



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

*announce*

**The 2023-2024 Ojibwe Immersion Academy Winter Weekend Cohort**

**November 2023-April 2024**  
**Cloquet Forestry Center**  
**Cloquet, Minnesota**

**Description.** We are pleased to announce an opportunity that previous participants have called “the chance of a lifetime.” This November, the 13th annual Ojibwe Immersion Academy Weekend Cohort will be held at the Cloquet Forestry Center in Cloquet, Minnesota. The Ojibwe Immersion Academy Weekend Cohort will meet one weekend a month from November 2023 to April 2024 to participate in an Ojibwe immersion learning environment. Taught by master speakers and university faculty, the academy enrolls upper-level high school and college students, immersion teachers, language instructors at all levels, and other Ojibwe learners who seek 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 an entire weekend without using English is very difficult and can be disorienting. They should have intermediate or advanced facility in hearing and speaking Ojibwe as demonstrated by a video-sound clip submitted with their application.

However, fluency is not a requirement, and 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. Participants should be 16 years of age or older by the start of the academy. No one younger than 16 years can be accommodated at this time. Anyone under 18 years old will need a parent or guardian's permission to participate.

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, you may be subject to a background check and drug/alcohol testing in accordance with the Fond du Lac Reservation's Policies.

**Expectations.** *Before the Immersion Weekends:* All participants will be expected to complete homework assignments to prepare themselves for the intense immersion environment that they will be participating in for each weekend. Assignments will be designed to help students prepare themselves for what they will learn at the Academy.

*During the Immersion Weekends:* Participants in the academy will commit themselves to speak Ojibwe and only Ojibwe for the duration of the monthly



immersion weekends as they engage in large and small group learning with first speakers, receive grammatical instruction from university faculty.

The weekends will begin **10:00am on Saturdays and run until Sunday afternoon at 3:00pm.** We ask that all persons applying commit to attend every weekend to take full advantage of this unique language learning opportunity.

**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 your 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.

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) **before 5pm on September 29th, 2023.** No applications can be accepted after that date. Application review involves multiple reviewers, so that an optimal group can be selected. Notification of your acceptance, non-acceptance, or assignment to the waitlist will be **October 9th-13th, 2023.** The review committee comprised of faculty, program staff and community members will make acceptance decisions.

### **Biboong 2023-2024 Schedule (Tentative)**

September	Announcement and application packets available.
September 29	Applications due by 5pm. No late applications.
October 9-13	First-round invitations sent and wait-list announced.
October -16-20	First-round acceptances confirmed. Wait-list invited, if applicable.
October 23	All participants confirmed.
November-April	2023-2024 Ojibwe Immersion Academy

### **Ojibwe Immersion Weekend Cohort Dates**

November - 11 & 12  
December - 16 & 17  
January - TBD  
February - TBD  
March - 23 & 24  
April - 20 & 21

### **To Request an Application Packet**

To obtain an application packet, please download a copy on our website at [ojibwemotaadidaa.weebly.com](http://ojibwemotaadidaa.weebly.com). If 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. All applications are due **before 5pm on September 29th, 2023.**