

Lake Beauty Covenant Bible Camp

Denominational Context

Our Owner Churches

Lake Beauty Bible Camp is jointly owned by sixty Evangelical Covenant churches spanning Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota. These owner congregations are organized into nine districts of the Northwest Conference, and district life shapes the rhythm of camp. Districts often rotate through summer sessions, and owner churches return year after year for workdays, retreats, and celebrations. This ownership model means Lake Beauty is not simply supported by churches; **it is accountable to them**. The Executive Director serves as the primary relational bridge to pastors and congregations across a multi-state region.

While other Northwest Conference camps serve the Twin Cities metro and the northern reaches of the state, Lake Beauty is the camp of the Conference's town and country churches. Most of its owner congregations are rooted in the small towns and farming communities of central and southern Minnesota, western Wisconsin, and the eastern Dakotas, joined by vital congregations in regional centers such as St. Cloud, Alexandria, Mankato, Wilmar, and Rochester, and as far as Fargo and Sioux Falls. The majority are small, faithful, longstanding churches, and their character shapes the camp's: multi-generational families who have attended for decades, a volunteer ethic where owner churches **show up** for workdays, quilt retreats, and lutefisk dinners, and relationships that run through kitchen tables as much as committee tables.

Our Denominational Family

Lake Beauty is one of twenty-one camps and conference centers within the Evangelical Covenant Church, and one of five camps in the ECC's Northwest Conference ([NWC](#)) — roughly 140 ECC congregations across central and southern Minnesota, western Wisconsin and the eastern edge of the Dakotas. The camp has been an active member of the Association of Covenant Camps and Conference Centers ([ACCCC](#)) since 1981 and also belongs to the Christian Camp and Conference Association ([CCCA](#)).

The Evangelical Covenant Church, founded in 1885 by Swedish immigrants, is a multiethnic denomination of more than 830 churches in the United States and Canada, part of a worldwide movement in over 30 countries. The Covenant's ethos, biblically rooted, warmly evangelical, and relationally driven, shapes the culture the next Executive Director will inherit and steward.

Our People

The people of Lake Beauty are, in many cases, families whose connection to the camp spans two or three generations; campers who became counselors, counselors who became volunteers, and volunteers whose children and grandchildren now fill the summer sessions. The camp's own research bears this out: in a 2024 independent camper study, nearly two-thirds of campers were "regulars" for whom camp is part of their yearly rhythm, and a quarter had attended seven or more times.

These are deeply church-ed young people (88% attend worship at least monthly) and while 40% come from Covenant congregations, the majority now come from Lutheran, non-denominational, and other Christian homes across the region, evidence of a ministry that reaches well beyond its owner churches.

The camp's volunteer and donor base is drawn largely from within the owner congregations, and giving at Lake Beauty is personal and relational: it flows less from institutional budgets than from individuals and families with deep, often lifelong, ties to this place and its ministry.

Measured Ministry Impact

Lake Beauty's impact is not only remembered, it is measured. In 2024 the camp participated in the Power of Camp Study, an independent three-part survey conducted by Sacred Playgrounds in partnership with the CCCA, surveying campers on their first day, their last day, and again two to three months after returning home.

Among 452 matched responses, campers showed statistically significant growth that lasted beyond the summer, **in self-confidence, in personal prayer and Bible reading, and in their personal relationship with Jesus**. Nearly all campers reported being strengthened in their faith, and Lake Beauty's overall camp experience rated "Excellent" on the study's five-characteristic model, with its faith-centered culture standing out even among peer Covenant camps.

When asked for words describing their experience, campers' top ten included "Godly," "Jesus," and "faith" — a combination the researchers note is rare. The next Executive Director inherits a ministry that demonstrably does what it says it does.

