

CDSS Pinewoods — American Week

August 2014

Pinewoods' American Week is a summer camp with dance and music for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I had the pleasure to attend again this year with the matching scholarship presented by Country Dancers of Rochester. Having been to many different dance weekends, the sense of urgency to do all you can in the short time span is pretty powerful deterrent from relaxing and enjoying the moment. Pinewoods' being a whole week long gives one the luxury of stopping to smile at your partner before moving on. From the time you are greeted at the front of the camp to long farewells at the end, the feeling of community is strong. I always joke about being a contra dancer means that you recognize hundreds of faces but knowing no one. While you can easily spend seven to nine hours a day dancing and playing music there is a lot that happens outside of the workshops as well like cabin parties, swimming, games, and chatting with other people. One of my favorite activities is what you will be assigned to if you apply to the work-scholarship: dishwashing. It's frantic at times and definitely messy but I've had loads of fun behind the window doing all kinds of silly things. After the evening dance there is always a party at the camp house right at the edge of the lake. My favorite ones were Road House Night, filled with swing, blues, and jazz; Coupled with Game Night, with relaxing board games or fast card games. I would definitely recommend Camp Pinewoods for any of the Country Dance and Song Society Weeks. I am also thankful for the Country Dancers of Rochester offering a matching scholarship making it possible for positive cash flow challenged people to attend American Week.

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