

New Camper? Here's the info you need:

Location for June 2025: Nissokone YMCA Camp near Oscoda, Michigan on the east side of Michigan in the Lower Peninsula. Summer Camp For Adults (SFA) is an annual event where adults gather to have a summer camp experience, reminiscent of youth sleepover summer camps. We are organized like a club that welcomes new campers each year to the camp. Many campers return each year so long lasting friendships have blossomed. New campers are heartily welcomed by staff and the group as a whole. In addition, an orientation and a “buddy” is provided at the beginning of camp to assist a new camper in what to expect from a week at SFA. We love new campers!



Our History: SFA evolved from “Saug For All” which was a spin off of A.M.U.U.S.E. summer camp held at a campground in Saugatuck, MI with cabins and dining hall right on Lake Michigan. When we lost our Saugatuck location we moved to another campsite (YMCA at Nissokone) on a small lake in Michigan at Oscoda near Lake Huron.

A Typical Day at SFA Camp

The schedule on this website will show a variety of activities. Campers choose whether or not to attend or participate in all of them with the exception of the Morning Group. Some new campers get overwhelmed, for they try to fill their days with an activity every hour. Others are fine with a high level of activity. Look at the schedule (two pages) on this website to learn about what will be offered this year. The Updates portion of the website will also give more information about the activities.

Your day can start with a before breakfast coffee at Crow's Nest by the Lake if you are an early riser. After breakfast in the dining hall you will join your assigned Morning Group. There's some free time before Lunch, during which announcements about

additions or changes to the schedule, important information about weather, etc., will occur.

Campers are free to choose their afternoon activities from the schedule or to do their own thing. Activities such as going to town, swimming, hiking, horseback riding, playing pickleball, games, reading, napping, conversation. The YMCA Staff will offer afternoon activities, also noted on the schedule.

Happy Hours and Evening Activities: There is often a Happy Hour with snacks before supper. Evening activities include Karaoke and performance opportunities for poets, storytellers, and musicians in a comfortable atmosphere at the Coffee House, Moth, or Camp Show. And there are campfires and at least one night of dancing. Stay up as late as you want but remember that morning groups start at 9:00 AM right after breakfast.



Morning Groups

All Campers will participate in a specific morning group, Monday through Friday. Unlike all other camp offerings, Morning Groups are not optional. Each camper will have an opportunity prior to camp to rank the morning groups 1 to 4, with one being the most preferred by that camper. We make a good effort to place campers in morning groups with regard to those rankings, but there are times when a camper might be placed in a third or fourth choice. Individual campers will be contacted if that becomes the case before camp. Usually a camper knows what morning

group they are in by two weeks before the first day of camp.



On the porch of Crow's Nest during Morning Coffee

Accommodations

At Nissokone we stay in nice cabins with en suite bathrooms and, in some cases, shared bathrooms. The bed frames are twin bunks or double beds, and campers are able to indicate a preference when filling out the SFA registration form. Below is an example of a cabin that can house 1 or 2 people on each side, A and B. Each side has its own bath and an inner door separates the two units.



FAQS for New Campers

Personal Schedule: The only thing that a camper is required to do each day is attend the assigned morning group. All other activities are optional.

Walking: Most campers walk to each location. The distance is not too far, but you will get plenty of steps during the week. The ground is grassy and sandy, with some gravel. A few campers will drive from place to place, and some bike. The sandy conditions make it a bit tough for biking, so take care.

Should I try to do everything on the schedule? Only if you want to. Many seasoned campers carve out time for rest.

Must I be present for each meal? No, but if there is a large group that is planning to miss a meal, we'd like to tell the camp chef.

What are the Porch Concerts? An outdoor event in an area of cabins at Nissokone, where the individual porches of the cabins provide an acoustic stage for musicians and

readings. Audience members bring their own chairs and move from porch to porch as the concert progresses.

What is Market Day? Artisan campers display their wares for sale at bargain prices. There will be a fortune teller, games of chance, some outdoor games, fun and frolic. It's good to have some quarters for games and cash if you wish to purchase items offered by campers. Examples of wares are jewelry, knitted crafts and toys, handmade cards and books.

What is the Auction? This is an activity that is run by the youth staffers of the YMCA camp. Sometimes SFA campers bring items to donate to the Y, and then those items are auctioned off to other youth staff at one of their evening activities. We do not usually attend, but we can donate items to their cause: scholarships for student campers.

What is the Coffee House? It is an evening where campers present a poem, song, reading, instrumental piece, etc. Often the mood for this event is of reflection and mild humor, and it happens in Crow's Nest. .

What is the Moth Storytelling Hour? It is an opportunity to tell a true story to the group on our stage in Crow's Nest.

What is the Goddess Exchange? Some campers like to bring some clothes in good shape to swap! Not limited to women only, but that is how the activity began. The leftovers are shared with the youth staffers or go to goodwill.

What is the Camp Show? It is a spirited evening of skits and humor, with more frivolity than the Coffee House. Campers prepare skits, acts, and songs that are basically humorous and light hearted .

What level of performing should a camper expect to do? All, none, or anything in between.

I have food concerns. What can I do? You will be able to choose your meal type for the week: Omnivore, Vegetarian with fish, Vegan, gluten free. The YMCA chef will be given the dining choices prior to camp and devise a way to ensure that your meal is of your choice. Meals are often served from a buffet, and those with special diets often get their food from a counter, but can still go through the buffet for choices. The YMCA Dining staff has accommodated us in the past.

Need more Information? Contact Gretchen Suhre at gretabax@gmail.com