

**Ojibwemotaadidaa Omaa Gidakiiminaang**  
**With Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College**  
***announce***

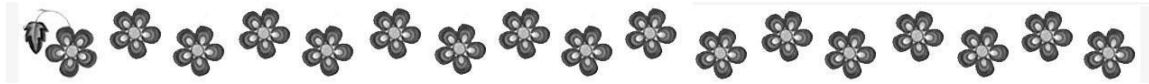
**The 2023 Niibing Family Camp**

**July 5 – 11, 2023**  
**Cloquet Forestry Center**  
**Cloquet, Minnesota**

**Description.** We are pleased to announce an opportunity that previous participants have called “the chance of a lifetime.” This summer, the twelfth annual Ojibwe Immersion Academy Weekend Cohort will be held at the Cloquet Forestry Center in Cloquet, Minnesota. The camp will offer a complete immersion experience for families with children ages (0-4) from July 5<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Taught by master speakers and university faculty, the academy enrolls families who are seeking to improve their proficiency and pass the language on to others. The goal of the academy is to ensure the longevity of the Ojibwe language by increasing the quality and quantity of proficient speakers in Minnesota and surrounding states.

**Eligibility.** Language background. We welcome anyone who is adequately prepared for language immersion. However, applicants should recognize that speaking Ojibwe for extended periods of time without using English is very difficult and can be disorienting. They should have intermediate or advanced facilities in hearing and speaking Ojibwe as demonstrated by a video-sound clip submitted with their application.

However, fluency is not a requirement. All are encouraged to apply provided they are willing to follow academy guidelines with a positive attitude. Our more successful students are the ones that come with an open mind, positive attitude and determination to continue in immersion, even when it's difficult.



Successful applications will make apparent the applicant's past and present determination to learn Ojibwemowin and commitment to continue to advance his or her proficiency in the language following the academy. Even if an applicant meets the above expectations, he or she may not be able to participate because the number of spaces is limited. In addition, the admissions committee reserves the right to assemble a cohort of participants who it deems will work well together and maximize advancement of the language. On occasion, this may include learners who might not have as much experience, but who offer exceptional long-term promise for learning and advancing the language.

Age. We welcome adults 18 years of age and older to attend along with their children ages 0-4. At this time, we are not allowing children over the age of 4.

Residence. One of our goals is to build a community of speakers in a specific geographical area who can share the language in follow-up sessions after the academy and in years to come. Applicants should reside in or attend school in Minnesota, northwestern Wisconsin, eastern North Dakota, or the region of Ontario bordering Minnesota. If temporarily removed, they should have a relationship with an Ojibwe language community in this region.

Dissemination. Among the applicants who meet the above qualifications, priority will be given to applicants who plan to advance the language through family fluency and/or teaching, performance, writing, community programs, or by similar means of dissemination.

Exceptions. The above requirements are not meant to be exclusionary. We are trying to build a group of strong speakers who can carry the language into the future and pass it on to the next generation. Nonetheless, we know that each person has a different situation. If you do not meet one of the above requirements, but you feel that we should consider your application, please email us with a compelling explanation for why we should do so. If you make a good case, we will consider yours alongside other applications.



Background. If chosen as a participant, **all adult participants** this year will be required to take a background check and drug/alcohol testing in accordance with the Fond du Lac Reservation's Policies.

**Expectations.** *Before Camp Begins:* All participants will be expected to complete homework assignments to prepare themselves for the intense immersion environment that they will be participating in for the duration of camp. Assignments will be designed to help students prepare themselves for what they will learn at the Academy.

*During the Camp:* Participants in the academy will commit themselves to speak Ojibwe and only Ojibwe for the duration of the week-long camp as they engage in large and small group learning with first speakers, and receive grammatical instruction from university faculty.

Participants will meet for the entire duration of camp. Camp will begin **10:00 am on July 5th and run until 1:00 pm July 11.** We ask that all persons applying commit to staying until the end of programming July 11<sup>th</sup>, and must pack and clean up their individual rooms.

**Costs.** The Ojibwe Immersion Academy Weekend Cohort is funded by the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College with the support of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Thanks to this generous funding, there is no cost to participants.

**Applications.** To obtain an application packet, please visit our webpage at [ojibwemotaadidaa.weebly.com](http://ojibwemotaadidaa.weebly.com) to download the application document. If after visiting the webpage you were unable to acquire an application packet, please email your request to [ojibwemotaadidaa@gmail.com](mailto:ojibwemotaadidaa@gmail.com) with "application request" in the subject line. The packet will contain instructions in Ojibwe for providing information about your language background, formal education, speaking proficiency, and future plans. Your application will include answering questions about you and your family's Ojibwe language learning experience and a short Ojibwe essay. The Ojibwe portion may be difficult but consider it a learning experience. Use



your Ojibwe notes, literature resources, or dictionaries. Get advice from a first speaker, friend, or teacher and send us an email if you need further assistance.

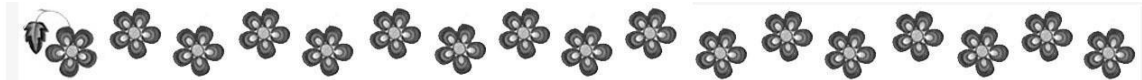
In addition, applications should include a short video clip with quality sound of the applicant speaking the language informally in a natural, conversational style. The video-sound clip can include another person as long as the applicant clearly demonstrates her or his facility with the language. **We suggest you submit your application and video well before the deadline**, to avoid technical difficulties preventing your application from being complete.

All applications must be submitted by email to [ojibwemotaadidaa@gmail.com](mailto:ojibwemotaadidaa@gmail.com). Please submit an organized application. The written portion should be typed and submitted as an email attachment along with your video clip. **Please submit all portions of your application in one email.**

We will not accept late applications, including missing portions or videos.

**Online Interview or Phone Call.** We may also contact you for a Zoom interview. After reviewing your application, we will inform you of available dates to choose from for your interview. **Please continue to check your email diligently after submitting your application to ensure you do not miss the deadline to sign up for an interview.**

**Deadline.** All applications must be submitted by email to [ojibwemotaadidaa@gmail.com](mailto:ojibwemotaadidaa@gmail.com) **by noon on Tuesday, May 16th, 2022**. No applications can be accepted after that date. Notification of your acceptance, non-acceptance, or assignment to the waitlist will be **June 5-9, 2023**. The review committee is composed of faculty, program staff, and community members will make acceptance decisions.



### **Summary of Niibing 2023 Application Schedule (Tentative)**

May 1	Announcement and application packets available.
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Applications due by Noon. No late applications.
May 22-June 2	New applicant interviews
June 5-9	First-round invitations sent and wait-list announced.
June 12-16	All participants confirmed.
July 5-11	2023 Ojibwe Immersion Family Camp