

Dear Hiker,

We are so excited for this summer's hiking trip. God's hand is certainly evident in this beautiful piece of creation and it has been a favorite destination among our staff for their own excursions.

This letter should help you prepare a bit for what is ahead. Included are a basic schedule, suggestions for preparing for the hike, and a packing list.

SCHEDULE: When you arrive at GENEVA on Monday, we'll hit the ground running with plenty of fun and preparation. We'll spend time getting to know one another as well as talking through the creation stewardship that we will practice as we hike. We will go over the details of our trip and begin preparing our packs as well. Monday night will be spent in a cabin at Geneva, and then we are off to the great Michigan North!

Tuesday through Friday will be spent exploring sections of the Manistee River Trail and the North Country Trail. Much of the time will be spent hiking, but we will also carve out time for a special kayak trip down the Manistee River. Our meals will be on the trail or at the various spots where we camp for the night. These will be pretty full days as we take in the incredible majesty of our surroundings while worshiping the One who created both it and us. Friday we will pack up one more time and head back to Geneva to spend our final night back in the cabins. Saturday will bring the end to our week and the closing program where we'll swap stories and reflect on the incredible experience we've had!

PREPARATIONS: While packing may only take a few hours, you should put several weeks into other preparations for this trip. Walk. Walk some more. The daily mileage may not seem like much, but remember that you will be carrying supplies with you while you hike up and down some pretty good-size hills, through sand, rock, and other terrain. While our pace will not be intense, and we'll stop a lot to take in the beauty of our surroundings, you will want to make sure that you and your boots are in shape for this. Also, search the Bible for some passages that speak about the wonder of creation that you can share with the group as we hike.

PACKING: The following list covers your whole week of hiking. As you pack, the most important rule of thumb is to pack light since you will be carrying most everything with you. It may be helpful to pack into two bags, one to take hiking and one to use for the beginning and end of the week at Geneva. With that in mind, you should bring:

- a *small* Bible
- bug spray (non-deet) & sunscreen & chapstick
- headlamp or flashlight
- bandanas, sunglasses, hat that will provide shade from the sun
- winter hat for night
- 2 water bottles
- Large, durable mug and spoon
- sleeping bag (camping/non-cotton) & sleeping pad
- raincoat and pants
- t-shirts
- fleece, wool sweater, or jacket
- long sleeve t-shirt
- pairs of quick-dry socks
- pairs of underwear
- pairs of shorts (hiking shorts or athletic shorts – not jean shorts)
- pair of comfortable pants
- hiking boots (make sure they are broken in and have good ankle support, preferably waterproof)
- sandals or camp shoes
- toiletries (some will be left at camp for showering at camp)
- medications you take regularly
- camera
- Hiking backpack (we may be able to help get you a rental if needed)
- adventurous spirit (don't pack light on this!)



Do Not Bring:

mirrors, matches, knives, cell phones, ipods, lotions, soda/energy drinks or snacks

We are anxiously awaiting your arrival, blessings on your preparations!

In Him,

Brian VanderWege
Program Director

Stephen King
Trip guide

High School Coordinator

MAP TO GENEVA

Camp Geneva is located on Holland's north side on Lakeshore Drive at the end of Quincy Street.

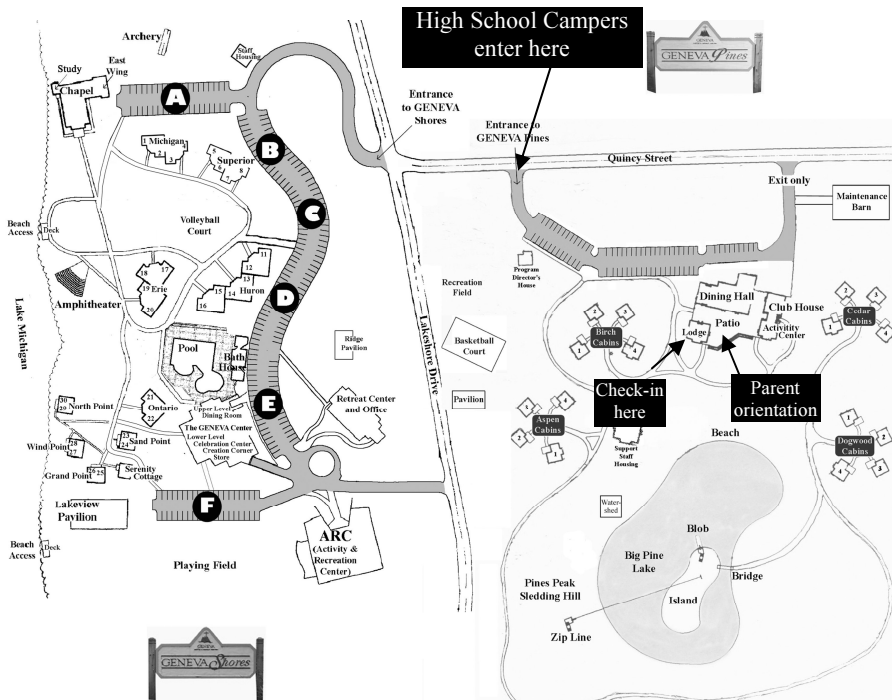
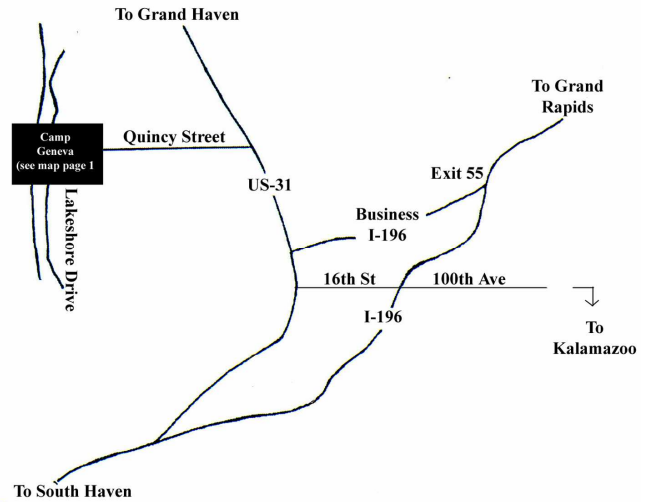
From the East: Take I-196 west to Exit 55 (Holland/Zeeland) which will put you on Business 196 heading west. Take Business 196 west to US-31 (approximately 5.5 miles). Take US-31 north to Quincy (approximately 2 miles north of Westshore Mall). Take Quincy west to Camp Geneva (approximately 5.5 miles).

From the North: Take US-31 south to Quincy. Take Quincy west to Camp Geneva (approximately 5.5 miles).

From the Southeast: Take US-131 north to M6. Take M6 west to I-196. Take I-196 west to Exit 55 (Holland/Zeeland) which will put you on Business 196 heading west. Take Business 196 west to US-31 (approximately 5.5 miles). Take US-31 north to Quincy (approximately 2 miles north of Westshore Mall). Take Quincy west to Camp Geneva (approximately 5.5 miles).

From the South: Take US-31 north to Quincy (approximately 2 miles north of Westshore Mall). Take Quincy west to Camp Geneva (approximately 5.5 miles).

Take A Hike Camp Confirmation



CHECK-IN DIRECTIONS

The entrance to GENEVA Pines is just on Quincy Street, just east of Lakeshore Drive. Campers should leave their luggage in the car but bring any medications to check-in to give to the camp health officer.

CONTACT INFORMATION



3995 Lakeshore Dr N, Holland, MI 49424

Phone: 616.399-3150 / 800.805.0808 / Fax: 616.399.5180

general email: geneva@campgeneva.org

registration questions: registrations@campgeneva.org

email campers at GENEVA: go to www.campgeneva.org and click on "email a camper"

website: www.campgeneva.org

Should you need to leave an emergency message for a camper, you may call the GENEVA office at 616.399.3150 or 800.805.0808 during business hours (8:00am to 5:00pm). If you have an after-hours emergency, call 616.820.9067.

Have you checked out GENEVA's website recently? There's lots of good information there - including all the confirmation information.

ARRIVAL

Campers coming to water week will check-in on GENEVA pines.

- **Time**—Please note the new check-in time is **8:08am** on Monday morning.
- **Medication Drop-off**—if you need to drop off your camper's medications, or talk to the camp health officer about any health concerns, you will stop here first.
- **Check-in**—next you will proceed to one of the alphabetical lines on the patio to receive your cabin assignment, nametag and t-shirt voucher.
- **Sign-in**—finally, parents will accompany the camper to their cabin to meet the counselor and sign the camper in, indicating to whom we should release the camper at the end of the week.

The camp store will be open during check-in.

No pets—GENEVA has a no pets policy, so please do not bring your pet when dropping off and picking up your camper.

DEPARTURE

Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend the closing program in the Activity Center on the last day of camp. Campers may be picked up at their cabins following the closing program, which lasts approximately 30 minutes.

You will be required to sign your child out with the counselor. We will not release a camper to anyone other than the person designated at the beginning of camp. We discourage early dismissals, but if it is necessary for you to pick up your child early, you must make arrangements with the counselor when you check in.

The camp store will be open during check-out.

MEDICATIONS

All medication brought by the camper (prescription and over-the-counter) must be given to the camp health officer at check-in.

All medication must be in the original container, be prescribed for the camper, and include clear and current directions.

The camp health officer will be available at check-in for those of you who have questions or want to see her about other health concerns.

The camp health officer stocks most common over the counter medications such as Tylenol, Advil, and cold remedies, so it is not necessary to bring them.

DRESS CODE

In an attempt to create a positive environment, we require that all clothing be modest and appropriate for life in a Christian community. We require modest 1-piece swimsuits (no tankini's please) and clothing that is not revealing. Halter tops, bare midriffs, spaghetti straps, very short shorts and clothing that is distracting or indecent or has inappropriate images or slogans will not be allowed. The dress code will be enforced by our summer staff, and campers wearing clothing deemed inappropriate will be asked to change.

LOST & FOUND POLICY

Please label all belongings! First and last names, please. Initials don't help much when we have over 3,500 campers! GENEVA is not responsible for items left behind, lost or stolen. Any items not claimed after 14 days will be given to charitable organizations.

Hints on how to reduce the risk of leaving stuff behind:

- **Label all belongings!** First and last names, please!
- Check the hooks in the bathroom before you leave camp!
- Best advice of all: send all old stuff so it doesn't matter if they lose it!

CAMP STORE

Be sure to stop by our Camp Store! The store is open during check-in and check-out. We have a really unique assortment of Geneva apparel, snacks and novelty items. High school campers will **not** be able to purchase debit cards. You will be responsible for your own spending money.

MAIL CALL!

Please note that Take a Hike campers will not be able to receive mail during the week since they will be off-site.

*The form below must accompany any medications the camper brings along.
Please cut on the dotted line and bring with you to registration.*

Instructions for Dispensing Medication

Camper's Name _____

**All medication MUST be in the original container
and have the camper's name on it!**

Name of medication

Time(s) to be given
