at the registration table in the dining hall. Campers should let registration know where they are camping, so we can find you in case of night-time storm warnings. The registrars will give you a cabin assignment if you signed up for a cabin. Let them know if this is your first time at the Annual Session. They can connect you with a planning committee member awaiting questions and problems, and maybe help you find your cabin or a good tent spot.

### Volunteering

- Attenders are expected to volunteer during the weekend.
- Volunteer sign-up sheets are found on the registration table. Opportunities include child care, keeping an eye on the boating area during boating hours, clean-up after meals, etc. All people who sign up for Simple meals are expected to help prepare or clean up at least one meal; sign up early to get a time that works best for you.

### Clean-up

- Everyone is expected to work on this. Our motto: leave it as good as or better than we found it.

- Volunteers are needed at the end of the session to sweep and bag trash in cabins. Children & Youth areas and common buildings need to be packed up and swept. Sign up, please!
- Check your areas for clothing, shoes, towels, shampoo; follow instructions in the cabins for linens.
- Don't forget laundry lines, cabin refrigerators, and check the Lost-and-Found before leaving.

Quiet hours – Please respect quiet hours between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.

### Bathrooms

- All bathrooms are available to anyone needing a bathroom. This means that someone you haven't met yet (probably a camper) may be in the shower in the bathroom of your cabin.
- Please use the central door in cabins to avoid disturbing sleepers.
- Generally someone in the cabin posts a sign indicating male or female bathroom when there are two bathrooms in a cabin. Another option is to have signs for "woman in shower" and "man in shower" in otherwise ungendered bathrooms.

### Announcements

- The bulletin boards near the main entrance of the dining hall are for your use. Use them for messages to specific Friends, announcements, requests, warnings, invitations.
- We try to minimize mealtime announcements, since they disrupt dining. Please use the bulletin boards.
- If you wish to have an announcement made, write it down and put it in the designated envelope or box at the registration table in the dining hall. They will be read by the announcer.

Dining Hall floor mopping -- Please stay out when signs say it's being mopped. People walking on wet floors stresses camp staff.

Bikers -- Anyone using a wheeled recreational device (bicycle, scooter, etc.) is required to wear a helmet. This is camp policy. Skateboards are not allowed.

Swimming and boating – Allowed only during designated times when guards are on duty (Saturday and Sunday afternoons, check the schedule). Ignore any signs saying otherwise.

- Swimmers under 10 must be accompanied by a responsible person age 16 or older.
- In order to protect the lake, attendees may not bring their own boats.
- All boaters must wear life jackets.

### **Tenting information**

The tenting areas are on Indian Point overlooking the lake, in between the cabins, in the field or woods, almost anywhere that looks good, EXCEPT see below: no tents within 25 feet of the lake on Indian Point. Also don't camp between Pinewood and the back parking lot (by Pinewood

back door, lower level). This space is used by a children's group. Campers may use bathroom facilities at any nearby cabin. Cabins can be used as shelters in case of bad weather.

Special info about camping on Indian Point: You may not drive out to Indian Point. Please avoid the fire ring as there will be a campfire there. **Do not pitch tents within 25 feet of the shore as it causes erosion.** There are outhouse facilities on the Point.

At registration, please sign up the location of your tent, in case of urgent messages or emergencies.

### **Medical/emergency information**

- First Aid kit is available at the registration desk.
- Kit includes emergency numbers and maps to the hospital/urgent care center in Stevens Point.