

What to Bring to Village Fire 2015

1. **Bedding** (there are simple beds in all dwellings, but no bedding)
2. **Plate, bowl, and coffee/tea drinking vessel** that you can use and wash and reuse for each meal (we also have some reusable plastic ones at camp, if you prefer or forget). We have lots of silverware.
3. **Directions to camp. Your GPS will not work in the winding valleys of NE Iowa, so be sure to come prepared with directions.** [Here's a link](#) to maps and directions from all four directions into camp. The address is Camp Tahigwa / 318 Tahigwa Dr/Dorchester, IA 52140. We'll have signs at some of the important intersections close to camp.

Ride Sharing

- We can help minimize car-driving by connecting with others who are coming and carpooling. [Follow this link](#) to RideCircles.us where you will be invited to join 'Community Singers.' More info below.
- If you are coming by train to LaCrosse, let us know in advance and we'll try help you get that last 45 miles to Camp Tahigwa.

You May Also Want to Bring

- Tent, if you're camping
- Flashlight
- Something to perch on: a blanket, stool, etc.
- A cooler and ice, if you need to keep things cool. (there is one home-sized refrigerator available, but the large refrigerators in the kitchen will all be used by the cooks this year)
- Snacks, either to share at the common area or to keep with your own things
- A poem written out on paper to post on our poetry board
- A swimsuit, in case you'd like to dip in the creek
- Rain gear, just in case (there are indoor spaces that we can use if it rains, but we're likely to be outside the whole time)
- Earplugs, in case you are sharing an inside sleeping space with someone who snores
- An African or Middle Eastern drum. Tanna will lead drum sessions and she also has some extra to share or sell.
- Some tea to contribute to the all-day tea station, and maybe coffee (We'll bring coffee too)
- We're looking to borrow some outdoor rugs that don't mind getting wet, to soften the concrete floor of the Home Nest (aka picnic shelter).
- Some colorful cloths for decorating our group spaces: sarongs, scarves, etc. Here's an idea for you who have time to make a little something to add to camp beautification: stitch or glue some fabric flag garlands that we can string between posts, trees, and tents, something like one of [these!](#) If you bring one, hang it wherever you'd like or give it to one of us to hang.

- Your own way of addressing the matter of ticks. Herbal repellent? Socks and shoes? Body scan before bed? General awareness is the starting point.
- Tools for playing: jump ropes, balls, hula hoops, Frisbees, etc.
- **Handmade Trade:** We invite you to bring along some things that you or someone you know has made or grown to sell, trade, or give away. Not too much—no more than would fit on a picnic blanket, ok? Mostly this will be a self-serve area for exchanges, so bring a vessel for receiving notes or money, or some information to help people find you. This is also where musicians' recordings and books will be available.
- **Show and Tell from your hometown:** bring an item or two that might help us to know about good things happening where you live. We'll have an informal show-and-tell area set up in the lodge where you can display posters or anything else that might help others pick up on ideas to share with their own hometowns.
- Abundance in your garden? Bouquets of flowers would be welcomed on our picnic tables and elsewhere!
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What To Leave at Home

- Though your dog is surely wonderful, he or she will need to stay elsewhere.

A Few Other Notes:

- Cell phone coverage is spotty at camp. There is a land line that can be used with a calling card: (563)546-7790. We're hoping for a mostly phone-free event, so if our phones do work and we need to use them, we'll step into the woods to do it.
- Cars and Parking: We're also looking to keep main camp and the camping areas free of cars. If you need to bring your camping equipment to your spot, please move your car back to the main parking area as soon as you've unloaded.
- Waste: It's possible that we could walk away from camp with no waste to throw away. Can you help that happen?
- Water Safety: Though we will have some lifeguards on the premises, they will be in the song circles and so parents will be the ones keeping watch over their own children during all water play.
- If you are a Facebook user, you might want to connect with others coming to Village Fire through the Facebook page that someone made for us: Village Fire 2015.

Herbal Wellness Tent

Together we will create a peaceful, supportive and inviting space to take care of health & wellness concerns that may arise during Village Fire. It will include a massage table, herbal remedies such as tinctures & salves and various helpful first aid items. There will be "open hours" when a volunteer herbalist will staff the space

if questions arise. People who want to use the space for healing such as massage or energy work can sign-up for private use. This space will not replace prompt emergency health care.

Wish List:

1. Herbal remedies and products. Tinctures, dry herbs, salves, bug spray... They must be labeled clearly with all ingredients.
2. First aid supplies like gauze, tape, bandaids and washcloths.
3. Items to make the space comfortable and pleasing like blankets & pillows. Sacred items like crystals, rocks and shells would be good too.

If you are an herbalist and would like to help facilitate this endeavor or if you are a student of the plants and are looking to gain experience, there may be mentorship and learning opportunities.

Contact Jess Krueger to discuss at redcloverbirth@gmail.com or 608-637-8751

Children's Tent

Children will largely want to be near where the action is, whether it's singing, playing games, or anything else. The water is a big draw too, and we want to be sure you know that parents are 100% in charge of their children's water safety, even if they see other adults in the water with their children. (And, we are required by camp to provide lifeguards at camp and haven't yet found any...can you help? Our lifeguards will not have shifts)

At the children's tent we'll have some tools for active play. There will be little formal programming there, but all are welcome to bring their ideas for play or creation and make them happen. If you bring a project, we can help schedule it and announce it.

Sara Mathes is creating the space and is looking for the items listed below. If you can help with any of these or if you have an idea to chat about, please contact her at sstanek@gmail.com or 608-632-0719.

- Balls, of any kind
- Hula hoops
- Frisbees [do we want these? or do you think it would get too wild?]
- Jump ropes: small and large
- Lawn games [Koob, Corn Hole/ beanbag toss, etc.]
- A slack line
- Small buckets or baskets [for collecting things?]
- Camping chairs [kid- sized and adult- sized]

One more thing on kids: we're thinking about a way at camp that some people without children might want to support parents with young children. Here's our idea: at the Welcome Table, where you'll stop by when you first arrive, we'll have some colorful armbands. If you think that at sometime during camp (it doesn't have to be all the time, and you choose when on the spur of the moment) you might want parents to know that you'd be up for watching their youngsters for a spell, you tie the band onto your arm.

Carpooling: We hope that many Village Fire campers can carpool! [Here's a special carpool group](#) you can join to find others who are coming to Village Fire.

About Ridecircles.us, *A brand-new Decorah home-grown app for ridesharing created by the Winneshiek Energy District and Luther College!*

When you [click this link](#), it will take you to the Ridecircles website where you can create an account and accept your invitation to join the Community Singing Circle. Click 'join!' You'll be taken to the circle's main page, and it should show up in your left navigation bar.

Once on the circle's main page, you will see the event list (currently, only 'Village Fire Singing' is in the list). Click on the event, and from here you can 'offer a ride' or 'request a ride.' If you offer a ride, you will be asked to input your starting point, number of seats offered, and departure times. Then others can click on your ride and claim your seats. Use the 'additional details' section in the dialogue box to tell others if you're departure time is flexible, when you're returning, etc. If you request a ride, you will be added to the list of requesters, and emailed when ride offers are created, so you can return to the site, click on the ride, and claim a seat. If you're happy to ride or drive, you can both offer and request a ride! If you 'comment' on the event page, a thread will be left on the event page; If you 'comment' on the ride, a thread will be created on the ride page.

If you get lost, use the left navigation to click on the Community Singing Circle. Or click on your dashboard to: see site notifications, to find your profile which you can edit (along with email notification preferences), or to get more info about the site from the 'get started' section.

Please remember that this is brand-spanking new and we are helping beta-test the latest version of the site, which is all based on saving energy and reducing carbon emissions by enabling social groups to ride-share. If you run into any errors, have any suggestions for improvements, or want to sing its praises, please contact Kayla Koether-kayla@energydistrict.org- at the Winneshiek Energy District, a local non-profit.

And, though this app came out of Decorah, it's meant to be used anywhere for any event. Please feel free to make use of it in your communities in the months to come.

