



April 15, 2020

Re: **Itasca FiveStar Initiative and other Itasca AIS Program Resources to Support your Business**

Dear Itasca Area Resort, Camp, or Campground;

The Itasca AIS Program seeks to **support your business** by working to prevent the introduction and limit the spread of invasives in Itasca County and by offering resources useful to you. These include:

- A one-page AIS Safeguards Flyer that you can use with your guests <http://bit.ly/ResortsAISFlyer>
- A one-page description of specific, simple, and effective steps that you can implement to help prevent introduction and limit the spread of aquatic invasives to your shoreline <http://bit.ly/ResortsSafeguards>
- Our offer to perform inspection and decontamination services for your guests for free. Mobile thermal decontamination stations can serve you or your guests on their way up to your resort or as your guests move their boat from one lake or river to another. **218-256-4243**
- Resorts AIS Identification Binder
- Public access inspection program throughout Itasca County
- Itasca FiveStar Initiative for Resorts, Campgrounds, and Camps

Our newest resource is the Itasca FiveStar Initiative – you're invited to participate.

The Itasca AIS Program and participating area lake associations are implementing an initiative intended to **promote your Resort, Camp, or Campground** to lake and river shoreline property owners and their families, friends, and guests, and to prevent the introduction and limit the spread of aquatic invasives in Itasca County. I am writing to invite you to participate for the 2020 season.

Please review the attached information that provides more information about FiveStar. To participate, please complete the attached form and return it electronically or via hard copy to the addresses listed at the bottom of the form.

Thank you. Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Bill Grantges
Itasca AIS Program
coordinator@itascaais.info
218-256-4243



April 15, 2020

Itasca FiveStar Initiative

The Itasca AIS Program and participating area lake associations are implementing an initiative intended to **promote your Resort, Camp, or Campground** to lake and river shoreline property owners and their families, friends, and guests, and to prevent the introduction and limit the spread of aquatic invasives in Itasca County. I am writing to invite you to participate for the 2020 season.

Here's how the **Itasca FiveStar** initiative works: Participating **FiveStar** businesses agree to implement a set of common-sense AIS safeguards. In return for agreeing to implement AIS safeguards, the Itasca AIS Program and participating lake associations will market and promote your business to shoreline property owners.

We'll promote you through Itasca AIS Program and lake association web-sites, at the many Itasca AIS program and lake association meetings and events, we'll include you in our newsletters, electronic and hardcopy mailings, and in our multiple Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms. Many lakeshore property owners have connections to and positive influence with visitors and many times have overflow guests they can refer to resorts on their lake.

We invite you to participate. The Itasca FiveStar initiative is **voluntary**. There is **no fee** to participate. Please read through the attached contract that describes safeguards and benefits. If you'd like to participate, please complete the attached form and return it electronically or via hard copy to the addresses listed at the bottom of the form.



Itasca FiveStar resorts, camps, and campgrounds are those who agree to implement the following aquatic invasives (AIS) safeguards in addition to earning and maintaining Minnesota DNR-Permitted status:

1. I agree to monitor closely the official DNR list of infested waters so I am always up to date on which waters are infested. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html>
2. I agree to provide AIS prevention information to my guests prior to their stay, for example along with the reservation confirmation materials I send. I also agree to provide AIS prevention information in the welcome packet or in the resort information booklet I keep in each guest cabin or guest room. The Itasca AIS program has an AIS information sheet that you can use and customize with your logo for this purpose (218-256-4243).
3. My guests may bring watercraft and other recreational gear to use during their stay, or will move their boat during their stay from one lake or river to another for fishing or recreation. I agree that I or my staff will ask guests what lakes or rivers those items were in prior to arrival, and whether those items have undergone clean, drain, dispose, and dry.

If watercraft and gear have been in infested waters within the past five days, my resort's policy is to inspect watercraft and gear prior to launch. I or my trained staff will perform those inspections or I will refer my guests to the Itasca AIS program for inspection (218-256-4243).

Following inspection, some watercraft and gear may require decontamination. Decontamination for recreational gear like waders, inner-tubes, fishing, and other similar gear that can't hold standing water, many times can be accomplished by visual inspection, removal of weeds and mud, along with a thorough warm or cold fresh-water rinse. Watercraft, trailers, and gear coming from infested waters require careful inspection and may require thermal decontamination to DNR-spec. **The Itasca AIS program is happy to provide inspection and decontamination services for free (218-256-4243).** The AIS program also offers training for resorts, camps, and campgrounds that perform decontaminations themselves.

4. I agree that the Itasca AIS program may from time-to-time visit and review my AIS-related operations to identify, learn, and disseminate best practices and to offer opportunities for improvement. Visits will be scheduled in advance and at the convenience of the business, and are meant to be collegial.

Participation in the Itasca FiveStar Initiative is voluntary. There is no fee to participate. In return for agreeing to implement safeguards, the Itasca AIS Program and participating lake associations will market and promote your business in the following ways: we'll utilize Itasca AIS Program and lake association web-sites, the many Itasca AIS program and lake association meetings and events, we'll include you in our newsletters, electronic and hardcopy mailings, and in our multiple Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms.

Resort, Camp, or Campground Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ eMail address _____

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Complete and return this form to Itasca AIS Program at coordinator@itascaais.info, or hardcopy via US Mail to Itasca SWCD AIS, 1895 W US Hwy 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. Questions? Call 218-256-4243.