



Norwegian and
North American
campers immerse
themselves in
history, culture
and heritage at
**Summer
camp.**

Johanne Grinde, a former camper at District 5's Masse Moro Heritage Camp, now works as the camp's activities director/assistant director.



hundreds of youth across North America and Norway flock to summer camp each year to experience outdoor activities, time away from home, new friendships and physical challenges. For the children and grandchildren of Sons of Norway members, summer camp can also be a chance to re-connect with their heritage and learn about a different culture. In North America, there are a few unique camps that give kids the opportunity to learn about Norway, without requiring a passport. Across the ocean, Norwegian

Heritage

Away from Home

campers are delving deep into American culture at Camp Little America. These camps represent a unique opportunity for today's youth to enhance their cultural understanding, build mutual respect and create a bridge of friendship across the Atlantic. *Viking* talked to three camp enthusiasts with Sons of Norway ties who learned a new language and a new culture at camp.

BY BERIT HANSON

Johanne Grinde

Former camper and current staff member, District 5's Masse Moro Heritage Camp in Fall Creek, Wis.

Each summer, Johanne Grinde, 23, becomes a different person. For two weeks she dons her *navneskilt* (name-

everyone has the opportunity to be someone they aren't typically, which means that a lot of kids open up more and embrace new things more readily."

Grinde loved camp so much that she decided to stick around. A camper for seven years and staff member since 2002, she is now the activities director/assistant director at Masse Moro, a two-week overnight camp for 9- to 15-year-olds. Grinde is also responsible for teaching the highest

of opportunities to learn Norwegian as a camper there.

To encourage campers to use Norwegian, Grinde gives them phrase cards with common Norwegian expressions. Kids carry the cards with them everywhere and use them to speak to fellow campers. Campers also participate in "allsang," a daily sing-along in Norwegian, and play games and speak only Norwegian at designated mealtimes.

Campers use their newfound knowledge of the language to participate in distinctly Norwegian activities, like learning about the Vikings in *Viking Leker* (Viking games), playing *fotball* (soccer) or buying snacks in the *butikk* (store). Masse Moro also extends the cultural experience to the names of buildings around the camp. The cabins are named after different regions in Norway, including Østlandet, Vestlandet, Sørlandet and Svalbard.

"I always knew, even if I didn't recognize it as a child, that my camp was special," says Grinde. "I suppose it was because it was fostering an understanding of my roots, and I was able to build relationships with other kids from various places based on a common element: heritage."

Claire Trepanier

First-time camper, District 2's Camp Trollhaugen in Easton, Wash.

For two weeks last summer, Claire Trepanier, 15, lived in Trondheim. No, she didn't actually travel all the way to Norway, but Trepanier did the next best thing and immersed herself in Norwegian culture at Camp Trollhaugen, where she lived in the "Trondheim" cabin.

Trepanier decided to go to Trollhaugen, a two-week camp run by Sons



Campers make merry music during a walk through the woods at Camp Trollhaugen.

plate) adorned with her Norwegian name, Karoline. She has taken on her Norwegian persona since childhood, when she began attending Masse Moro, the Sons of Norway District 5 Norwegian heritage camp located at the Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek, Wis.

"We wear *navneskilt* the duration of camp," says Grinde. "Because of this,

level of the camp's "språktime," or language classes.

Not every camper attending Masse Moro has Norwegian roots, but all share an interest in learning about Norwegian culture. And though Masse Moro is not considered to be a Norwegian language camp, there are plenty

Find a **CAMP** Near You

Here's more information about upcoming Norwegian camps for both kids and adults. Many have scholarships available for children and grandchildren of Sons of Norway members.

District 1

**Skogfjorden—
Concordia Language Village**
Bemidji, Minn.
Ages 7–11, June 11–16
Ages 8–13, June 18–30
Ages 12–18, July 2–14
Ages 8–13, July 16–28
Ages 12–16, July 30–Aug. 11
Grades 9–12, June 18–July 14 and
July 16–Aug. 11
Contact: Florence Netland,
District 1 scholarship
coordinator, 952-473-3180,
jnorseke@hotmail.com or visit
www.concordialanguagevillages.org.

District 2

Camp Trollhaugen
Trollhaugen Lodge
Easton, Wash.
Ages 13–15,
July 1–14, 2007
Contact: www.sofncamps.com

Camp Nidaros
Gearhart, Ore.
Ages 9–12,
July 15–28, 2007
Contact: www.sofncamps.com

Camp Normanna
Lake Riley, Wash.
Ages 9–12,
July 29–Aug. 11, 2007
Contact: www.sofncamps.com

District 3

Third District Youth Camp
Land of the Vikings
Sherman, Penn.
Ages 12–15, July 8–14
Ages 8–11, July 15–21
Contact: Evelyn Karpack,
973-627-5634, farmorkar@msn.com

Florida Youth Heritage Camp
Luther Springs Outdoor Ministry
Campgrounds in Hawthorne, Fla.
Ages 8–15, July 29–Aug. 4
Contact: Evelyn Karpack,
973-627-5634, farmorkar@msn.com

District 4

**Trollfjorden Norwegian
Language and Cultural Camp**
Metigoshe Retreat Center
Bottineau, N.D.
Ages 8 and older, June 7–10
Contact: Susan Ackre,
701-968-3291

**Bjørnetann Culture and
Language Camp**
Lions Camp near Red Lodge, Mont.
All ages, July 5–8, 2007
Contact: Sherry Habener,
406-636-4601,
s_habener@hotmail.com

**Trollhaugen Language Arts
and Cultural Camp**
Deer Valley Meadows Camp

Alix, Alberta
All ages, Aug. 12–18
Contact: Eileen Bantjes,
403-347-5281

District 5

Masse Moro Heritage Camp
Beaver Creek Reserve
Fall Creek, Wis.
Ages 9–15, July 15–28
Contact: Sheryl Hall, 815-282-3952,
sa_design@msn.com

District 6

**Trollfjell Language and
Heritage Camp**
Camp Norge Recreation Center
Alta, Calif.
Ages 8–13, July 8–21
Contact: Russ Behel, 408-393-7128,
director@trollfjell.com

District 7

District 7 Heritage Camp
Sleipner Lodge's country club
Hatzic, British Columbia
All ages, Aug. 7–12
Contact: Eric Holten Haugen,
604-826-5776, Hatzic@shawcable.com

District 8

Camp Little America
Østmarka, Norway
Ages 9–12, July 29–Aug. 4
Contact: Dagny Nystuen,
+47 22 62 00 72, dhnystuen@c2i.net



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— Claire Trepanier

of Norway members in District 2, at the urging of her grandparents, who are Sons of Norway members. She was also following in the footsteps of her older sister, who had attended Camp Normanna, another Sons of Norway District 2 camp.

“My Norwegian heritage is interesting to learn about. You don’t have to have Norwegian heritage to go to Trollhaugen, but most people there have a little bit,” says Trepanier.

The main goal of Camp Trollhaugen is to create a fun environment in which youth can learn about Norwegian culture. Campers leave with a shared knowledge of Norway and a sense of pride in their Norwegian heritage. Trepanier’s favorite part of camp was learning Norwegian folk dances, which she did twice a day, as well as eating the Norwegian food prepared by the camp cooks.

Though she will not be able to attend Trollhaugen next summer (she’ll have exceeded the 15-year-old age limit), Trepanier is confident that she’ll always look back at her time at Trollhaugen fondly, and she may even pop in for a visit every now and then.

“I really enjoyed the people I met at Trollhaugen,” she says. “I keep in touch with them and I can definitely call them my lifelong friends.”

Sondre Kjønnerød

Current camper, District 8’s Camp Little America in Østmarka, Norway

On the other side of the ocean, Sondre Kjønnerød, 10, spends one week of his summer holiday at Camp Little America in Norway, learning about Native Americans, the Civil War and even how to shoot a bow and arrow. Sondre’s grandfather, Sven Anders Kjønnerød, is

the president of Oseberg 8-001 in Tønsberg and encouraged his grandson to take advantage of this unique place where campers learn about America and can practice their English.

“I thought it sounded fun to meet new people and play with them, all while learning about America,” says Sondre.

Just like its American counterparts, Camp Little America, which is held at Vangen Skistue in Østmarka (the forest surrounding Oslo), offers campers a schedule that includes swimming, crafts, sports and free time where they can interact with friends and counselors. And just like Trollhaugen or Masse Moro, Camp Little America gives campers a taste of a different culture. With lessons in American history and culture, American candy and souvenirs for sale at the general store, and a daily tradition of raising the American flag, Camp Little America immerses attendees in all things American—all while speaking English.

“I think it was very exciting to learn about Native Americans and the Civil War, and it would be very fun to someday visit some of the historical places that we learned about at camp,” says Sondre.

Though attendance at Camp Little America has lagged in recent years, the camp hopes to attract more kids than ever next summer in order to continue this unique American experience in Norway. Camp Little America encourages any youth between the ages of 9 and 12 with an interest in the U.S. and a desire to have a fun, exciting week away from home to sign up. Sons of Norway scholarships are available for the children and grandchildren of members.

Oslo-based writer Berit Hanson first developed an interest in her Norwegian heritage after attending the Norwegian language camp Skogfjorden at the request of her grandparents.