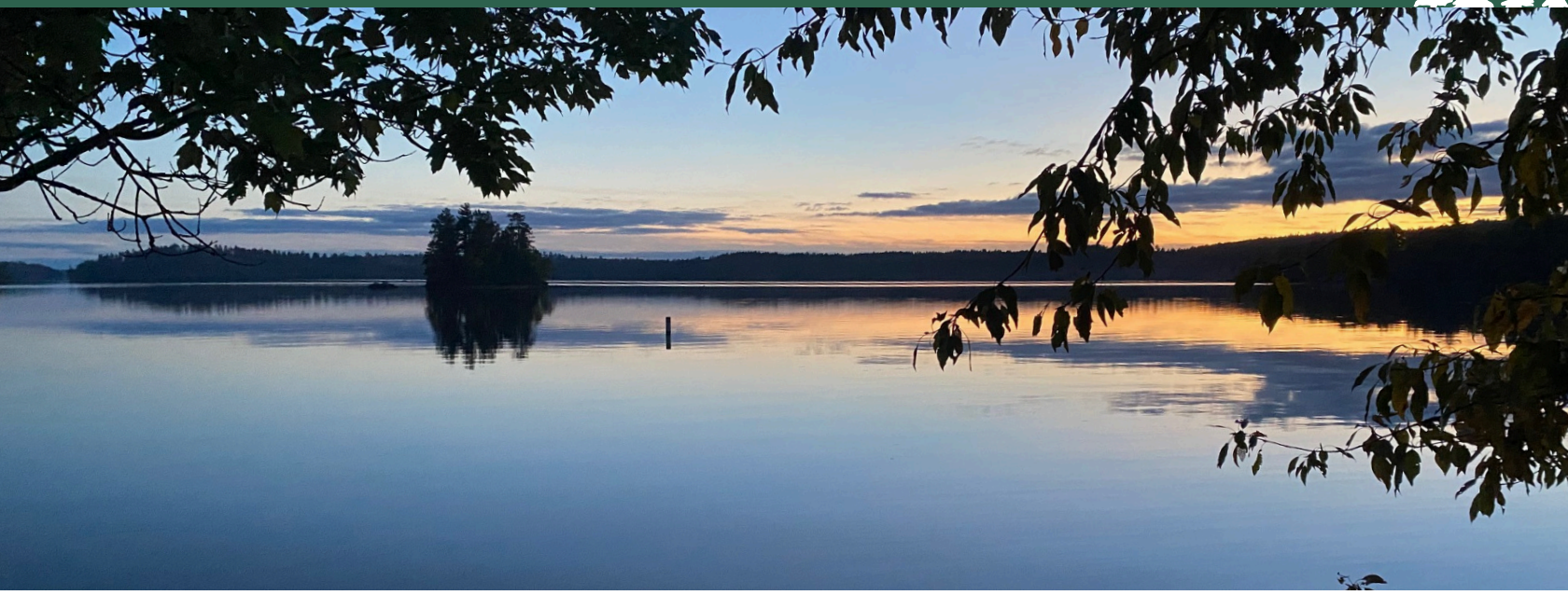
THE DU NORDER

Where Nord News is Good News



As summer turns into fall, we find ourselves pausing to reflect on the impact of summer 2026. Another summer at du Nord has come and gone—filled with laughter, adventure, connection, and countless moments that will stay with us long after the canoes are pulled from the water. We served over 2,600 campers during the summer season. From first-time campers to longtime friends, from families and volunteers to our incredible staff, each person in our community has helped make this summer what it was. You brought your stories, your joy, your curiosity, your courage, and your whole selves—and du Nord is better because of it.

Wildfire Stats

More than 71,000 acres burned in and around the BWCA

More than 20 fires were sparked by lightning.

We're grateful for the songs around the campfire, the early morning polar bear plunges, the wilderness adventures, the quiet moments, the unexpected connections, and all the little moments in between. The wildfires brought disruption and uncertainty, but through it all we were resilient together. Most of all, we're grateful for the community we continue to build together. Your story is woven into the Camp du Nord story. Wherever you go, near or far, you are a part of the Camp du Nord Community!



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WELCOME NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMBER CORLEY!

We are thrilled to announce the hiring of Camp du Nord's new Executive Director, Amber Corley!

Amber brings a unique combination of deep YMCA experience, community leadership, and a longstanding connection to Camp du Nord. Her family began camping at du Nord in 2002. Since then, her and many of her siblings have been part of the du Nord summer staff. Amber's time on staff began in 2011, including leading du Nord's Leadership Development Program.

Amber began her professional YMCA career as a Youth Development Director with the White Bear Area YMCA and has spent the past 10 years working in schools as a counselor and supporting YMCA of the Seven Council Fires as a Community Impact Coordinator.

Amber will begin in her role On November 8th. We are thrilled to welcome Amber back to YMCA of the North and into this important leadership role with Camp du Nord. Please join us in welcoming and celebrating Amber Corley!



Caption

FUN FACTS ABOUT AMBER

- ★ Every year, Amber watches a Lord of the Rings marathon and coordinates meals to match that of a hobbit.
- ★ She used to mascot as Bullseye and Wanda the Walleye at Twins games.
- ★ Her favorite pastimes include hiking with her golden retreivers, camping, and reading.

BUT WHAT ABOUT ANDY SINYKIN?

Have no fear – Andy is still close to camp! He started his new position as Associate Vice President of Adventure for the Y of the North – providing leadership for all of the overnight camps. He'll also still be planning our Men's Weekend, March 4–7.



MAINTENANCE MOMENT

The Northland sauna is finally back up and running with a brand-new Kuuma electric sauna stove. After some frustrating luck with electric sauna stoves in recent years, we're keeping our fingers crossed that this one will be a long-lasting success!

During our November closure, we'll be giving the du Nord sauna some attention, too, with a new sauna stove and new benches for the hot room.

We're excited to share that Isabelle Kelley, who has been part of our maintenance team for the past couple of years, stepped into the Camp Caretaker role this spring. With added responsibilities and leadership on the maintenance team, Isabelle is helping keep du Nord running smoothly year-round. Thanks to Isabelle and the whole maintenance crew for all they do to care for camp!

DO YOU ❤️ CAMP DU NORD?

Maybe you're here for Viva La Compagnie — sung at full volume in the dining hall. Maybe it's skiing the North Arm Trails, a late-night sauna, a favorite retreat, or simply time with people who feel like your kind of people. However you experience du Nord, there's room for you here.

This fall, let's celebrate everything that makes this community one of a kind! Join fellow campers, retreat-goers, families, and friends for I ❤️ Camp. Your gift to the du Nord Annual Fund helps support the people, programs, and experiences that keep this welcoming community thriving.

I ❤️ Camp _____. What makes du Nord your place?

Fill in the blank. Show your love for du Nord → justgiving.com/campaign/ilovedunord







WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR IMPACT? HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT A PROGRAM?

CONTACT US AT INFO@DUNORD.ORG.

THE "OFF-SEASON" AT DU NORD

It's a question we hear all the time from summer campers: "What do you do at Camp du Nord in the off-season?" The answer? What off-season?

While summer is our busiest season for family campers, du Nord stays hopping year-round! From family camp weekends and adult retreats to volunteer work weekends, weddings, group rentals, and nightly cabin reservations, there's always something happening in the Northwoods.

Fall, winter, and spring bring plenty of opportunities to gather, recharge, try something new, and enjoy camp in a different season. Families come for themed weekends, adults escape for retreats, volunteers roll up their sleeves to care for the land, and couples celebrate their big day surrounded by the beauty of the forest and lake. Check out the calendar on the right to see just how much happens after summer wraps up!

"But you close for a few weeks in November," you say. "Surely then everyone gets to rest!" Not so much. Our November closure is actually prime time for the maintenance team to tackle noisy projects, repairs, and improvements that are harder to do when guests are here. Think of it as camp's annual tune-up, getting everything ready for another busy year. So the next time someone asks what we do in the off-season, you can tell them: at du Nord, there's no off-season—just a different kind of busy!

Program Highlight: Tofte Lake Center Artist Workshops

All campers staying at du Nord February 5-7 are welcome to attend programs offered by our artists in residence! This includes Book Your Own Getaway reservations, and folks participating in group retreats. Previous programs have included mosaics, dry dyeing, writing, music, and more! Keep an eye on our social media for workshop announcements.

FWS 2026-2027 Groups and Programs

Dates	**du Nord Program** / Group
Sept 4-7, 2026	**Fest du Nord**
Sept 10-13, 2026	Wedding Group
Sept 13-18, 2026	Northland Girls Reunion
Sep 17-20, 2026	**Family Art Weekend**
Sept 24-27	**Fall Women's Retreat**
Sept 28-Oct 1	O.W.L School Work Group
October 1-4	**Trees & Trails Work Weekend**
October 1-4	Sisu Knitting Group
October 8-11	Wedding Group
October 15-18	**Autumn Adventures**
October 18-25	Vincent Yoga Group
Oct 29-Nov 1	Woodcutting Weekend Group
November 2-25	Closed for Deer Hunting
November 25-29	**du Thanks Family Camp Weekend**
December 10-13	**Fuel Reduction Work Weekend 1**
December 17-20	**STEPS Family Camp Weekend**
January 7-10	Boreal Bliss Yoga Group
Jan 11-14	Sisu Knitting Group
January 15-18	Book Your Own Getaway MLK Weekend - Meals offered
Jan 21-24	**January Women's Retreat**
January 28-31	Yoga with Sarah BB Group
Jan 31-Feb 7	Tofte Lake Center Artist Residency
February 4-7	Ritual Union Yoga Group
February 5-6	Tofte Lake Center Workshops for for Book Your Own Getaway campers
February 7-11	**Y She Skis Retreat**
Feb 12-15	Book Your Own Getaway Pres. Day Weekend - Meals Offered
Feb 18-21	**February Women's Retreat**
Feb 25-28	**Winter Wonderland Family Camp Weekend**
March 4-7	**Men's Weekend**
April 8-11	**Fuel Reduction Work Weekend 2**
April 15-18	**du Nord Board Weekend**
April 16-18	**Leader's Club Retreat**
April 22-25	Woodcutting Weekend Group
April 29-May 2	**Spring Women's Retreat**
May 6-8	**Blooma Family Yoga Weekend**
May 13-16	**Land Stewardship WW**
May 20-23	Wedding Group
May 28-31	**Memorial Day Work Weekend**

OPENINGS IN GROUP WEEKENDS

du Nord is lucky to host a number of fantastic outside groups that offer great programming during their time at camp - supported by du Nord staff with sauna times, store hours, and meals in the Dining Hall. Three of our winter yoga groups still have some openings. Follow their links to register!

February 4-7: Winter Wonderland Winter Wellness Retreat by Ritual Union Retreats.

January 28-31: Winter Reset Yoga Retreat by Yoga with Sarah BB.

January 7-10: Friluftsliv Retreat by Boreal Bliss Yoga.