
A User's Guide for Visitors to Beautiful

Camp Chickagami

On Lake Esau and Lake Huron
Presque Isle, Michigan

A Place of Retreat and Discovery:

Camp Chickagami's Mission

Camp Chickagami gathers together the Body of Christ in a unique environment that enables people to respond more fully to God's love. Our location is in a rustic Northern Michigan setting, and our style is intentionally relaxed and affordable. Our ministry in the Diocese is to make available a place of retreat and discovery which fosters a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ and a clearer understanding of our tasks as His disciples.

Thank you for planning to visit Camp Chickagami this season. We hope this information makes your preparations easier and your time at Camp more enjoyable. Remember, too, that by using Camp Chickagami you help build a vital camp and conference ministry for the Church, strengthen outreach to families and continue our more than 70 year tradition of bringing up young people "in the Christian Faith and life."

What is Camp Chickagami?

Camp Chickagami is the Family Camping Center of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. It serves Michigan Episcopalians and other church and community groups as a site for religious camping, education and recreation programs.

Our one hundred acres command the entire north shore of Lake Esau (on of Michigan's most attractive small lakes) together with substantial frontage on Lake Huron's beautiful Albany Bay. Most of the Camp is heavily forested and shelters several varieties of rare or endangered wildflowers. Camp Chickagami's location "off the beaten path" provides a secluded environment, dark and starry nights and relative absence of intrusive lake traffic.

Who operates the camp?

The Camp Chickagami Steering Committee operates this facility on behalf of the Diocese. Our representative is the On-Site Manager who checks guests in and out, resolves problems and provides information about the Camp and area. The Manager's primary responsibility is to operate the camp in conformity with Diocesan and Steering Committee policy; protect the health, safety and welfare of guests and assure lawful and appropriate use of this property. The Manager uses his/her personal vacation time to serve you and the Church.

What group facilities does the Camp offer?

Camp life centers around the Dining Hall and the Chapel, located on Lake Esau's shore.

Fletcher Hall seats 120 for meals and makes a pleasant place to read by the fireplace, work jigsaw puzzles and stage rainy day recreation.

St. Andrew's Chapel is a lovely outdoor worship area with an historic stone altar, rustic seating and farm bells to call campers to worship. In foul weather worship can be held in Fletcher Hall.

Our **Swimming Beach** on Lake Esau is a short walk from the Camp's center. Its sandy, gently sloping

bottom makes it ideal for swimmers of all ages and skill levels. Two rafts are provided and canoes, paddleboats and rowboats are available at the Kauffman Building.

Lee Athletic Field is ideal for sports and games. Here you will find a tennis court, baseball diamond, half court basketball area, and volleyball.

The Crafts Building is a large structure set aside for “creative messy” activities inappropriate in other buildings.

Trails are available for hikers and walkers.

Campfire Sites are located by Fletcher Hall and on the beach by the Pioneer Unit.

Does Camp Chickagami provide staff?

Camp Chickagami’s only paid staff person is a part-time caretaker. That’s how we keep our rates so low. Users must staff their own programs.

Kitchen: Groups do their own food purchasing, preparation and clean up. Most groups prize “KP” as a great opportunity for fellowship.

Waterfront: We do not provide a lifeguard. Adults must supervise their own children on the waterfront and we strongly recommend that groups have a qualified Water Safety Instructor (WSI) in control of all waterfront activities. Through more than seventy years as a diocesan institution, Camp Chickagami has never suffered a fatal waterfront accident. We do not want you, your child or a member of your group to be the first.

What Housing does the Camp offer?

Camp Chickagami offers three types of sleeping accommodations: lodges with full bathroom and cooking facilities; dormitory style rooms or cabins with common bathrooms a short walk away; and tent or RV sites with baths nearby.

Sleeping units are comfortable but rustic. Camp Chickagami is for those who want to spend most of their time outdoors enjoying “God’s garden” and the fellowship of friends. Don’t expect resort accommodations!

Lodges: Esau Lodge and Huron Lodge are located directly on the lakefront. Both offer living room with fireplace, two bedrooms, full bath, kitchen and screened porch. Esau has one double bed and three singles. Huron has one double bed, one single bed and two sets of bunk beds. **Grand Lake Lodge** is located at the other end of camp and away from the waterfront. It has one bedroom with a queen size bed. It also has a kitchen/dining room, full bath with a tub/shower and a living room with a view of the lake. The living room has a double sleeper sofa.

Cabins: Lighthouse Cabin, reserved for adult use (or

small family), is a bright high ceiling single room near the dining hall. Ramps provide easier access for campers with mobility limitations. Lighthouse sleeps 4 with a double bed and a bunk bed. The common bath/showers facility, “upper unit head” located nearby is also ramped. **Bell Bay Cabin**, next door to Lighthouse is a small single room that sleeps three in a set of bunk beds and a single bed. **Kauffman and Johnson Cabins** are adjoining cabins located directly on the lakefront above the boathouse. These cabins are heated and can be used all year. **Johnson** features a large picture window overlooking Lake Esau. Johnson has a double bed, bunk bed, sleeper sofa and a couch. It has a large kitchen and bath. **Kauffman** offers a living room with a sleeper sofa, two couches and a bunk bed and a bedroom with a double bed. It too has a large kitchen and bath. A locking door separates these units when two parties desire privacy or both cabins are rented individually. The lakeside deck is for use by all guests staying in these adjoining cabins.

Dorm Units: The Lower Unit structure includes six individual carpeted rooms: **Mary, Martha, Naomi, Sarah, Ruth, and Rebekah**. Each of these rooms has 4 sets of bunk beds that can be separated into single beds. All Lower Units, except Naomi, have picture windows over looking the lake. **Bathsheba** is a handicap accessible bath/shower facility with laundry room located directly behind the Lower Units. Also using Bathsheba are two new sleeping cabins, **Adam** and **Eve**, that each sleep 12 in 6 sets of bunk beds. They are surrounded by trees and are vinyl sided and carpeted.

Woodland Units are three heated cement block cabins located in the woods a short walk from the lakeshore and the dining hall. **Matthew** and **Mark** are dorm style units that sleep ten in wooden bunk beds. **Luke** offers a living/dining room with efficiency kitchen with hot running water. Luke has two small bedrooms with a double bed in one and one set of bunks in the other. The Woodland bath/shower building, **John**, serves all three of these units. There is a pavilion with an outdoor grill and tables located in front of these cabins.

May our group move furniture to better accommodate our needs?

Yes, BUT...only if the On-Site Manager is notified and EVERYTHING is moved back to its proper location before you depart. **If the furniture is not returned, your damage deposit may be forfeited.** “Floating furniture” is an annual pain in the neck. We reserve the right to be incredibly hard-nosed about this! With the registrar living off site it is hard to rent a cabin that may have had furniture moved out. How much more efficient when planning a group stay is to assign people where the right furniture is, rather than to waste all that time moving it.

Remember: All visitors must fully clean their housing units and common areas (dining hall, chapel, bathrooms, etc.) before departure. Camp Chickagami will provide all cleaning supplies.