

Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp is Lots of Fun!

Another year brings another exciting session of the Sons of Norway District V Norwegian Heritage Camp - Masse Moro! 2012 marks the 34th year that camp Masse Moro has been offered and we're not slowing down any time soon! The program is for **boys and girls ages 9-15** and will be held from **July 22nd – August 4th 2012**. You can find application materials on our website at the following address: <http://massemoro.org/forms.aspx>. Applications for District One campers are encouraged prior to February 25th, as this gives you the best chance at scholarships from your lodge as well as matching funds from the District. Please feel free to contact Kaia Ellis, Camp Administrator, if you have any questions: kaia.ellis@yahoo.com or (507) 581-3700.

One of the most important features of our camp is that it is a Sons of Norway program. Campers have the opportunity to not only learn about Norway, but to also try their hand at the cultural skills and sports medals programs that Sons of Norway has put together! We can't think of a better way to encourage our youth to participate in Sons of Norway than by showing them how fun it is!

Camp is held on the Beaver Creek Nature Reserve, just outside of Eau Claire, in Fall Creek, Wisconsin. It has been said that the site couldn't be more ideal for a Norwegian camp! Campers stay in cozy log cabins nestled between pine trees and walking trails, eat homemade bread and delicious meals made from scratch, take 2 language classes and 2 Norwegian activity classes each day, sing songs, learn about modern day Norway and significant Norwegian historical events, and have a lot of fun, hence the name *Masse Moro*! Beaver Creek is also hard at work making some wonderful renovations to the facility, so we're very excited for everyone to see it!

A little about my own story. . . My personal involvement with Masse Moro started when I was 10 years old. At that time, my mother, Mary Klockeman, was the Camp Administrator, and I was a first-time camper. I had never been to a summer camp, I was a shy kid, and I didn't know what my mom was getting me into. But little by little, I started to see our family traditions come alive at camp and I started to understand the significance of the holiday songs, and foods that I had grown up experiencing, and I couldn't wait to come back the next year! I attended Masse Moro for 6 years, and during that time, I became extremely close to the friends I met there, so much so that one of my camp friends was a bridesmaid in my wedding! While I was at camp I felt so connected to the other campers, singing silly songs all day, having inside jokes with the cabin, winning some of my events in the Viking Olympics, and having an outlet for my creativity. I learned quickly how much I loved **rosemallig**, which encouraged me to continue painting in school and in college. Attending Masse Moro is also one of the main reasons I became interested in studying **kveding**, Norwegian folk singing. With my mother's help, I sought out and was granted a scholarship to travel to Norway, purchased materials to construct my own *bunad* from the same region as my ancestors, and navigated my way through Oslo to **Frognerparken**, on my own at age 13, with the vocabulary I had learned at Masse Moro. This camp has significantly impacted my life. What will it do for the youth in your life? Find out!! Sign them up for camp – you will be glad you did, and so will they!