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Allow Me to Introduce Myself

I'M NO GOOD WITH INTRODUCTIONS, nor am I very comfortable talking about myself (I'd much rather interview interesting people). So I'll let this issue of *Minnesota Meetings + Events* do the talking. And as first issues as editor go, this one couldn't be more perfect in helping me tell you a little about myself.

As a Milwaukee native, it was a real treat to look at Wisconsin in new light (page 39). Many of Wisconsin's cities often get overlooked (guilty), but that's sure to change. While beer and cheese might be Wisconsin's *thing* (and I'm very much OK with furthering the stereotype by being a beer-drinking cheese lover), there is, of course, more to it. A state-of-the-art convention space is opening (the Fox Cities Exhibition Center is looking to draw international guests, page 47), hotels are cropping up (the state's first Kimpton opened recently in Milwaukee, page 44) and Justin Vernon is directing hipsters to Eau Claire (page 52). But Wisconsin isn't straying too far from its roots; much of what makes Wisconsin *Wisconsin* is thriving (Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, page 53).

This September I'm marrying my long-time boyfriend, and we chose his old summer camp (YMCA Camp Warren in Eveleth) as our wedding setting. Our guests will stay in cabins (or the nearby hotel where we've arranged a room block) for the entire weekend, and we'll have s'mores around the giant fire pit, a game of kickball, canoes available and a forest dance party. Planning our wedding hasn't been the grueling process we were warned about—and that's partly because flexibility and countless activities come with the territory of our "venue" (and if our friends and family don't have fun, that's their fault). Minnesota has plenty of campsites to choose from, too—flip to page 26 to read more about a select few and how to customize them to your groups' needs.

Now it's your turn. Shoot me an email introducing yourself; I'd love to hear from you.

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