



STATE REQUIREMENTS / LICENSING REGULATIONS

One of the many assets of Camp Geneva is its wonderful setting that gives guests the opportunity to be on the shores of Lake Michigan and enjoy that incredible body of water. Yet Lake Michigan also has times when it can be very dangerous for those not accustomed to its power.

1. **Walking the beach:** The beach available to groups throughout the year and you may walk the beach along the water line in either direction. Your group should recognize that the area above the high-water mark is private property and thus we urge them to respect our neighbors' property. They should also recognize that there are no lifeguards on duty on the beach and that they should not swim without observing the following procedures.
2. **Swimming in the lake:** State licensing regulations come into play when your group decides to swim. If you swim, it becomes an "aquatic activity" in the State's perspective and is subject to regulations. Those regulations require the following:
 - a. You will need a certified lifeguard on duty for up to 50 swimmers, with additional lifeguards required for each 50 (thus one life guard needed for 25 swimmers, two needed for 60 swimmers)
 - b. In addition to the lifeguard, you will also need one trained observer up to 20 swimmers and an additional observer for each additional ten swimmers in the water beyond 20
 - c. You need to establish and enforce an accounting system, such as the buddy system, for supervising swimmers that includes procedures for swimmer check-in and check-out and periodic accounting for swimmers at least once every ten minutes
 - d. Swimming may not occur after dark
 - e. Head-first diving is not allowed in water that is less than 5 feet deep
 - f. Since our regular permanent swimming area has been removed, your swimming is classified as a "temporary swimming site" and thus the State requires that you also provide the following lifesaving equipment (this can be made available by GENEVA with prior arrangements):
 - Back Board
 - First aid kit
 - Whistle or audible signal device for each staff person on duty
 - Ring buoy or other appropriate throwing assist device that has a rope attached of sufficient length for the area
3. **Stay off the ice:** Throughout the winter icebergs can form along the shoreline and it is tempting to walk out onto the ice and climb those dunes. But that ice is extremely unstable and much less solid than it looks. Shifts in wind direction create open water. For safety, your group should not go out onto the ice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS: By signing below, you agree that you have been made aware of the State expectations under the licensing rules.

(signed)

(group)

(date)