

Welcome to La Semana 2011!

Monday, August 1 – Friday, August 5, 9:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Held at All Saints Catholic Church
19795 Holyoke Ave, Lakeville, MN

WHAT TO BRING

Campers: Wear comfortable shoes and warm-weather clothes. Also bring a bag lunch and beverage every day. Children who need a mid-morning snack can bring something to eat at recess times. No food is allowed in the building except in the dining room.

Each camper will receive a tee shirt, which is to be worn daily, left at camp during the week, then taken home on Friday. Many campers also will need to bring parts of their dance costume (see Dance Costume Requirements section).

Adults: Wear comfortable warm-weather clothes and footwear. The building is air-conditioned but some activities will be outside. Also, bring a lunch every day. Cameras are allowed in camp, but please respect the campers and presenters. Each child will receive a yearbook and class photo at the end of the week.

DROP OFF/PICK UP

Please enter the church facility from the northern drive and park in the large lot in front of the church.

Some classroom assignments may have changed, so please check class lists carefully before dropping off your child. Lists will be on the entry doors and at each classroom. A map with classroom locations (which are in

the north wing—Door G, or in the lower level under the church sanctuary—Door F) will be posted at the front entrance. Teen rooms are in the lower level between the church and the north classroom wing.

For the safety of all, please bring K through 7 campers to their classrooms each morning at 9 a.m. and meet them there promptly at 2:45 p.m. each afternoon. Classroom facilitators cannot let a child leave without an authorized adult. Please let your classroom facilitator know if anyone other than a parent is allowed to pick up your child. Our hard working facilitators often need to pick up their own children, so please be prompt at the end of the day.

CLASSROOM FACILITATORS

All facilitators are required to attend one training session.

The first session will be on Saturday July 30 at 11am during camp setup. The second will be for out-of-towners on the first morning of camp.

Facilitators are also strongly encouraged to organize and decorate their classrooms at camp setup (July 30, 9 a.m. to noon) since camp activities start promptly at 9:00 on Monday morning.

DAYCARE For those families with children in daycare, please see Daycare section below.

CAMP ACTIVITIES

Monday Morning

Ayudante Orientation, 8:30 a.m.,
Small Teen Lounge

Classroom Orientation and Get-To-Know-You Activities, 9:00-9:30 a.m.

Facilitator Training/ Orientation (For those who still need to attend one), 9:00-9:30 a.m., Library

Flag Ceremony, 9:30-10:00 a.m.
All parents and campers are invited to Murphy Hall for our welcoming ceremony featuring flags and national anthems from all our campers' birth countries.

Wednesday – Market Day

Please join us on August 3rd, when vendors will be selling items from, or related to, Latin America. There will be something for everyone, young and old alike! Items may include crafts, clothing, greeting cards, books, musical instruments, CDs, and adoption-related items. Campers will have opportunities during the day to visit the "Market," and there will be a number of inexpensive items for our younger campers to buy. Please make sure your young children know that they must be accompanied by an adult – either you or a classroom facilitator.

Friday – Kindergarten Dance & Assembly

Come to Murphy Hall at 9:15 a.m. on Friday for a final camp Assembly featuring a pre-school song, the Kindergarteners performing a dance in traditional costume, and our own Corazon Latino dance troupe.

Friday – Seventh Grade Graduation, 1:15 p.m.

If you have a 7th grade camper, you are welcome to attend “graduation” on Friday at 1:15 p.m. in the Commons (under the church sanctuary). This marks the campers’ transition from elementary camp to the Grade 8-10 Junior Teen program, after which they can return as Ayudantes (helpers).

Friday – Fiesta, 5:30 p.m.

Fiesta is a camp highlight, and this year the fun begins at 5:30 p.m. Your immediate family is invited to Lakeville South High School to watch campers from grade 1 through Senior Teens show off the dances they learned during the week. Dancers will be in authentic costumes, so bring your camera. Once again, we expect to have DVDs of Fiesta available for order (\$20 each).

Seating is always limited at Fiesta. The Lakeville auditorium has 1069 seats and we will have nearly 500 campers. In order to seat all campers and their families, Fiesta is limited to immediate families this year – please no extended family or guests.

Daily Snack

Our kitchen staff will be providing a healthy-sized Latin American snack at lunchtime every day.

Parent Education

Programs on child development, adoption and other parenting issues will be presented throughout the week. Session subjects and times will be posted in the camp office and on our web site (www.lasemana.org) the week of camp. Programs are repeated if possible to facilitate attendance by volunteers. Although each volunteer’s first responsibility is to his or her volunteer assignment, each may attend any Parent Ed session if he or she has arranged coverage for that assignment.

Service Project

A variety of authentic foods will be available for purchase in the cafeteria. Coffee, soda and sweet empanadas will be available all day long. Empanadas, Tamales, Quesadillas, Rice, Bean, Chips and a daily special entree will be available during the lunch hour. Proceeds from food sales will be donated to Common Hope, an organization that promotes Education and Family Wellness in Guatemala. Common Hope will use the money to install much needed playground equipment in Guatemala. Ala carte prices will range from \$1-\$3."

CAMP CURRICULUM

K - 7 Campers

A typical day for elementary campers includes a craft activity, dance practice in preparation for the Friday Fiesta, Spanish activities, a “Life” session, a presentation or activity related to the year’s specialty (30th year celebrations related to Latin America), a lunch break and one or two recess times to burn off energy or hang out with friends.

All activities are age-appropriate, interactive and hopefully fun.

Because Christianity is a large part of Latin American culture, your child may hear about Christian holidays, traditions, etc. La Semana is a non-denominational camp open to children of all beliefs and any discussion of religion is only as it pertains to Latin culture.

Teen Programs

Junior Teens (those entering grades 8-10) will be on field trips for two days of camp week, returning to camp each day by 3:00 p.m. The remainder of the time will be spent in classes with a similar focus as those for K-7 campers.

10th graders will have a special orientation to the Ayudante program for next year, and will be invited to join the Senior Teen party Friday night after the Fiesta. Detailed information about the Junior Teen program will be mailed to Junior Teen families and also available on the website in mid-July.

Senior Teens (those entering grade 11 through spring ’11 high school graduates) spend most of the day placed in classrooms or program areas as Ayudantes (helpers). Senior Teens hear speakers and can choose to attend a teen class and field trip on Wednesday. A party for Senior Teens will be held on Friday evening after the Fiesta. Please look for a party flyer in the teen area during the week. A letter will be mailed to Ayudantes with details for the week.

Life Programs

All K-7 campers have 3 or 4 “Life” programs during the week, dealing with issues of self-esteem, racism, teasing, adoption, etc. Life activities, developed by

trained therapists, are age-appropriate and are tested and modified over the years.

Parents of K-3 campers are welcome to sit in on Life sessions at any time, but we ask parents to leave the room for Life programs for grades 4 and up. The presence of adults other than the trained moderator can inhibit a child's honest expression of feelings.

To review the Life curriculum during camp week, call Barb Yates (651-633-3516).

On Thursday, 4th grade campers will prepare a booklet called "My Story." The time of Thursday's Life session will be announced during camp week. Parents are expected to help their child with this project during the class.

BEHAVIOR

Each family has signed the La Semana Camp Codes of Conduct, setting out the minimum expectations for behavior during camp. Junior and Senior Teens will sign it during orientation.

Copies are included below. Please read them carefully.

We expect all campers to follow the Code's rules at all times. A camper who is having difficulty with camp rules will be reminded. If the behavior continues, a "time out" may be required. If a problem persists, the camper may be asked to spend some time in the camp office or the parents may be asked to remove the child from camp. A camper with repeated or serious discipline

issues may be asked not to return to camp the next year.

Adults, please be aware that you are role models for all campers. If you are uncertain about appropriate camp behavior, please ask for help. We are guests at All Saints and want to be invited back!

CAMP OFFICE

Need help? Come to the camp office just inside the main entrance to the church. Coffee, snacks and vending machines are available in the office for adult volunteers only.

VISITORS

Visitors are welcome, but please confirm their attendance in advance with the office staff. Upon arrival, we ask that visitors check in at the office, let the office staff know who will be their escort and wear a nametag throughout the day. Please do not enter rooms where activities are in session. Visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent at all times.

EMERGENCIES

In an emergency, people outside camp can call 612-208-PLAC (7522). However, there is only one line for the nearly 700 people at camp. The phone will not take messages and it cannot be used to call out. If possible, adults should bring a cell phone to camp.

CONTRIBUTIONS

WELCOME

La Semana is sponsored by PLAC (Parents of Latin American Children), a non-profit organization of families created through adoption. The camp is planned and executed almost entirely by volunteer parents. We have fewer than 10 paid staff, hired for specific skills or background that parents of campers don't have. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to PLAC or La Semana, stop by the camp office.

DIRECTIONS

All Saints Catholic Church Site of Camp

Take I-35W from Minneapolis, or I-35E from St. Paul, south until 35W & 35E merge (approximately 20 miles from the center of each city). At Exit 85 (County Rd 5/County Rd. 50) go east (left) 4.1 miles. The road will become Kenwood Trail. At the intersection of Kenwood Trail and Holyoke Ave., there is a four-way stop. Go north (left) on Holyoke for 1/2 mile. The church can be seen on your left. Take the second driveway into the main parking lot.

Lakeville South High School – Site of Fiesta

From I-35, exit at County Highway 70 (Exit 81). Go east on Hwy 70, and turn left (north) on Jaquard Avenue. The school is on the left side.

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN DAYCARE

The daycare is located in rooms 210A and 210B, and is open from 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Daycare will be provided for children ages 0-4 for the hours when parents are working at La Semana, and will be available for those who have been confirmed ahead of time.

Your child must be brought to the daycare by a parent and signed in daily. Your child will be released only to the parent(s). If your child is to be picked up by someone else, you must notify the childcare staff in writing and also put that information on the sign-in sheet. Please be prompt when getting your child at the end of the day. We realize some parents have jobs keeping them right up to 3:00 p.m. so we will be open until 3:15 p.m., but please come to pick up children as close to 3:00 p.m. as possible.

Things to bring: (PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS!)

- A bag lunch with a beverage labeled with the child's name. There is no refrigeration. (Age-appropriate snacks will be provided morning and afternoon.)
- Diapers and wipes for the children needing them.
- Napping/quiet time rest blanket or toy.
- A change of clothes – just in case!

Camp tee shirts remain on campus during the week and go home with children on Friday.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Katie Myler (952-564-0705 or katiemyler@comcast.net)

Subscribe to PLAC's newsletter by signing on to the web site (www.lasemana.org) and selecting the "newsletter" link.

You will receive updates about PLAC and local Latin American cultural events.

LA SEMANA CODES OF CONDUCT

La Semana Code of Conduct for Campers

In order to ensure the safety and well being of everyone in the camp community, the following rules will apply to all campers ranging in age from Kindergarten through High School Graduates:

- Campers are expected to participate in all activities and programs at camp and to be with their group or at their assigned places unless permission is granted from an adult in charge.
- Campers should give proper attention to personal cleanliness and dress appropriately. Campers will wear a camp tee shirt at all times. If campers are deemed to be wearing inappropriate attire they may be sent home, asked to change, or instructed to wear more appropriate attire on subsequent days.
- All classroom assignments are final.
- All participants in La Semana and PLAC are expected to treat each other in a respectful manner at all times, including the months outside of camp. Disrespectful, threatening, or hurtful behavior of any type directed toward another camper or PLAC member, or failure to correct inappropriate behavior, may result in exclusion from camp, immediate removal from camp, or other disciplinary action.
- The following are prohibited at camp: hats worn inside the building; do-rags; use of cell phones, music players, game machines, video or DVD players; weapons or items that look like weapons; non-prescription drugs; illegal substances; tobacco; alcohol; gambling; stealing; hazing; conduct that is disruptive, insubordinate, discriminates, harasses, lies, denigrates or endangers anyone; public displays of affection; and any items, symbols or gestures related to gangs, illegal drugs, sex or violence.
- Shaved eye-brows and hair styles which are associated with gang symbols (as determined by the camp leadership responsible for enforcement of the Code of Conduct) will not be allowed at camp.
- Tattoos should be covered at camp, unless the tattoo cannot be covered by a reasonable item of clothing (as determined by the camp leadership responsible for enforcement of the Code of Conduct).
- Any cell phones, iPods, or other electronic devices brought to camp by a camper will be collected by the Classroom Facilitator or Teen Coordinator at the beginning of the day and returned to the camper at the end of the day.
- All participants are expected to promptly report violations of the Code of Conduct to an adult leader of their assigned area.
- Campers, including Ayudantes, are not allowed to leave the All Saints Catholic Church campus during the day unless accompanied by their parent. Specifically, campers and Ayudantes are not to leave the campus for lunch.

The determination of whether or not a Camper has complied with the foregoing Code of Conduct lies solely within the discretion of the camp leadership responsible for enforcement of the Code of Conduct.

If you (Junior Teen or Senior Teen) or your child(ren) (Parent/Guardian) do not adhere to the Code of Conduct that disciplinary action may be taken. You/your child may be asked to leave camp without notice and you will be expected to provide or arrange for transportation at that time. Alternatively, you/your child may be excluded from camp now or in the future. Your/your child's continued participation may also be conditioned on the attendance of a parent or other responsible adult with you/your child at camp.

Note: By registering for camp, all Senior Teens over the age of 18 will be subject to a criminal background check. All adult volunteers who will be on site during camp week and paid staff will be subject to the same criminal background check. For further information, please read the Code of Conduct for Adult Volunteers and Staff.

La Semana Code of Conduct for Volunteers and Staff

In order to ensure the safety and well being of everyone in the camp community, the following rules will apply to all volunteers and staff on site during the week of camp:

- Volunteers are expected to fulfill their assigned duties. Failure to complete your assigned duties may jeopardize your child's participation in camp this year or in future years.
- Please serve as an appropriate role model for campers of all ages.
- Adults should not be alone with any camper (other than their own child) at any time.
- **By volunteering to work at camp or by accepting a staff position, you will be subject to a criminal background check. Depending on the information obtained through such a background check, volunteers or staff may be excluded from attendance during camp week.**
- Volunteers and staff should dress appropriately. If a camp tee shirt or apron is available for use in your assignment, you will be expected to wear such a tee shirt or apron at all times. If appropriate attire is not worn (including the failure to wear camp assigned tee shirts or aprons) you may be asked to wear such assigned items, asked to leave camp or change clothing, or instructed to wear more appropriate attire on subsequent days.
- All volunteer assignments are final unless you are redirected by the Volunteer Coordinator.
- All participants in La Semana and PLAC are expected to treat each other in a respectful manner at all times, including the months outside of camp. Disrespectful, threatening, or hurtful behavior of any type directed toward another camper or PLAC member, or failure to correct inappropriate behavior, may result in exclusion from camp, immediate removal from camp, or other disciplinary action.
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