

We are excited that you are coming to Widjiwagan!

Widjiwagan is an Ojibwa word that means comradeship or friendship. We hope that as you learn about and explore the north woods, you'll build stronger friendships with your classmates and teachers. The information here will help you understand what to expect during your stay at Widji. After reading it through carefully, you'll be ready for a fun and successful experience.

Widjiwagan is another kind of school – different from your school in some ways but similar in others. You'll spend most of your day outside, exploring the woods and lakes. You'll do a lot of different activities and classes such as night hikes, animal studies and teambuilding games. We'll do an indoor campfire one evening and you'll wash up the traditional north woods way – with a hot Finnish sauna and a dip in the lake.

Just as at your school, listening and following the rules are important at Widji. You will have plenty of opportunities to talk with your friends and get to know classmates that you don't know as well, but there will also be time when it is very important to listen carefully and follow directions in order to have safe, fun and successful lessons.

When you arrive at Widji, we'll collect any snacks, gum and electronic equipment that you brought along for the bus ride. We want you to immerse yourself in the north woods so you won't be listening to MP3 players or playing with electronic games during your stay here. Additionally, food in the cabins attracts critters – mice, chipmunks and even bears. We want to make sure that those animals stay outside where they belong! We will return all your snacks and electronics for the bus ride home.

We love to eat good food at Widjiwagan! Almost all of our food is made from scratch and we get rave reviews from the students and chaperones that come here. Spaghetti with fresh bread and salad, tacos with all the fixings and homemade pizza are typical examples of dinners. Breakfasts always include cold cereal as well as a hot option such as pancakes or scrambled eggs. We always have a good dessert after dinner – brownies, cake or ice cream are typical.

You'll be staying in rustic cabins that are furnished with cots and bunk beds. A few of the cabins have indoor plumbing but most have an outhouse located nearby. There is also a centrally located wash house with sinks and toilets. Your class will be divided up into cabin groups because each cabin can hold 12-14 students and chaperones.

Hopefully, reading this has answered many of your questions about the food, the cabins and what you'll be doing during your time at Widji. Now, you have a better idea of what to expect and how to help yourself have a great week at Widjiwagan. We are really excited for your visit to the north woods. See you soon!