“We have people who come from all over the U.S., and they are continually amazed at the level of service and attention to detail you provide. You truly anticipate every need, even before we know we need it. And, as always, the food was fabulous!”

To book an event, call 1-866-352-7200

minnowbrook@uc.syr.edu
Welcome…

...to Minnowbrook Conference Center

Overlooking pristine Blue Mountain Lake, the Minnowbrook main lodge and the surrounding buildings stand on 28 acres of fragrant woodland, where tree-lined paths lead to well-equipped meeting rooms and recreation areas. Here the melding of two worlds creates a rarified atmosphere that softens restraints and allows conference participants to overcome barriers. “What if...” and “Why not...” are heard across a billiard table and on the patio overlooking the lake as often as they are in the conference room. This retreat is designed to foster creative conferencing. Its seclusion and comfort encourage people to relax and think outside the box.

A few days at Minnowbrook can result in more consensus and optimism than weeks of meetings elsewhere. Goal setting, planning, and understanding the big picture seem less strenuous here, away from interruptions and distractions.

The Minnowbrook staff is quietly thorough. Guests see only the results of attention to detail: wonderful meals, hot coffee for meeting recesses, crisply tended rooms, and late-night snacks. Cozy fireplaces encourage informal gatherings and lend a cheerful warmth to chilly mountain nights.

Minnowbrook and the staff set the stage for a successful meeting. You need only supply the players.
“Throw a stone into the stream, and
the ripples that propagate themselves
are the beautiful type of all influence.”

—RALPH WALDO EMERSON
NATURE
History

For more than 50 years, Syracuse University’s Minnowbrook Conference Center has offered a rich array of educational programs in a setting many describe as the most beautiful in all of the Adirondack Mountains.

During the first half of the 20th century, Minnowbrook was a rustic private retreat now referred to as “the symbolic last of the ‘great’ or ‘trophy’ camps in the Adirondacks.” (Craig A. Gilborn, Adirondack Camps, p. 260) In 1953, it was deeded to Syracuse University and converted to an educational facility, with architectural enhancements that harmonized with the surrounding forests, lakes, and mountains.

When fire destroyed the main lodge in 1988, Syracuse University committed to an innovative reconstruction that retained Minnowbrook’s architectural heritage while adhering to modern building codes and energy-efficiency standards. Through careful blending of old and new, Minnowbrook’s latest incarnation combines modern ingenuity and the inspired craftsmanship of the Great Camps.

Minnowbrook’s world-class learning environment in a rustic setting carries on another important Adirondack tradition—the ‘philosophers’ camp.’ In 1858, Ralph Waldo Emerson started the original philosophers’ camp at Follensby Pond in an effort to help important thinkers of the day find inspiration away from the distractions of the city. Notable scholars James Russell Lowell and Louis Agassiz were among the first to benefit from the camp.

Putnam Camp at Keene Valley, founded in 1877 by William James and a group of medical doctors, attracted the likes of Jung and Freud, as well as numerous poets and painters. Mark Twain’s camp on Lower Saranac was also an oasis for reigning intellectuals of the 19th century and provided the setting for some of his most inspired writing. Each of these scholars was inspired in their own way by the tranquility of the Adirondacks and the surrounding wilderness.

Minnowbrook continues this tradition as a key contributor in an ongoing Adirondack “Renaissance of Learning.” The lush woods, soaring mountains, and crystalline lake provide an inspiring natural backdrop for intellectual exploration.
Above: Main classroom
At left: Meetings can take place in any number of comfortable gathering areas on the property
Below: Boathouse meeting room
Meeting Facilities

Meetings are the core of successful conferences. Minnowbrook allows the flexibility of large classroom seminars, smaller meeting rooms, or private gatherings. All have wireless Internet access and everything necessary to keep the ideas flowing.

Main Classroom

Located in the classroom building, the main classroom has movable tables and chairs for 60. This well-lit, lake-view room has state-of-the-art technology, including:

- Separate business center
- LCD projector
- Overhead document camera
- DVD players
- Lectern with microphone
- Lavaliere and wireless microphone
- Drop-down projection screen
- Air conditioning
- Flip charts and markers
- Paper/writing materials for attendees

The classroom building also has snacks, coffee, and bottled water service.

Boathouse Meeting Room

Located on the upper level of the boathouse on the lake, this room has a large conference table with 20 cushioned chairs, as well as a cushioned perimeter window seat. This room seats up to 30 people.

Amenities include:

- Lake view
- Air conditioning
- Gas fireplace
- LCD projector
- Flip charts and markers
- Paper/writing materials for attendees

The seating area in the Main Lodge is a perfect place to gather for a small, informal meeting.
Clockwise from upper right: 
Main lodge 
Main lodge guest room 
Hillside cabins exterior 
Main sitting area in the Hillside cabins
Minnowbrook includes three buildings and two cabins that comfortably accommodate up to 56 overnight guests. The cozy Adirondack ambience of the rooms allows participants to relax in a surrounding that contrasts to their busy city lives. Special care is taken to make sure modern amenities are available in all rooms. The attentive staff is happy to provide any additional assistance needed to ensure a pleasant stay.

Main Lodge
The Main Lodge has 10 double rooms; each room has a private bath. The two main guest rooms have fireplaces. One of these rooms also has a conference table. Rooms on the back of the lodge have a lake view. Pine tongue-and-groove walls and built-in dressers maintain the restive character of the lodge, while Minnowbrook amenities provide modern comfort.

The Lawnhouse
The Lawnhouse offers sleeping quarters for eight guests, including a double room with a loft-style sleeping area. The Lawnhouse offers plenty of places for downtime relaxation in this idyllic setting. The large living room with fireplace and terrace offers spaces for groups to gather, while the small kitchen is available to store snacks.

The Greenhouse
The Greenhouse accommodates 20 guests. The original ice house in this building has been renovated into a fully equipped exercise room.

Upper and Lower Hillside Cabins
(Unavailable in winter)
These two cabins sleep four people each. Each boasts a large cozy den with a fireplace. This area is an ideal spot to gather after meetings or to catch up on reading. Each wing of the cabin contains sleeping quarters with two double rooms and a shared bathroom.

Above: Greenhouse guest room
Left: Lawnhouse exterior
“As soon as we arrived, it was obvious that you were poised to meet every challenge and to ensure a successful experience for this class. The meals were exceptionally well-planned and beautifully served.”
Meals

The Minnowbrook kitchen showcases creative menus using seasonal ingredients. All the meals are authentic and made fresh on-site.

- Breakfast includes a wide variety of eggs, sausage or bacon, waffles, yogurt, cereal, and fresh fruit.
- Lunch buffet includes carefully selected salads, sandwiches, homemade soup, and baked goods.
- A sit-down dinner is served with a choice of entrée, sides, and homemade dessert.
- Vegetarian options are available. Individual special dietary needs can be accommodated with advanced request.

The dining room in the Main Lodge offers a rustic yet elegant atmosphere for dining and quiet conversation.
At Minnowbrook, you’ll find a variety of activities to keep you busy in between meetings, from fishing to using the onsite game and exercise rooms.
Activities

The beauty of this Adirondack getaway is the magnitude of activities available to fill down time between sessions. This is an opportunity to relax and bond with conference participants on a deeper level. In addition to the items listed below, several golf courses are nearby. Both cross-country and downhill ski areas are less than a one hour’s drive from Minnowbrook. The Minnowbrook staff is happy to assist with any of the following activities:

Badminton  
Basketball  
Billiards  
Board games  
Boating  
Canoeing  
Cards  
Checkers  
Cross-country skiing*  
Exercise room  
Fishing*  
Foosball  
Hiking  
Horseshoes  
Kayaking  
Ping-Pong  
Reading  
(Adirondack literature available)  
Seasonal ice skating*  
Snowshoeing*  
Swimming  
Table shuffleboard  
Tennis*  
Volleyball  

*You will need your own equipment for these activities.
“Many thanks to you and all the staff at Minnowbrook for another exquisite weekend. The repeat guests were impressed anew, and the newcomers were bowled over by the facilities and the food. You make my job so much easier.”
Conference Preparation

Guests attending Minnowbrook find ample opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of the forest in an atmosphere of relaxation and good fellowship.

Pack conference attire, casual clothing for recreation, and weather-appropriate items. Hiking shoes should have flat soles and be sturdy and comfortable. Temperatures in the Adirondacks tend to be significantly cooler than in other areas, so come prepared with clothing for different types of weather. Don’t forget your camera and binoculars.

Cell phone reception is available. You can also be reached during your visit at 518-352-7200. The entire complex has wireless access.

The conference fee includes:

- Meals
  - Breakfast
  - Lunch
  - Dinner
- Snacks in the meeting rooms
- Nonalcoholic beverages
- Happy Hour hors d’oeuvres
- Late-night snacks.

Please note: Pets are not allowed.
Area Attractions

Blue Mountain Lake is located in the heart of New York State’s Adirondack Park, with its many forests, lakes, and mountains. The communities of Blue Mountain Lake, Indian Lake, and Sabacl comprise the centerpiece vacation destination of Adirondack Park. Visitors to the area can find adventure, unusual and exciting attractions, sports, and recreation, as well as cultural events, shops, and galleries.*

Off-site Recreation

Golf Courses

- Cedar River Golf Course, 518-648-5906
- The Inlet Golf Club, adjacent to Sixth Lake in Inlet, 18-hole championship golf course, 315-357-3503
- Thendara Golf Club, Route 28 near Old Forge, 18-hole Donald Ross-designed championship golf course, 315-369-3136
- Wakely Lodge Restaurant and Golf Course, 518-648-5011

Hiking Trails

- Blue Mountain, 2 miles away just beyond the Adirondack Museum
- Castle Rock, on site just beyond the caretaker’s house

Museums

- Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts, Route 28, Blue Mountain Lake, a multi-arts center promoting visual and performing arts through performances, workshops, exhibitions, and educational programs of general interest, 518-352-7715
- The Adirondack Museum, located approximately a half-mile from the main property, 518-352-7311

Scenic Tours

Booth Boat Tours, Blue Mountain Lake, pickup at Minnowbrook docks for a 4- to 5-hour tour through 3 lakes, 518-352-7351

Skiing (less than 1 hour away)

- Gore Mountain, North Creek
- McCauley Mountain, Old Forge

Snowmobiling

Adirondack Mountain Sport Rentals/Sales, Route 28, West Main Street, Indian Lake, 518-648-0215

Whitewater Rafting

Adventure Sports Rafting Company, Main Street, Indian Lake, 518-648-5812

*Ask the staff for more local attractions.
Directions

Minnowbrook is located in the central Adirondack Mountains on the north shore of Blue Mountain Lake. It is 100 miles from Albany, 135 miles from Syracuse, 206 miles from Ottawa, 209 miles from Montreal, 265 miles from New York City, and 289 miles from Toronto.

The easiest way to reach Minnowbrook is by car. The Albany airport is the closest airport to Minnowbrook. Allow 3 hours driving time from Syracuse or Albany, 4 hours from Ottawa or Montreal, 5 hours from New York City, and 5.5 hours from Toronto.

Directions from the New York State Thruway

From West
Take exit 31 at Utica to Route 12 to Route 28.
Follow Route 28 through Old Forge and Raquette Lake to Blue Mountain Lake.
When you reach Blue Mountain Lake, stay straight onto Route 30.
Go 0.5 miles to Maple Lodge Road on the left; if you reach the Adirondack Museum, you have gone too far.
Follow Maple Lodge Road for 1.5 miles to Minnowbrook.
Go to the Main Lodge for registration.

From East
Take exit 24 at Albany off Interstate 90 to Interstate 87 (the Northway).
Take Interstate 87 for about 1 hour to exit 23 at Warrensburg.
Take Route 9 through Warrensburg to Route 28.
Turn left at flashing light and follow Route 28 all the way to Blue Mountain Lake (about 48 miles).
When you reach Blue Mountain Lake, stay straight onto Route 30.
Go 0.5 miles to Maple Lodge Road on the left; if you reach the Adirondack Museum, you have gone too far.
Follow Maple Lodge Road for 1.5 miles to Minnowbrook.
Go to the Main Lodge for registration.
“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”
“Creativity is not the finding of a thing, but the making something out of it after it is found.”

—JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL