

SUMMER CAMP
2025

**PARENT
RESOURCE
PACKET**



**“I HAVE COME TO
SET THE
EARTH
ON FIRE
AND HOW I WISH
IT WERE ALREADY
BLAZING”**

LUKE 12:49



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DEAR 2025 SUMMMER CAMP FAMILIES:



Thank you for choosing to join us at Camp Tekakwitha for a summer camp experience filled with faith, fun, and friends! We know the incredible impact a week of camp can have on a child, and we are so grateful to be able to share that with your camper(s).

Please take a moment to read over this parent packet - it will be a helpful guide for you and your camper(s) as you prepare for your week at Camp this summer.

Stay connected through our "2025 Families of Camp Tekakwitha" Facebook group and don't hesitate to reach out to our staff with any questions you might have.

We're praying for each of you!
+ the Camp Tek team

 W5248 Lake Drive
Shawano, WI 54166

 715-526-2316
 camptekakwitha.org

Vision

To invite and guide young people into a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ amidst the beauty of God's natural creation.

Mission

With Saint Kateri Tekakwitha as our intercessor and guide, Camp Tekakwitha will:

- Inspire a relationship with God through **prayer** and discernment
- Foster a joy-filled **community** of faith
- Provide an opportunity for young people to grow in personal development, **leadership**, and team building skills
- Promote **stewardship** for all God's gifts

Core Values

- Spiritual Growth
- Authentic Community
- Outdoor Adventure and Blessed Fun
- Care for God's Natural Creation
- Culture of Love and Service for God and Neighbor

A DAY IN THE *camp* LIFE

8:00 AM

MORNING GLORY TO GOD
BREAKFAST

9:00 AM

CABIN INSPECTIONS &
MORNING ACTIVITY ROTATIONS

12:15 PM

LUNCH

1:00 PM

MID-DAY ACTIVITY ROTATIONS

2:00 PM

SIESTA & MASS OPPORTUNITY

CAMPERS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND MASS EACH DAY. ALL-CAMP MASS TAKES PLACE ON WEDNESDAY.

3:15 PM

CAMPER BREAK

QUICK TRADING POST STOP BEFORE TIME AT THE WATERFRONT, OUTDOOR ARCADE, OR AROUND MAIN CAMP.

5:30 PM

DINNER

6:15 PM

GAME OF THE NIGHT

CAPTURE THE FLAG, SIX-WAY SOCCER,

7:30 PM

EVENING SPIRITUALITY SESSION

DEPENDING ON THE NIGHT, THIS INCLUDES ADORATION, STATIONS OF THE CROSS, OR PRAISE AND WORSHIP MUSIC.

8:30 PM

CABIN TIME

TOGETHER, CABINS DECIDE HOW THEY WANT TO SPEND THEIR EVENINGS! NIGHT HIKE, CAMPFIRE, NIGHT GAMES ...

camp POLICIES

PROHIBITED ITEMS

To ensure all campers have a positive and safe experience, we ask campers to refrain from bringing the following items:

- Cell Phones & Electronic Devices
- Knives & Weapons
- Alcohol, drugs, vapes, illegal substances
- Fireworks & Explosives
- Personal sporting equipment – i.e. archery equipment
- Inappropriate or offensive clothing
- Pets/Animals
- Drones

If our staff suspects anyone is in possession of an item we deem inappropriate, the camp staff holds the right to confiscate the items and/or send the camper home.



NO FOOD IN THE CABIN

Campers come with many dietary needs and stay in close quarters in the cabins. To ensure campers don't eat or inhale foods that may cause an allergic reaction, all food sent to camp (including candy and gum) will be collected and stored in the camp office. Items will be returned at check-out.

Additionally, Camp Tek is an entirely nut-free facility.

Please follow this policy when packing for camp or sending care packages!

camp POLICIES

CHANGES, CANCELLATIONS, REFUNDS

Prior to the start of the session, you may change your camp session (space permitting) without penalty.

If you cancel your registration *with good reason* at least one month before your camp session, the camp fee minus the deposit amount can be refunded at the discretion of the Summer Camp Director.

All cancellations within one month of your session are non-refundable, with the exception of extenuating circumstances. Missing home, inappropriate camper behavior, or change in plans are not sufficient grounds for a refund.



EXPECTED BEHAVIOR

Each person is made in the image and likeness of God. We are called to honor the dignity of all, and we expect our campers to do so for one another.

- Respect the boundaries and personal space of others.
- Absolutely no bullying allowed, physically or verbally.
- Follow all rules of the waterfront and the lifeguards on duty there.
- Refrain from writing in cabin spaces until a counselor gives permission. All messages should be Camp-appropriate.
- Any camp pranks should take place with Camp staff involved.

Camp reserves the right to send a camper home without refund if expected behavior is not met.

HAVE YOU COMPLETED...

A QUICK CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR WEEK AT CAMP

01 ANNUAL HEALTH HISTORY FORM

YES NO

Log into your child's UltraCamp account to complete the annual medical form. Know that medical information will only be accessed at Camp by administrative staff and the camp nurse. Counselors will be given confidential reports to alert them to the needs of your child. ****Please** be sure this is updated thoroughly! Food allergies, medication, accommodations, and other critical information is gathered from this form.

02 PERMANENT HEALTH HISTORY FORM

YES NO

The information on this form will carry over from year to year but will need to be updated if there are any changes in vaccinations, health history, or healthcare providers.

****Please** be sure this is updated thoroughly!

03 PHOTO AND ACTIVITY CONSENT FORM

YES NO

A simple form giving consent for your child to participate in general camp activities and to have his/her photo taken by Camp staff to be shared through our media channels.

04 FINAL PAYMENT

YES NO

The balance for your camper(s) week of camp is due at the time of check-in. We encourage you to have this paid before arriving at camp as it will speed up your check-in process tremendously!

Payments can be made by:

- Bank transfer through UltraCamp
 - Credit Card or Debit Card on UltraCamp or over the phone(3% surcharge)
 - Cash/Check mailed to Camp Tekakwitha at W5248 Lake Drive Shawano, WI 54166
-

COMMUNICATION

LETTERS

A note from home is welcomed and encouraged at Camp! The best way for campers to receive letters are to bring pre-written letters to the office during Sunday check-in for us to deliver! Please have camper name and cabin number on the envelopes.

Letters can also be sent through the mail, but we recommend sending the letters *at least* one week in advance.

Please address camper mail as follows:

*Camp Tekakwitha
Camper Name & Cabin #
W5248 Lake Drive
Shawano WI 54166*

PACKAGES

It's exciting to receive a package at Camp!

A few tips for sending packages to camp:

- Do not send food, candy, or gum. We have many campers with dietary restrictions and want to avoid allergic reactions due to food sent to a camper.

We offer Camp Tekakwitha care packages for you to purchase through Ultracamp or at check-in on Sunday. You pay for the package you want, tell us when you want it delivered, and we take care of the rest!

EMAILS

Camper emails are processed through your UltraCamp account. To access this feature, click on "email a camper" in your account. You will need to pay \$1 per email before sending them, and you can create a friend account so family and friends can also send emails!

**Please remember this is a one-way email system only. Campers will not have access to the internet.

TELEPHONE CONTACT

Parents may contact Camp at any time with questions or concerns at 715-526-2316. However, campers do not have access to a telephone as we find that campers' telephone conversations with parents tend to exacerbate or kick-start missing home. In the event a child requests to make a phone call, permission to do so is granted at the parent's discretion after staff make advance contact with the parent/guardian to discuss the situation.

PARENT RESOURCES

PREPARING FOR CAMP

DO	DO NOT
<p>Involve campers in the process of getting ready for camp. Let them pick out the items for their care kit, have them choose their favorite things to bring to camp, and help them pack their suitcase.</p>	<p>Tell your child you will come pick them up if they are sad at Camp. This sets your child up for failure, since they will likely have some sad feelings to work through. If this is their plan for dealing with sad feelings, it will quite often become the reality.</p>
<p>Schedule practice overnight visits with friends or family and let your child know how proud you are of their independence and all the fun things they did while they were away.</p>	<p>Express a lack of confidence in their ability to be away at camp, either directly to them or indirectly to others.</p>
<p>Focus on how much fun camp will be! Talk about writing letters to send home and include addressed stamped envelopes.</p>	<p>Tell them you'll be sad and miserable at home without them.</p>
<p>Contact Camp staff to set up a tour prior to your camper's first week. Also visit our website, YouTube, and social media pages for videos and photos from previous years.</p>	<p>Write sad letters to your child expressing how much you miss them and sharing events they are missing at home. If your child is homesick, this will exacerbate the emotions.</p>

WHAT HAPPENS AT CAMP WHEN A CHILD IS MISSING HOME?

- Counselors have been trained to look for signs of missing home and the extra attention this child will need.
- The counselor's concerns are brought to the attention of the camp administrators. We observe the child and determine if we need to sit down with them.
- If a talk is necessary we talk about their feelings, how camp is going etc. however at no time do we tell them they can call home. Rather we tell them we will be contacting you to let you know how they are feeling. And it progresses from there. Finally at the end of camp we congratulate them on their success and talk about next year at camp.

TRADING POST

OUR CAMP STORE, KNOWN AS THE TRADING POST, IS AVAILABLE FOR CAMPERS TO VISIT EACH DAY OF CAMP ALONG WITH CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT TIMES.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE?

- Ice cream and popsicles
- Candy bars, fruit snacks, chips
- Water, soda, Gatorade, juice pouches
- Apparel: shirts, sweatshirts, pants
- Trinkets: hats, sunglasses, water bottles
... and more!

HOW MUCH MONEY SHOULD I DEPOSIT?

We suggest \$10-15 for snacks during the week. Additional amounts can be added for apparel and souvenir purchases. You can add this to your child's Ultracamp account prior to check-in or at the trading post upon arrival.

Balances that remain *after Thursday* are donated to our campership fund for future campers.

HOW DO I ORDER A CARE PACKAGE?

Care packages are available to order for your camper through their Ultracamp account or at the time of check-in at Camp. You can choose from six different package options ranging from \$5-\$20 in price - just choose your package, pick a delivery date, make your payment, and we'll take care of the rest!

Most trading post items are available through our online store. If you would like to see our options before arrival, please visit camptekakwitha.org/merchandise.

TIME TO PACK!

PACKING LIST	
	Sleeping Bag or Fitted Twin Sheet and Blankets
	Pillow
	Favorite Comfort Item (ex: stuffed animal)
	T-Shirts, Sweatshirt, Shorts, Pants
	White cotton shirt to Tie-Dye
	Underclothing
	Pajamas
	Personal Toiletries
	Beach & Shower Towel
	Shower Sandals
	Jacket/Raincoat
	Swimsuit <i>*Modesty is expected in the form of one-piece or tankini suits only*</i>
	Closed-Toe Shoes, Sandals, Water Sheos
	Insect Repellant and Sunscreen
	Flashlight
	Water Bottle
	4-6 Clothespins for hanging wet items
	Plastic bags to take home wet or soiled clothes
	Permanent Marker for t-shirt signing

DRESS CODE

Campers are expected to wear clothing which is appropriate for active days outside along with swim suits appropriate for swimming and water games. **Crop Tops and Cut-Off shirts are prohibited!**

Please work with your camper to select modest, athletic, durable clothing for camp.

LOST-N-FOUND

Please label anything you would want returned if lost! We will hold lost-n-found items for two weeks and will make every effort to return a lost item if you contact us.

Please note: we do our best to return all lost articles, but we cannot assume the responsibility for lost or damaged property.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT	
<p>All Campers SUNDAY from 3-4 PM</p>	<p>Lil Tek TUESDAY from 3-4 PM</p>	<p>Full Week Sessions FRIDAY from 3-4 PM</p>
<p>Follow the driveway to the parking lot where you'll be met by enthusiastic camp staff. They'll lead you to the check-in area between the main lodge and director's lodge.</p>	<p>Meet us at the main lodge to check out your camper before heading out!</p>	<p>A closing ceremony will begin at 2:45 PM at the stage; join us then!</p> <p>Before leaving Camp grounds, be sure to check out with the counselor at your camper's cabin.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Directions to Camp</p> <p><i>From Green Bay</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take Hwy 29 toward Shawano. 2. Take Exit #234 at Bonduel 3. Follow Hwy 117 for 5 miles through Bonduel to Cecil 4. Turn right on Hwy 22 in Cecil, proceed 1 mile 5. Take a sharp left onto Lake Drive, follow Lake Drive to the camp gates on your right. <p style="text-align: center;">W5248 Lake Drive Shawano, WI 54166</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Late Arrival</p> <p>Please contact our office if you need to arrange a late drop off time due to sports or prior commitments.</p> <p>If you have not arranged for a late drop-off, we will call by 5:30 pm on Sunday to confirm if your child is coming to camp.</p>

PARENT RESOURCES NEED TO KNOW

MEDICAL CARE

Two registered nurses are on-site during each week of camp. These nurses take care of administering medications and caring for sick or injured campers.

In case of emergency, campers are taken to ThedaCare or Prevea in Shawano. Emergency transportation is also available from Shawano. Should any serious accident or illness occur at camp, parents or guardians are notified immediately.

A member of our administrative team will contact you (or your emergency contacts) if your child becomes ill or has any injury beyond a simple scrape or bruise.

If no one can be contacted, the medical director and camp director will make the executive decision for the safety of the camper.

Please be sure your UltraCamp contact information is entirely up to date to aid this process if it arises.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

In case of a medical or family emergency at home, you can contact Camp Tekakwitha at 715-526-2316 or 920-615-0412 (camp cell).

In the event of an emergency, visits by a parent/guardian are allowed after contact with the Summer Camp Director has occurred.

CAMPER MEDICATION

All medication (including prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, and vitamins) **must** be in the original container (as purchased or issued). Prescription containers must detail the child's name, name of the medication, dosage directions, and the name of the person ordering the medication.

All medication must be noted on the camper's health forms and will be further recorded and dispensed by the nurses throughout the week.

PARENT RESOURCES

PREPARING FOR CAMP

-START THE CONVERSATION-

Behavior Expectations

Please review the 'expected behavior' policy (explained on page 9) with your camper and share your own expectations for him/her as well.

Question to discuss:

What does it mean to honor the dignity of others?

Faith

During their week at Camp, all campers will be invited to participate in Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross, praise and worship sessions, and cabin reflections, among others. Please brief your camper(s) on these opportunities and encourage an open mind to receive what God has to share!

Question to discuss:

What different forms of prayer are you looking forward to experiencing at Camp?

Missing Home

If this is your camper's first time away from home or you anticipate homesickness, consider contacting Camp to set up a tour prior to your camper's first week. Also visit our website, YouTube, and social media pages with your child to look through videos and photos of the fun from previous years. Choose special items to pack for their time at Camp including paper and stamps to write letters home!

Question to discuss:

What are you most excited for about Camp? What are some things you can do if you start missing home (i.e. talking to a counselor, writing a letter)?

IF I WERE A CAMP COUNSELOR,
MY NAME WOULD BE:

THIS IS MY _____ YEAR AT CAMP!

LILY GAMES TEAM:

CABIN #:

FAVORITE SAINT:

WHAT I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO
DURING MY WEEK AT CAMP:

WHAT I AM NERVOUS ABOUT DURING MY
WEEK AT CAMP:

SUMMER CAMP PREP

for the campers

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MY WEEK
AT CAMP:

GOALS I HAVE FOR THE SUMMER...

-
-
-
-
-

MY FAVORITE AREA AT CAMP IS...

AS I PREPARE FOR CAMP, I FEEL:

all about SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA



Tekakwitha was born in 1656, in a Mohawk Indian village. When she was only four years old, smallpox hit her village and killed many people including her parents and brother. Tekakwitha survived but was weakened and left with scars which partially blinded her and served as a source of humiliation throughout her childhood.

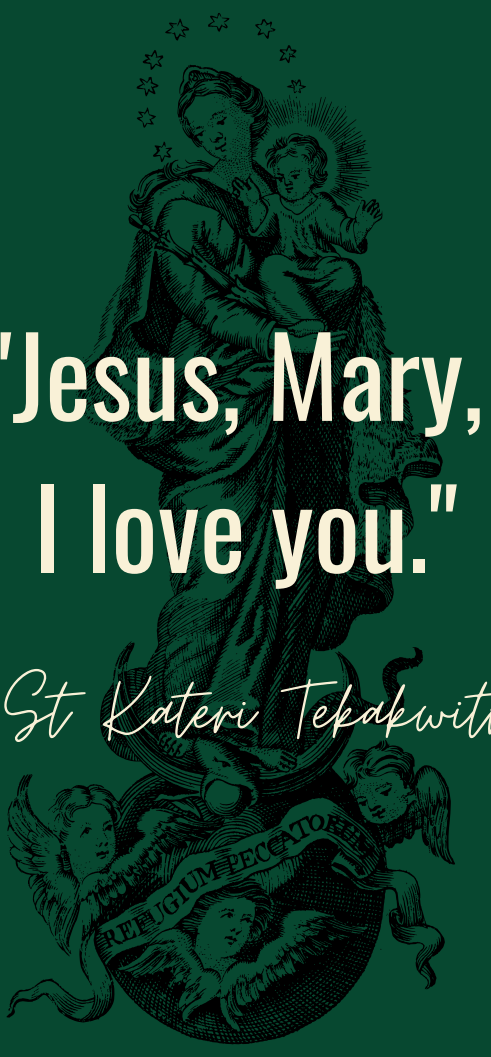
After her parents' death, Tekakwitha was raised by tribal relatives and became an expert in domestic tribal arts and grew in deep appreciation for nature. As she got older, she encountered some visiting Jesuit missionaries and was drawn to their joy and relationship with Christ. She began to lead a life inspired by their example. Tekakwitha fell in love with Jesus, refused an arranged marriage by her family, and was baptized at age 19 taking the name of Kateri (a Mohawk form of Catherine). She later took a vow of chastity and pledged to marry only Jesus Christ.

Kateri's village did not approve of this decision, leading to great suffering and persecution from her family and neighbors. She fled to the Christian Indian mission of St Francis Xavier in Montreal where she became known as the "Lily of the Mohawks" in recognition of her purity, kindness, prayer, faith, and heroic suffering.

Sadly, just five years after her conversion to Catholicism, Kateri became ill and passed away at age 24, on April 17, 1680. Her last words were, "Jesus, I love you." Moments after dying, her scarred face was miraculously healed and "shone like the sun."

fast facts

- She is the **first Native American saint**, canonized on October 21, 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI.
- Because of St. Kateri's example of chastity and virtue, she is often called **Lily of the Mohawks**.
- It's said that Kateri would create **crosses** out of sticks and place them throughout the forest, often while traveling to the nearby village for Mass. We create these crosses at Camp Tekakwitha while praying for specific intentions. Then, they serve as a reminder to pray for others!
- Images of her are often decorated with a **lily and cross** along with feathers or turtle as representation of her culture!
- Her final words were "**Jesus, I love you**" / "Jesos Konoronkwa."
- Kateri is the **patron saint** of ecology, orphaned children, & Native Americans.
- One of Kateri's '**mottos**' was, "Who can tell me what is most pleasing to God that I may do it?"



"Jesus, Mary,
I love you."

- *St Kateri Tekakwitha*