



# Icelandic Language and Culture Camp

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To: Icelandic National League Chapters

I am the President and Director of the Icelandic Language and Culture Camp. We are holding this year's camp at Camp Veselka, just 2 miles north of Gimli, Manitoba, Canada. This camp has been in operation for many decades. It has given youth of Icelandic heritage the opportunity to engage in that very heritage and become active and proud members of the Icelandic community.

Unfortunately over time our camp has seen its numbers drop. Our funding has decreased dramatically and the Icelandic Camp cannot afford to offer the experience that our children rightly deserve. In the past our camp would host 80+ campers over a two week period. Now we are lucky to reach 15 campers over a 6 day period.

However, there is hope. Since the inception of the Snorri Program in 1998, Western Icelandic youth have become more interested in their Icelandic heritage. This interest is finally trickling down to the younger people and the camp is starting to garner more interest. I, myself am also a Snorri Program alumnus from 2002.

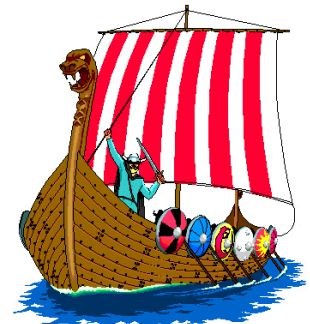
I have established what I think are very achievable and exciting goals for the camp. I am looking to increase our numbers from 15 to over 100 over the next 5 years. I aim to have campers from all across Canada, United States and Iceland attend. As well, I believe the camp should run for a two week period when our numbers warrant it. The most important and exciting goal will be the purchase and renovation and/or construction of our very own Icelandic Camp property. This will take not only time but money and help from many different organizations and people.

The reason for this letter is twofold. The first is to challenge your organization to sponsor 2- 4 campers to attend this year's camp. By doing this, not only are you helping re-build our camp but you are affording a child the opportunity to explore their Icelandic heritage. For a child to attend our camp it will cost \$300 for full campers and \$250 for day only campers (no overnights). These costs include:

- Camp Rental
- Meals for the entire camp
- Staff
- Language & Craft material

This money covers all costs except any personal spending money the campers would like to have while in Gimli.

The second reason I am writing is to request a monetary donation. It has become increasingly expensive to run the camp and keep registration for the campers at an affordable level. With that being said, our camp will be relying heavily on financial assistance from Icelandic organizations throughout Canada, United States and Iceland.



We hope to be able to build our funds enough to deliver a world class experience to our campers, as well as ensure that future campers will be able to enjoy the Icelandic camp for many years to come. It has been difficult over the last several years to find qualified camp staff. Many young adults are unable to work with us due to several factors. They are often unable to get the time off from their summer jobs and our camp cannot afford to pay them a lot for their time. The following is a cost breakdown of salaries:

Director/ President	\$1200
Camp Cook	\$300
Lifeguard	\$300
Instructors	\$100
Counselors	\$100

Having served in most of these positions before, I believe that these people deserve to see an increase to their camp pay. Staff stabilization is an integral part of the survival of our Icelandic Camp and adequate compensation is essential to accomplish this.

As the 2009 Icelandic and Language Camp quickly approaches I look forward to your organizations response. For more information please feel free to contact me at the following:

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Thank you,

Brad Hirst  
Camp President  
Camp Director