

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME AT SYNOD SCHOOL...

NEWCOMER ORIENTATION. There will be a special orientation time at **5:00 p.m. on Sunday** in Anderson Auditorium in the Siebens Forum just for Newcomers to Synod School. We will go over what to expect, help you decide what's important to read and what can wait, how to get around campus, and all the "rules" which everyone knows but never talks much about. It will also be a time to get all your questions answered in a safe place. If you are unable to attend that session, another Q&A session will be held after worship and orientation in the chapel.

Q & A REGARDING SYNOD SCHOOL. The Question and Answer sheet on the back of this page will probably be especially helpful. If you have other questions, don't hesitate to call or email and ask!

YOUR HOUSING. Your registration confirmation shows the type of housing arrangement to which you have been assigned. All dorms are air-conditioned, and we rarely have problems with rooms being too warm. We strongly encourage you to bring an extra blanket as folks have complained of being cold, the college only provides one blanket per bed, and air conditioning is not always easy to adjust. Remember that bathrooms are shared with others.

YOUR COURSES. Your registration confirmation form will show the courses to which you have been assigned based on your requests and available space. If you change your mind about the courses you'd like to take, or if you want to check on availability of a class you did not get in, there will be a table at registration for making changes, if course limits allow.

REGISTRATION AT THE SCHOOL. The first thing you should do is park in the big parking lot on West Fourth Street. Then come to the Siebens Forum (enter from Grand Avenue – see map). The Sunday Registration Information sheet has more details about the process. Any balance due can be paid in cash or with a check made out to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. We are not able to take credit cards. There will also be a place to pick up your free mug or water bottle for the week, change classes, change the name on your nametag, and get something cold to drink.

AFTER REGISTRATION. Unload, unpack, and get settled and, if time permits, tour the campus and find your and/or your children's classrooms or visit the bookstore and gift shop. Be back at Siebens Forum at 5:00 p.m. for the Newcomer Orientation. All ages are welcome.

SYNOD SCHOOL COMMONS. Located in Siebens Forum on the way to the dining hall, the Commons is where you will find the Synod School office, the bookstore, gift shop, and announcements of mini-courses and other events and news.

DINNER. Dinner is served from 5:00-6:30, cafeteria-style (as are all meals), and it helps if everyone doesn't show up at the same time. There will be plenty of time after the orientation for you to have a leisurely meal before the evening worship at 6:45 p.m. And you'll get instructions on how to find all the food in the cafeteria! There are lots of options.

CHILDREN AND CHILD CARE. Children are a primary reason for Synod School to exist. They are welcome everywhere, although some programs and courses are obviously aimed at adults. There are full programs for babies through grade 6 during convocation and morning and afternoon classes using the denomination's Vacation Bible School curriculum. Grades 7-12 have a special convocation and morning classes; grades 7-9 participate in a planned program in the afternoons and grades 10-12 are free to take the courses of their choice in the afternoon. At no time do we officially provide child care apart from the children's classes. Your children and youth are your responsibility during meal times, afternoon free time, and all evenings. Evening worship is intentionally intergenerational. Parents who want to participate in the mini-courses in the evening should arrange child care with other parents. During orientation on Sunday evening there will be an opportunity for parents to find their children's classrooms and meet the teachers so they can share expectations and respond to any questions. Parents, please read "How to Help Your Child Have a Successful Synod School Experience" included with this mailing.

MINI-COURSES. Each evening there are a number of other options to keep you up late and learning. This usually includes a number of mini-courses (often variations on daytime classes), movies, Saints-a-Playin' (outdoor games for the young and young-at-heart), and the popular "Coffee House" with refreshments and live music. Options will be posted by noon daily on all bulleting boards in Siebens Forum and projected before evening worship in the Chapel.

**CALL OR EMAIL US IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS –
OR BRING THEM TO REGISTRATION OR THE SYNOD SCHOOL OFFICE IN SIEBENS FORUM AT BV**

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS REGARDING SYNOD SCHOOL

What if people need to contact me during the week?

There are phones in the lounges of all the dorms, but not in your dorm room. We encourage you to bring your cell phone if you need to have a phone in your room. When you cannot be reached at your dorm, the following numbers will be helpful:

SYNOD SCHOOL OFFICE: 712-749-1447

(Staffed from approximately 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. daily.)

BV INFORMATION DESK: 712-749-2400 (staffed 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.)

BV CAMPUS SECURITY: 712-749-2500 (answered 24 hours a day)

What should I bring to wear?

Dress is casual: play clothes for children, shorts or casual wear for adults. While the air outside is often hot and humid, all our meeting rooms and dorms are air conditioned. A sweater or jacket is useful for some air conditioned rooms or if the weather turns cool. All dorm bathrooms are “down the hall” and dorms are intergenerational and co-ed, so make sure you have a robe or something else which will make the trip comfortable for you and others.

Are there opportunities for recreation?

There is an indoor swimming pool which is available during designated hours. The college charges a \$3 fee for each use of the pool. Please plan accordingly and bring your own pool towels. Tennis and volleyball courts are available and two golf courses are nearby, but you must bring your own equipment. The campus is on the lakeshore and there is a walking trail along the lake, but there is no beach for swimming near campus. **Please leave at home skateboards, roller skates, in-line skates and any other recreational equipment that would compete with pedestrians or wheelchairs for sidewalk space.**

What is provided and what else should I bring?

An institutional linen packet is provided which includes a pillow, pillow slip, two flat sheets, two bath and hand towels, and a wash cloth. A blanket, small cup, and a small bar of soap are also provided. If you are fussy about any of those things, bring your own, plus anything else that will help you feel at home in a spartan room. Bring an extra blanket as the air conditioning is not always easy to adjust. If you don't like to re-use towels, bring your own extras. If you will need hangers, bring your own. If you have a child for whom you are bringing a sleeping bag and/or air mattress, no linen pack is provided. Please plan to bring linens and towels for your child.

Also you may want to bring your Bible, a notebook and writing implement, and swim suit plus any other athletic equipment you will need. If you have children, games and books to use during the rest hour each afternoon will be useful. If you plan to read in bed, you may want to bring a desk lamp as most rooms only have overhead or desk lighting. An extension cord is helpful if you bring personal appliances.

Is smoking permitted on campus?

Consistent with Iowa law, the whole campus (including dorms, classroom buildings, lawns, etc.) are non-smoking areas. If you must smoke, you'll need to do it “in the street;” please dispose of cigarette butts appropriately.

How much money do I need to bring?

Meals are included in the registration fees for those staying on-campus. Commuters may purchase meals they wish to eat. Coffee and ice water will be available for everyone in Dixon-Eilers Hall during breaks. Vending machines are available to purchase soft drinks and snacks. If you plan to purchase books or gifts, credit cards are accepted only by the Cokesbury (Synod School) and campus bookstores. For other purchases bring either cash or checks. We will receive an offering for scholarships on Thursday and we hope you will give generously to help others attend next year.

Will I be able to do laundry during the School?

There are laundromats on campus which take change, but you should bring your own detergent.

What about accessing my email?

Computers are available in the campus library in Siebens Forum. Wireless internet access is also available.

Can I bring videos or DVDs for me or my kids to watch during free time?

The Synod School Committee discourages anyone from bringing their own videos. If someone does bring a video tape or DVD to share, we ask that it be previewed by the committee or staff before it is used on campus. (This is policy.)

If this is your first Synod School, turn over for more information →