



Official Newsletter of Sons of Norway District Six Recreation Center



Summer/Fall 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings from Camp Norge!

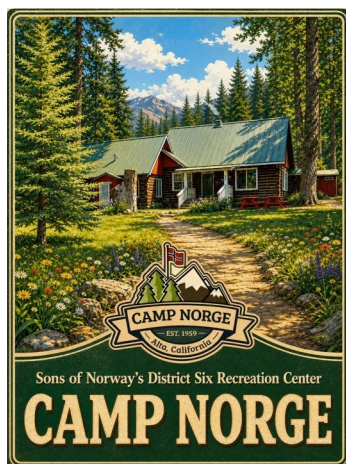
I'm still smiling about the day last month our District Six convention attendees traded the hotel ballroom for our meadow and pines. As the two busloads of Sons of Norway members rolled up the hill, greeted by a welcoming committee and a bluegrass band in the meadow, I could not have been prouder and more excited about this place. The District Six Recreation Center (Camp Norge) Board along with the convention planning committee and our many helpers really outdid themselves with this event. Seeing folks walk the future site of the Hygge Hus, hike our trails, and hear the story of Snowshoe Thompson, I was struck again by how lucky we are to have these 46 acres in the Sierra foothills that belong to all of us.

Speaking of the Hygge Hus — I have wonderful news. Thanks to your generosity at convention, we hit our phase II \$100,000 fundraising goal. And then, in one of those moments that reminds you how much this camp means to people, the Karen Nelson Estate blessed us with a \$150,000 gift, bringing our total now to \$250,000. Karen's rosemaling still graces our Stabbur, and now her legacy will help build cabins that let members who can't manage our hills and stairs fully join camp life again. We're not done — \$300,000 is the next milestone — but we're closer than I ever expected to be by this point in the year. We are putting together a special sub-committee to plan and oversee the Hygge Hus project. If you or someone you know is experienced in residential or home construction and would like to help, please contact me.

Behind the scenes, your board has been busy too. Our Finance Committee is already working to help steward Hygge Hus funds and our Century Club endowment with the care and

transparency they deserve. And we're working through a PG&E undergrounding project on the property this fall — you'll see disclosures about it if you're booking a stay between mid-September and early November.

Continued on page 2



This issue is full of reminders of why this place matters. Tom Gundershaug and Autumn Schwemer share their board member stories on the pages ahead, and reading them back-to-back, I'm reminded that Camp Norge runs on exactly this kind of devotion. Our Trollfjell and Folkehøgskule campers spent their summer soaking up language, rosemaling, and Norwegian folk dance, and even found time to get soaked in the annual July 4th parade and water fight with the Dutch Flat fire department (again)! And in June we hosted a beautiful wedding of our board member Lynn and her now husband Nathan — proof that Camp Norge keeps writing new chapters even as it holds onto old ones.

One more way to get involved: our Century Committee is relaunching our Camp Ambassador program, recruiting members to represent Camp Norge at their home lodges — sharing news, answering questions, and spreading the word about upcoming events. If you love this place and enjoy a little storytelling, we'd love to have you. Reach out to any board member to learn more.

Looking ahead, there's a full calendar to enjoy: Kretsstevne over Labor Day weekend, Camp Oldfjell in September, the Rosemaling Retreat, and Folkedans Stevne in October. And please join us for our Fall Dugnad Weekend, October 17–18, as we button up camp for winter — one of my favorite weekends of the year. We make the work party weekends fun even with all the raking and cleaning.

None of this happens without you. Thank you for making Camp Norge what it is. I hope to see you at camp soon.

Fraternally,

Fred Hymans

fred.hymans@campnorge.org



Meet Your Recreation Center Board Members

Tom Gundershaug

Solheim Lodge 6-069, Stockton, CA

I have been a member of Sons of Norway since November 2009 and have served on the Camp Norge Recreation Center Board since the District Six Convention in Mesa, Arizona, in 2012.

For many years Solheim Lodge served Lutefisk dinners in November, and I was treated with my first taste of Lutefisk that fall of 2009. If it was a Norwegian treat I had to like it and I did! Most of my extended Gundershaug family in Minnesota disliked Lutefisk including my father. I don't know why. Solheim Lodge extended an invitation at the annual dinner to join Sons of Norway and paid for your first years Lodge dues. Myself, my wife Diane and my sister Patsy and her husband Norman Lithco all joined Sons of Norway that year taking advantage of the paid dues offer.

Following the joining of Solheim Lodge I got to know Alex Scheflo of Solheim Lodge and Harry Bjerkhoel of Nordahl Greg Lodge and they had been Recreation Center board members for years. We became good friends going to many Camp Norge events over the next 2 years, 2010 and 2011. Alex and Harry had just finished building the Heritage Hall (along with Harry's son Leland) at Camp Norge and they wanted to step down from the board. They encouraged me to run for the Recreation Center board during the District Six convention in 2012. I was elected to the board that year.

I'm a licensed electrical contractor and my skills as an electrician have been utilized at Camp Norge. I get great joy out of helping maintain Camp Norge. Since 2010 I have helped cook at the Annual Memorial Day and Labor Day Kretstevna weekends, enjoying the many friends I have met and worked with over the years.

I have had the pleasure of seeing Camp Norge improve, prosper, and thrive during my last 14 years as a board member. Camp Norge is a unique and essential part of the success of Sons of Norway, and I am proud to be a part of that group of Norwegians, Sons of Norway Members who want to see the preservation of Norwegian heritage and culture. God Bless Camp Norge and the Sons of Norway.

Takk,

Tom Gundershaug

tom.gundershaug@campnorge.org



Meet Your Recreation Center Board Members

Autumn Schwemer



Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson Lodge 6-014, Oakland, CA

I joined Sons of Norway in early 2020 and became a member of the Recreation Center Board in 2024. In June 2026, I accepted the role of Board Secretary. I have also served as Social Director for my lodge for the past two years and am a member of the Sunshine Committee.

I have a great love for the outdoors and my Norwegian heritage, so Camp Oldfjell is the perfect place to bring those passions together. My

sister, Alicia, and I attend Camp Oldfjell every year. I love meeting new campers and taking workshops where I can learn to make traditional foods, create artwork, and try different forms of needlework. One year, after visiting with many of the attendees, we realized there were six to eight sets of siblings at camp. It felt like such a special connection that I gathered everyone together for a group photo to capture the moment.

Camp Norge holds a special place in my heart. It reminds me of the small town where I grew up, where every house was painted red with white trim.

I am especially excited about the Hygge Hus project because it will make Camp Norge more accessible for members with mobility challenges, helping keep our older members and others who need accessible accommodations involved in camp life.

I believe the best organizations are built by people who care deeply and are willing to roll up their sleeves. I am excited to contribute my time, skills, and enthusiasm to help Camp Norge remain a place where families create lifelong memories, friendships grow, and Norwegian traditions are celebrated.

Fraternally,

Autumn Schwemer

autumn.schwemer@campnorge.org





Northern California Kretsstevne | September 5 to 7, 2026

Celebrate Labor Day Weekend at Camp Norge for Kretsstevne—our annual “Gathering of the Clan”! Whether you stay the weekend or drop in for a day, you’ll enjoy good food, great company, and that one-of-a-kind Camp Norge spirit.

The weekend is packed with fun for all ages. Adults can enjoy pickleball, karaoke, horseshoes, and scenic hiking trails, while kids can dive into outdoor games, the playset, and the swimming pool. The camp will be alive with laughter and activity from morning to night.

All meals, lovingly prepared by local lodges, will be served in Heritage Hall—no cooking, no cleanup!

Meal registration opens on August 1 and closes August 23. See page 10 for the full event flyer and details.

Camp Oldfjell | September 19 to 22, 2026

Camp Oldfjell continues to be one of District Six and Camp Norge's most popular events. Once again, our indoor lodging has sold out, along with many of our classes. There are still openings in Viking Costume, Norwegian Folk Dancing, Nordic Herbal Traditions (Healing Yarrow Salve), and Wine & Painting.

Beyond the classes, you'll enjoy the full Camp Norge experience with scenic walks and hikes, a star-gazing program, campfires, movies, and our popular pre-dinner social gathering, Koselig Time.

Camp Oldfjell is open to adults ages 18 and older. If you don't have your own camping equipment, you can stay in our Viking Village, where we provide a tent and cot, you simply bring your bedding. Best of all, tents and RV camping are free for 2026!

Visit sofn6.org/camp-oldfjell/ to view the current course catalog or register today.

Rosemaling Retreat | September 26 to 27, 2026

Discover the beauty and heritage of Norwegian rosemaling—folk art painting known for its elegant swirls, floral motifs, and vibrant colors. Open to painters 18+, this weekend retreat welcomes all skill levels and provides a focused, creative environment to learn or refine your technique.

Tuition includes classroom instruction, use of paints and mediums, a wood piece to decorate, and a design packet to take home. Enjoy five meals with your fellow artists and spend plenty of time painting and connecting.

Each class is capped at 21 students to ensure personalized instruction. Registration forms can be found [HERE](#).

Folkedans Stevne | October 23 to 25, 2026

Dance your way into fall at Camp Norge’s Folkedans Stevne! This lively retreat offers traditional Norwegian dance instruction in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. It’s a great chance to build new skills, meet new friends, and celebrate Scandinavian culture.

Beginners are welcome, and no partner is needed. Just bring your enthusiasm and your dancing shoes!

More information will be available in mid-September. For updates, visit campnorge.org/site/folk-dancers/ or reach out to: Zena Corcoran: zmcorcoran@gmail.com or Meg Laycock: meg@jstubb.com.

District Six Spends a Day at Camp Norge

Convention attendees traded the city for the Sierra foothills as they boarded buses for a memorable day at Camp Norge, District Six's recreation center.

The welcome was pure Norwegian hospitality, complete with refreshments and the lively sounds of a bluegrass band. Throughout the day, everyone had the opportunity to explore Camp Norge in their own way. Activities included guided property tours, scenic hikes, hands-on crafts, a pool party, and a fascinating presentation on Snowshoe Thompson by History Expeditions.

Of course, no visit to Camp Norge would be complete without great food. Kirby Aasen, the chef for Camp Trollfjell and Camp Oldfjell, prepared a delicious lunch that was enjoyed by all.

One of the day's most meaningful moments was visiting the future home of the **Hygge Hus**, Camp Norge's planned mobility-friendly cabins. Seeing the site firsthand offered an exciting glimpse into the camp's future and the many opportunities it will provide for generations of Sons of Norway members.

The day was filled with fellowship, laughter, and a renewed appreciation for the special place we all call Camp Norge.



Hygge Hus Campaign Reaches Major Milestone

The dream of making Camp Norge more accessible for everyone continues to become a reality.

The Hygge Hus project was created to provide comfortable, fully accessible accommodations for members and guests who are unable to navigate Camp Norge's hills, stairs, and uneven terrain. The current plan calls for two individual accessible cabins, each featuring a bedroom, bathroom, kitchenette, living area, and welcoming front porch. Located near Heritage Hall with a level paved walkway, these cabins will allow more people to fully participate in camp life while enjoying the beauty and tranquility of Camp Norge.

The response from our members has been truly inspiring. Thanks to the generosity of individuals, lodges, and supporters throughout District Six, we reached our original fundraising goal of \$100,000 during the District Six Convention in Sacramento this June.

Following the convention, the Recreation Center Board received an extraordinary gift from the Karen Nelson Estate. That generous donation of \$150,000 brought the total raised to an incredible \$250,000.

Karen Nelson was a beloved member of the Sons of Norway family, a longtime instructor at Penny's Rosemaling Retreats, and a Vesterheim Gold Medalist in Rosemaling. Her beautiful craftsmanship can be seen in the rosemaling that adorns the Stabbur in the meadow. Through her generous legacy, Karen has helped move the Hygge Hus project dramatically closer to becoming a reality, ensuring that future generations can experience all that Camp Norge has to offer.

With \$250,000 now raised, our next milestone is \$300,000. Every contribution brings us one step closer to breaking ground and creating these welcoming cabins for members and guests of all abilities.

Thank you to everyone who has donated, volunteered, and championed this project. Together, we are creating a Camp Norge that reflects the spirit of fellowship and inclusion that has always made it such a special place.

If you would like to help us reach our next milestone, please consider making a donation to the Hygge Hus campaign. Every gift will help create accessible cabins where everyone can experience the beauty and fellowship of Camp Norge. You can visit our GoFundMe page [HERE](#) or mail your contribution to Camp Norge Hygge Hus, P.O. Box 543 Newcastle, CA 95658.



Karen Nelson at the 2015 unveiling of the Stabbur, surrounded by her beautiful rosemaling.



Maury Lee enjoys the view from the future site of the Hygge Hus.



Trollfjell Folkehøgskule

This year's Trollfjell Folkehøgskule was another memorable experience for our campers, ages 14 to 17. During their two weeks at Camp Norge, students immersed themselves in Norwegian culture while building friendships and creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Campers explored a variety of cultural classes, including Norwegian language and rosemaling, while also giving back to Camp Norge through service projects. This year, they sanded and painted the front porch of the Main Lodge, leaving a lasting contribution for future campers and guests to enjoy.

Of course, camp wasn't all work. The group celebrated the Fourth of July in nearby Dutch Flat, marching in the community parade before joining the town's legendary water fight. Once again, the firefighters claimed victory! The fun continued with hikes through the Sierra, a trip to the Auburn Fairgrounds to watch the fireworks, and a birthday celebration for Hannah.

Trollfjell Folkehøgskule is about more than learning Norwegian culture. It's about developing new skills, serving others, making lifelong friends, and experiencing the joy of summer camp in the beautiful Sierra Nevada. We can't wait to see what next summer brings!



Camp Trollfjell

Camp Trollfjell is off to a wonderful start! Since arriving on Sunday, July 12, our campers, ages 8 to 13, have already begun their Norwegian heritage adventure. They've jumped into activities like rosemaling and Norwegian folk dancing, reconnected with old friends, made new friends, and are enjoying another week filled with learning, laughter, and Camp Norge traditions.

To learn more about District Six's Language and Heritage Camps, visit sofn6.org/arv/.



Come and Stay!

This summer, Camp Norge once again served as the backdrop for a beautiful mountain wedding, reminding us that our camp is more than just a destination. It's a place where lifelong memories are made. Imagine exchanging vows beneath the towering pines, celebrating with family and friends under twinkling lights in the meadow, and ending the evening beneath a sky full of stars. Whether you're planning an intimate gathering or a larger celebration, Camp Norge offers a one-of-a-kind setting that your guests will never forget.

Camp Norge is the perfect setting for weddings, family reunions, retreats, birthdays, and other special occasions. Whether you're planning an exclusive event and want the entire property to yourselves or need only a portion of the camp for a smaller gathering, we can help create the experience that's right for you. Many groups return year after year to enjoy facilities tailored to their needs, from renting the Social Hall and dormitories for family reunions to reserving the entire camp for milestone celebrations.

Guests can choose from a variety of lodging options, including RV and tent sites, the historic Main House, cozy cabins, and three rustic dormitories. The Social Hall, complete with a full kitchen, accommodates up to 60 guests, while Heritage Hall features a commercial kitchen and seating for up to 100. The property also includes a swimming pool, a fire pit, hiking trails, horseshoe pits, and plenty of open space to relax and reconnect.

Camp Norge is also the perfect base camp for exploring the Sierra. Located just off Interstate 80, we're only an hour from Sacramento and North Lake Tahoe, with world-class skiing, mountain biking, and hiking nearby. Historic Colfax is just 15 minutes away, while Grass Valley and Nevada City, known for their Gold Rush history, charming shops, and local restaurants, are only 30 minutes from camp. Rollins Lake, with boat rentals, fishing, and swimming, is also just a short drive away.

Whether you're planning a peaceful mountain getaway or your next outdoor adventure, visit Camp Norge's [WEB-SITE](#) to check lodging availability and rates. If you're interested in hosting a wedding, family reunion, retreat, or other group event, call (530) 389-2508 to discuss the many rental options available, from individual facilities to exclusive use of the entire camp.

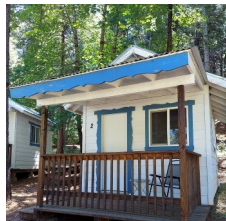




Reservations

Reservations are now available online. Visit campnorge.org/site/reservations to check out the types of housing available. We have rooms that are large enough for an entire family. Two examples are the Family Cabin, with six twin beds, and Dorm 1 Room 1 has two sets of bunk beds and a full-size bed. You can also reserve your tent or RV sites on the site. Guests have full access to the lower level of the Main Lodge offering a kitchen, living room, dining table, books & board games, and the bathhouses offering bathrooms and hot showers.

Book your Camp Norge getaway today! To check availability and prices, please visit [RESERVATIONS](#) on our website. The facility is available for member sponsored family events and reunions, youth groups, and club groups. Call for details and availability. Contact us at: (530) 389-2508 or reservations@campnorge.org.



Century Club

Camp Norge is cherished as the jewel of Sons of Norway – District Six. The 46+ acre camp is a recreational wonderland nestled in the Sierra Nevada mountains. Camp Norge is the only district-wide gathering space in District Six and creates a special opportunity for us to connect with our members and share our Scandinavian heritage with younger generations.

Maintaining this incredible property is no easy feat, which is why the Century Club was formed in 1996. The Century Club is a membership group dedicated to maintaining, sustaining, and improving the camp. To join the Century Club individuals must commit to donating at least \$100 annually or \$10 per month.

Every year half of the funds raised by the Century Club go directly to camp maintenance projects while the other half is set aside to build an endowment – meaning that your donation to the Century Club will help make an impact for generations to come!

Your investment in the Century Club enables us to ensure the viability of the camp. Please consider joining the Century Club today! Go to century.campnorge.org/ for information on how to join!



Recreation Center Board Members

Fred Hymans	President	Nordahl Grieg #052	fred.hymans@campnorge.org
Lynn Skrukrud	Vice President	Gulldalen #128	lynn.skrukrud@campnorge.org
Jim Sturtevant	Treasurer	Nordahl Grieg #052	jim.sturtevant@campnorge.org
Autumn Schwemer	Secretary	Bjornstjerne Bjornson #014	autumn.schwemer@campnorge.org
Tom Gundershaug	Board Member	Solheim #069	tom.gundershaug@campnorge.org
Jason Morken	Board Member/Webmaster	Solheim #069	jason.morken@campnorge.org
Steven Foley	Board Member	Gulldalen #128	steven.foley@campnorge.org
Terry Dill	Board Member	Freya #062	terry.dill@campnorge.org
Lis Barca	District Six President	Freya #062	lis.barca@campnorge.org

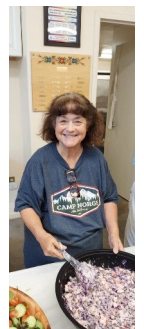
Directions

The Sons of Norway Recreation Center - Camp Norge - is located at Alta, California on I-80 about half way between Auburn and Truckee.

Take exit 146. If you are traveling East- turn right. If you are traveling West - turn left. After you cross the bridge over Canyon Creek you'll see the Recreation Center's sign at the end of the road. Turn left, the road divides after about a city block, keep to the right and head up the hill. Camp Norge is located at the top of the hill, 1/2 mile from the free-way. The address is: 250 Canyon Mine Road, Alta, CA 95701.

Our Mission

The mission of the Sons of Norway Recreation Center is to ensure the viability and sustainability of Camp Norge resources, land and buildings as a gathering place for District Six members and guests, to recreate, explore culture and heritage activities.



Labor Day Weekend 2026

Northern California Krettstevne

September 5-7, 2026



Join us for our
annual
**Gathering of
the Clans!**

Zones 1, 2, and 3 warmly welcome you to our beloved “Jewel in the Sierras” for a weekend of fun, friendship, and fresh mountain air! Whether you come for the whole weekend or just drop in for the day, there’s something for everyone to enjoy.

We’ll have a variety of activities for all ages—join in on pickleball, karaoke, hiking, a lively corn-hole tournament, and more! Kids can look forward to games, the play-set, and poolside fun.

STAY

You can come for the day or stay all weekend! Stay in the Main Lodge, Dorms, Cabins sleep under the stars in your RV or tent. Make reservations at:

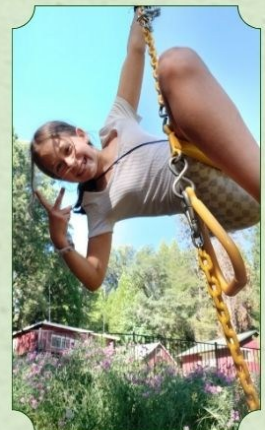
campnorge.org/site/reservations/

MEALS

Delicious meals, prepared by our local lodges, will be served in Heritage Hall.

When your purchase the weekend meal package, each adult receives a 2026 NCK pin.

campnorge.org/site/kretsstevne/



Penny's Rosemaling Retreat

At Camp Norge September 26-27, 2026

Classes are open to adults 18 years and older. Painters of all skill levels are welcome. Classes are limited to 20 students per class. Once class limits are met, a short waitlist will be established. Registration closes on September 12th.

SEMINAR COST: The cost of the seminar is \$185, which includes instruction, wood piece, paints and mediums for use during class, design packet, and 5 meals. If you have received confirmation, but find that you are unable to attend, please let me know as soon as possible so I can notify someone on the wait list. Full refunds will be made for cancellations received before September 3rd -- no refunds will be made after that date.

TEACHERS: Our teachers are Onya Tolmasoff and Sue Regadanz.

PROJECT: We will be painting a Candle Tree by Mike Lusk.



*Onya's design:
Gudbrandsdal*



*Sue's Design:
Hallingdal*

MEALS: Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Sunday breakfast and lunch; coffee/tea during breaks. Family members who are not painting can pay \$85 for meals.

COOKIES: During the coffee/tea breaks, cookies and other refreshments are provided by the participants in the specified class (to be noted on your confirmation). Each participant is asked to bring one dozen cookies or the equivalent of other refreshments to share.

ROOMS: Lodging is not included in the registration fee. Please make your bed reservation at the time you register (see Registration Form). You will pay for your lodging when you arrive at Camp. Current Sons of Norway members pay \$32.40 per night; non-members pay \$37.80 per night (both include an 8% Placer County Occupancy Tax). We are obligated for both Friday and Saturday nights, so each person will pay a total of \$64.80 (SoN member) or \$75.60 (non-member).

Since there are a limited number of beds available, RVs and tents are encouraged. For RVs, members pay \$30 per night, non-members pay \$40 per night. RV spots have electricity and water, but no sewer hookups. For tents, members pay \$20 per night, nonmembers pay \$25 per night (limit of 4 per tent/RV). Again, the obligation is for two nights (\$60 or \$80/RV; \$40 or \$50/tent). There is no occupancy tax on RVs or tents. Pets are \$2 per night. Learn more about Camp Norge lodging [here](#).

Registration form for Penny's Rosemaling Retreat



Fall Work Party

*Join us for our Fall Dugnad Weekend
and help us prepare camp for the winter!*

Saturday and Sunday

October 17 - 18, 2026 | 9am – 5pm

Stay the night at camp for free!

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner provided.

Bring gloves, tools, paint supplies, and cleaning supplies.

Projects available for all ages and abilities.

Please RSVP — Email Fred at fred.hymans@campnorge.org