



NEWS RELEASE

Minnesota Correctional Facilities

Faribault
Lino Lakes
Oak Park Heights
Red Wing
Rush City
St. Cloud
Shakopee
Stillwater
Thistledeew Camp
Willow River/Moose Lake

Community Supervision District Offices

Albert Lea
Bemidji
Center City
Detroit Lakes
Grand Rapids
Mankato
Marshall
Moorhead
St. Cloud
Shakopee
Winona

Sentencing to Service Regional Offices

Elk River
Moorhead
Red Wing

MINNCOR Prison Industries

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THISTLEDEW CAMP

Corrections Commissioner Joan Fabian today announced that August 25 marks the 50th year of operation for **Thistledeew Camp**, a unique residential facility for youth experiencing failure in the school, home, and community. The department will honor the anniversary with a recognition event.

Thistledeew opened in 1955 as a forestry camp for young offenders. Today, Thistledeew Camp serves as an early intervention program for up to 80 boys and girls ages 13 to 17. The program accepts referrals from all counties in Minnesota and works with adjudicated and at-risk youth. A 1995 legislative audit rated Thistledeew as one of the most successful delinquency prevention programs in the state of Minnesota. The facility is located 50 miles northeast of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, in George Washington State Forest.

Thistledeew offers a variety of programming, including a three-week adventure therapy program; a three-month residential treatment program; chemical dependency treatment; and aftercare and transition services. School credit is provided. Girls and boys are programmed separately.

Student activities in Thistledeew's forest setting include education, therapy, and physical activities designed to develop self-confidence, leadership abilities, and teamwork such as backpacking, canoeing, cross-country skiing, rock climbing, a high-ropes course, and a four-day solo.

Thistledeew Camp is also the phase 1 site of the department's **Challenge Incarceration Program** (CIP) for up to 24 adult female offenders. This "boot camp," operated separately from the youth programs, includes education, critical thinking skills development, chemical dependency programming, and rigorous physical exercise. Currently, the program houses many of Minnesota's adult female meth offenders.

The recognition ceremony will be held **August 25** at Thistledeew. Registration and tours begin at 9:30, with a program at 1:00 p.m. Former staff and their families are invited to attend, but should RSVP by calling 218/376-4411.

Media wishing to attend the August 25 event should contact Liz McClung, DOC Communications Director, at 651/642-0514.

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