



THE MISSION AND VISION OF NERINGA

The mission and vision of Neringa were established by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in 1969 when they brought the camping experience from Putnam to Neringa. Priorities and guidelines emerged for 'the way,' 'the how,' and 'the why' of living the mission. It is our responsibility to continue to stay true to the mission and vision of Neringa today, and into the future.

THE MISSION of Neringa is to provide a nurturing experience rich in Lithuanian heritage and Catholic faith that encourages the positive character development of campers, counselors, staff, families and all participants.

LITHUANIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

Neringa serves those who want to provide a Lithuanian cultural immersion experience for their child, family, or themselves. All camp sessions and programs include components of Lithuanian culture, (i.e. language, history, literature, customs, folk dancing, songs, music, art, and cuisine) and are adapted to the level of the participants.

CATHOLIC FAITH

The heart of Neringa's mission is to embrace and celebrate God and God's merciful love, and to acknowledge that each person is created in the image and likeness of God. The Roman Catholic faith tradition is the core structure for expressing the faith. Faith is taught not only through daily prayer, but also through activities fostering a faith experience. Christian values are the norm in daily routines and interpersonal relations, e.g. love your neighbor as yourself.

POSITIVE CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Activities strive to engage the whole individual – mind, body, and spirit. A positive and cooperative environment is created to enable campers and participants to be their natural selves, share skills, attempt the unknown, learn from mistakes, and appreciate everyone's contribution which ultimately fosters growth and a positive self-regard.

THE VISION is that Neringa will provide a nurturing, natural, and supportive community where campers, counselors, staff, family members and all participants can express and experience their Lithuanian heritage and Catholic faith, thereby enhancing their personal, cultural, and spiritual growth.

NURTURING

All activities aim to be meaningful alongside being fun. The teaching method is to create a lived experience e.g. drama/plays/reenactment, experimentation and/or discussions, which at the same time develop character.

Reflection moments and activities fostering self-knowledge are an integral part of a program. Every individual, regardless of their responsibilities at camp, participates in the mission and contributes to the lived experience. Everyone is a role model.

NATURAL

Surrounded by the natural beauty of Vermont, activities foster appreciation, stewardship and care of the natural environment. Camp inventory is kept simple and uncluttered and the elimination of city sounds and technology help to absorb and be inspired by nature.

The greatest resources are the natural skills of the individuals at camp. People, not things, are the key to identify what is truly valuable and meaningful; personal interaction is a priority.

Technology is used only to acquire information and is used minimally. Camp is the perfect opportunity to experience the treasures of the world without the screen.

SUPPORTIVE

Each participant is addressed with respect, valued for his/her uniqueness, and supported by a safe environment.

Central to daily life at camp are collaboration, mutual support, and team work, which counterbalance the competitiveness and individualism encountered in society.

COMMUNITY

All activities, programs, and events should help build an inclusive community and foster healthy friendships and relationships.

Family values and habits of healthy relationships, i.e. love, respect, communication, empathy, understanding, sensitivity, sharing, tolerance, honesty, hard work, forgiveness, truthfulness, flexibility, and similar traits are constantly affirmed and reinforced.

The šūkis “EINAM, DAROM!” (*Let’s go! Let’s do it! Together!*) encourages everyone to participate and collaborate – together we create the dynamics of Neringa camp life.