December 2025 | Vol 02 Issue 9



NEWSLETTER

Connecting our community with the latest stories, updates, and events from Lions Bear Lake Camp. Stay informed and inspired as we continue our journey together yearround.



What's Inside?

Camp Updates

Inside this issue you will find updates on donations of new kitchen equipment. You will also find a recap of our sold out Bear Lake Crafting Weekend, where the camp was filled with laughter, creativity, and holiday spirit.

LBLC Spotlights

Each month we pause to shine a light on the people who help shape the spirit of Bear Lake Camp. This month we are honoring Board Member Jim Leach Jr for the steady leadership and genuine care he brings to our mission. We are also recognizing Food Service Director Chrissy Andre for the work she does every day to support our staff, our campers, and the many groups who walk through our doors.

Campfire Chats

This month's Campfire Chats brings two stories that reflect the spirit of Bear Lake Camp. We are celebrating Camp Champion Denise Freshney for her many years of support, and we are also welcoming our long standing retreat group Justice for Lily. Both bring warmth, dedication, and community to this place.

Stay Connected & Get Involved

Stay connected and get involved—there's always something happening at Bear Lake Camp! Explore our upcoming events, follow us on social media, and consider making a donation to help us continue changing lives.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTE

TRACI TRIBLEY



December has always felt like a pause. The year slows just enough for the world to feel different. The lights come out, the scent of winter settles in, and the lake sits still under the cold sky. Camp feels quieter this time of year, and that quiet has a way of bringing a different kind of appreciation. Most people picture Bear Lake Camp in the summer. They see campers laughing at the waterfront, singing on the hill, or climbing the tower. What many never witness are the months before and after. The planning. The repairs. The retreat groups who come through. The meals that still have to be prepared. The long days that happen even when the cabins look empty from the outside. There is a team behind all of that. A team that rarely asks for recognition. A team that shows up in the early mornings when the kitchen lights turn on. A team that stays after a group leaves to wash, reset, and prepare for the next arrival. Their work is not always neat or easy. It often goes unnoticed. Yet it is the reason this camp feels the way it does. They carry responsibility that stretches far beyond what is written in a job description. They give energy on the days that feel heavy. They handle the unexpected without hesitation. They hold the heart of this place quietly and consistently. That is not something you can teach. That comes from believing in something deeper. When I look around during this season I do not only see decorations and holiday colors. I see the effort it takes to make this place welcoming in every season. I see the commitment that does not change when the temperature drops or when there are no campers running around. I see pride in the work and care in the details that others may never notice. This holiday season, I want to acknowledge that truth. The spirit of Bear Lake Camp does not appear by accident. It exists because people give their time, their patience, and their heart to something bigger than themselves. Thank you for that. Thank you for showing up. Thank you for loving this place in a way that can be felt. May this month bring some rest, a little warmth, and a reminder of the meaning behind the work we do.



CAMP UPDATES: WHAT'S NEW AT BEAR LAKE CAMP

Stay up to date with everything happening at Lions Bear Lake Camp in Camp Updates! From exciting developments and upcoming events to the latest news from around the camp, this section will keep you informed on all the ways we're growing and evolving to serve our campers and community.

New Kitchen Equipment

Recently, Lions Bear Lake Camp received an incredible amount of support in the form of donated kitchen equipment, and it took real planning, coordination, and effort to make it happen. Thanks to the hard work and determination of Dusty Rounds and Jay Caldwell, we now have thirty-eight brand new sheet pans, two speed racks, a donated reach-in cooler that will give us much-needed additional cold storage during the busiest months, and 20 cafeteria/banquet tables that will replace the ones we've stretched as far as possible over the years. None of this arrived by accident. It took time, lifting, organizing, moving, and making things happen when it would have been easier to look the other way and keep going with what we already had. Dusty and Jay stepped in because they care deeply about this camp, the mission, and the kids and families who depend on everything we do. These donations are more than equipment. They mean fewer workflow hurdles in the kitchen, better spaces for meals, safer accommodations, and more room to grow as our programs continue expanding. They make everyday tasks easier for the staff and create a better experience for every person who walks through our doors. To Dusty and Jay... thank you. Your work will touch every meal served, every gathering around a table, and every moment shared in the dining hall. This camp continues forward because of people who show up, care deeply, and quietly make things better.





Bear Lake Crafting Weekend

Every year, while deer season opens across Michigan, something very different takes place here at camp. Our Annual Bear Lake Camp Crafting Weekend has become one of the most anticipated events of the year, and it sells out every time. The weekend brings together crafters from the many groups who hold retreats with us throughout the year, along with new faces who heard about the event and decided to join in. By the time everyone settles in and sets up their projects, the room is already buzzing with creativity. This weekend has a way of bringing people together. It gives everyone the chance to learn something new, to share ideas, and to pick up skills that someone at the next table has spent years perfecting. Friendships tend to form quickly during these few days. It might start with a simple question about a pattern or a tool, and before long there is a small circle gathered around a project, offering encouragement and swapping stories. The holiday season also begins here during this weekend. The camp Christmas tree goes up and the crafters help us fill it with new handmade ornaments. Each one carries a piece of the person who created it, and by the end of the weekend the tree becomes a collection of memories from everyone who spent time here. It is a weekend built around creativity, laughter, and the comfort of being surrounded by people who love to make things. Year after year it reminds us that camp is more than a place. It is a community that grows a little stronger each time we gather.



LBLC SPOTLIGHTS: CELEBRATING OUR CAMP COMMUNITY

In LBLC Spotlights, we shine a light on the dedicated individuals and partnerships that help make Lions Bear Lake Camp extraordinary. Each month, we'll highlight a staff member and board of directors member. These are the people and collaborations that drive our missonn forward, ensuring that every camper experiences the magic of Bear Lake Camp.

Jim Leach Jr. Board Member

Some people become part of the foundation of a place without ever trying to. For more than forty years, Jim Leach Jr. has been one of those people at Bear Lake. He first stepped into the kitchen at thirteen, learning what it meant to work hard and care about something larger than himself. Those early summers shaped him, and he carried that sense of purpose into every role that followed. He eventually became Camp Director, a position he held for seven years, guiding the camp with a steady hand and a quiet understanding of what this place means to the children it serves. When his time as Director came to an end, his commitment did not fade. He joined the Board of Directors in 2000 and continues to offer insight shaped by decades of lived experience. That same heart shows in his work at Leader Dogs for the Blind, where he oversees, trains, and recruits hundreds of volunteers, building a community of support for those who need it most. Life at home is filled with the same devotion. Jim has been married to his wife, Kim, for twenty eight years. Many know her from her own years of service to camp, and together they raised two children who grew up hearing the stories that shaped them both. Their two career changed Leader Dogs bring even more warmth to their home. When Jim has time for himself, he is often golfing or camping with his family, enjoying the simple moments that remind him of what really matters. Bear Lake is better because of Jim. His history, his heart, and his quiet strength continue to lift this place in ways that cannot be measured.





Chrissy Andre Food Service Director

Bear Lake depends on people who keep camp running with steady work that often happens out of view. Our Food Service Director, Chrissy Andre, is one of those individuals. She first helped in the kitchen during a weekend in 2021. By the next summer she had joined the staff year round and her role has continued to expand with the needs of our programs. This year the kitchen prepared more than twenty five thousand five hundred meals for more than three thousand five hundred visitors. Organizing that amount of activity requires structure, planning, and support for a team that works long days through summer youth sessions, rentals, and leadership programs. The dining hall remains a welcoming place for campers because of the consistency built into that work. During the offseason, Chrissy oversees meals for quilting retreats, crafting weekends, and school groups. These events bring a different rhythm, and the goal is always the same. Create a space where guests feel comfortable and cared for. Chrissy also assists with several communication and outreach efforts. She prepares the monthly newsletter, helps maintain social media and website information, and coordinates the Annual Ice Plunge, which continues to grow as a key fundraiser for camp. Her work touches many areas and supports the mission in ways that help each season run smoothly. We appreciate the dedication she brings to every part of her role.



CAMPFIRE CHATS: STORIES THAT WARM THE HEART

Welcome to Campfire Chats, where we share the inspiring stories and unforgettable memories from our past campers and groups. Each month, we'll also spotlight our Camp Champion, someone who embodies the spirit of Lions Bear Lake Camp. These are the moments and people that make our camp so special-stories that continue to spark joy long after the campfire's last ember.



Justice For Lily- Rental Group

We started coming to Bear Lake Camp in 2013 for our Craft Weekends. Prior to that, my family attended the Heartland Grief Camps from 2011. We loved everything about this place — the staff, the food, the accommodations, and the all-around atmosphere.

We took a couple of years' break and then came back to an even better experience! Jesse, Chrissy, and Traci are such wonderful people who will do anything to make sure your stay is everything you hoped it would be — all the way down to setting up the fireplace with the flue open (inside joke!).

We cannot say enough good things about Bear Lake Camp and the amazing staff they have now. We highly recommend Bear Lake Camp for any of your events!

Warmly, Lynette Furneaux Justice for Lily

Denise Freshney Camp Champion

When you spend time at camp you start to notice the people who help keep this place moving in their own quiet ways. Denise Freshney is one of those people. She has been arranging quilting retreats for the Anchor Bay Quilting Guild and the Happy Quilters for many years, and she brings a steady sense of care to everything she does. Denise also helps with our camp sponsored Crafting Weekends. She makes sure the details fall into place so that crafters can simply enjoy their time together. When we look at the full year, her retreats fill our camp for thirty one days. That is thirty one days of sewing machines humming, good conversations, shared meals, and a feeling of comfort that settles in as soon as everyone arrives. What makes Denise stand out even more is the way she gives back while she is here. She is always helping with fundraising through fifty fifty drawings and raffles, and she encourages others to support the camp right alongside her. Her enthusiasm reminds people that their time here does more than offer a getaway. It helps make camp possible for the kids and families who count on this place. We are grateful for everything she brings. Denise's support, her consistency, and her belief in our mission have made a real difference. Camp feels a little fuller and a little brighter every time she is here.





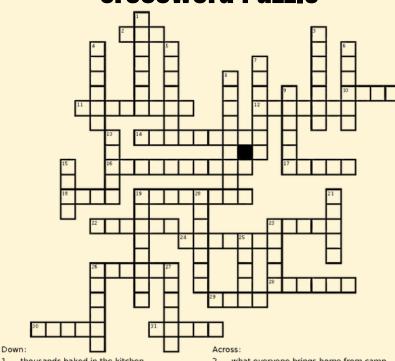
CAMPFIRE CRUMBS

Welcome to our little corner of fun! Each month we'll share something lighthearted from around camp — from quirky facts to favorite recipes and surprises along the way. You never know what you might find here, but it's always sure to bring a smile.

FUN FACT

In 2025, Lions Bear Lake Camp had 175 active days with campers, groups, or events on site, nearly half the calendar year.

Crossword Puzzle



- thousands baked in the kitchen
- volunteer event hosted in May
- how campers move kayaks and boats
- high adventure ride
- what surrounds camp
- where thousands of meals are made
- people who help camp thrive
- campfire favorite
- 13. location where many staff eat meals
- 15. dining hall daily drink
- 19. tower activity that builds courage
- 20. relationships campers build
- 21. summer meal staple
- 23. emotion on the last day of camp
- 25. annual 24 hour trail running event
- 26. challenge 27. our busiest season

- 2. what everyone brings home from camp
- 10. breakfast item (over 21,000 used this summer)
- 11. founder whose legacy inspires
- 12. the heart of camp
- 14. major winter fundraiser
- 16. machine that washed over 13,000 loads
- 17. the people who keep camp running
- 18. the water that brings campers together
- 19. classic night activity with songs and stories
- 22. paths across our 120 acres
- 23. growing all around camp
- 24. salad bar staple
- 26. where campers sleep
- 28. what campers learn here
- 29. one of the animals in our camp's name
- 30. supporters across the state
- 31. quality that makes staff shine



STAY CONNECTED AND GET INVOLVED



FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

- February 7th, 2026- 4th Annual Ice Plunge
- April 11th, 2026- Buffalo/Boar Wild Game Dinner
- May 9th, 2026- Annual Workbee
- June 8th, 2026- Golf Outing
- June 28th, 2026- Open House
- September 26th, 2026- Clay Shoot





Your generous support helps us continue providing exceptional experiences for our campers. Every donation makes a difference, ensuring we can offer top-notch programs and maintain our beautiful camp facilities. Thank you for helping us make a positive impact!



CHECK OUT OUR CAMP WISHLISTS!

FOLLOW US!



@LBLC_LAPEER WWW.BEARLAKECAMP.ORG





Lions Bear Lake Camp



FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Dinner Includes Jumper Contests

Soup Bar Bread Bowls Salad Bar Hot Chocolate Bar Dessert Cash Bar

Prizes for
Best Costume
Best Jump (no diving)
and Most Money Raised

FEBRUARY 7TH 2026

2:00 PM Check-In 3:00 PM Ice Plunge followed by Dinner

\$50 - Jump/Dinner \$25 Dinner for Spectators Only (Ages 0-5 Free, 6-12 \$10)



Sign up online at bearlakecamp.org under the "Events" Tab



Seating limited to 200 so get your tickets early.

For More Information Contact traci@bearlakecamp.org chrissy@bearlakecamp.org 810-245-0726

Costumes are encouraged, birthday suits highly discouraged.

ICE PLUNGE & DINNER FUNDRAISER

FEBRUARY 7TH, 2026 2:00PM

3409 N. FIVE LAKES RD LAPEER, MI 48446

ICE PLUNGE REGISTRATION FEE & PLEDGES

There is a \$50 registration fee to jump. Jumpers may collect pledges to support Lions Bear Lake Camp. The Jumper that raises the most money will receive a commemorative plaque. Based on pledge amounts, Jumpers Receive:

\$50 Registration Fee: Plunge, Dinner, T-shirt, Medal \$100 or More: Plunge, Dinner, T-shirt, Tote Bag, Medal

\$250 or More: Priority Jump, Dinner, T-shirt, Tote Bag, Medal, Event Beanie

\$500 or More: Priority Jump, Dinner, T-shirt, Tote Bag, Medal, Event Beanie, Hoodie

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Sponsorships support the event. Pledges are collected by participants to reach prize levels—two separate ways to make a difference.

Event Sponsorship Opportunities

Polar Legend Sponsor - \$2,500

Exclusive top placement of Sponsor's Logo on T-shirt, Recognition as Presenting Sponsor during event announcements & speaking opportunity, Recognition on Social Media, Table of & Complimentary Dinner Tickets, 2 Complimentary Jumpers, 2 Ice Plunge T-shirts, Premium Sponsor Plaque

Sub Zero Hero Sponsor \$1,000

Sponsor's Logo will be featured on back of T-shirt and sponsor banner, Recognition on Social Media, 2 Complimentary Jumpers, 4 Complimentary Dinner Tickets, 1 Ice Plunge T-shirt. Sponsor Plaque.

Arctic Champion Sponsor \$500

Sponsor's name or Logo will be featured on back of T-shirt, Recognition on Social Media, 2 Complimentary Dinner Tickets. 1 Complimentary Jumper, 1 Ice Plunge T-Shirt.

Frosty Friends Sponsor \$250

Sponsor's name will be featured on back of T-shirt, Recognition on Social Media, 2 Dinner Tickets. 1 Ice Plunge T-Shirt.

Ice Breaker Sponsor \$100

Sponsor's name will be featured on back of T-shirt. Recognition on Social Media.

Donations Welcome!!! Donated raffle and prize items are appreciated.

Donors will be acknowledged throughout the event via announcements Please visit the "Events"

page on

bearlakecamp.org or

send check to:

Lions Bear Lake Camp 3409 N. Five Lakes Rd Lapeer, MI 48446





Lions Bear Lake Camp

Buffalo & Boar Wild Game Dinner

Saturday, April 11th 2026

Doors open @ 5p. Dinner is served @ 6:30p.

NEW VENUE: Boulder Pointe Golf Club, I Champion Dr. Oxford, MI 4837I

Join us for a night of auctions, raffles, drinks, and a gourmet Wild Game Dinner! Ticket prices include dinner buffet and an open beer, wine, and mixed drink bar. All proceeds will benefit the Lions Bear Lake Camp for children with disabilities!

\$70 per person OR \$480 for reserved table of 8

Order your tickets online TODAY at www.bearlakecamp.org under the event tab, or purchase tickets via mail. Mail to 3409 N. Five Lakes Rd. Lapeer, MI 48448. Make checks payable to Lions Bear Lake Camp.

Sponsorship Opportunities Available!



Platinum \$2,500

Gold \$1,000 Silver \$500

For More Information Contact:
Jack Paton japlapelp@gmail.com 248-535-90ll
Traci Tribley traci@bearlakecamp.org 810-245-0726

Spring Workshee May 9th, 2026

Registration 8:00 AM Cleanup 9:00 AM



LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

Easy, Medium, and Advanced Tasks available Please bring your own gloves and tools

PLEASE RSVP TO:

Lions Bear Lake Camp 3409 N Five Lakes Rd Lapeer, MI 48446

traci@bearlakecamp.org jwalling@bearlakecamp.org

LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP OPEN HOUSE





JUNE 28TH, 2026 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Tour Camp
Meet the Staff
Family Friendly Event
Snacks Provided

RSVP Online or contact:







BEARLAKECAMP.ORG

810-245-0726 info@bearlakecamp.org

VISUALLY IMPAIRED & BLIND FAMILY CAMP

JULY 3-5TH, 2026



Visually Impaired & Blind Family Camp is a weekend where families can experience the joy of camp together. Whether one or more family members are visually impaired or blind, the whole family is welcome to join in accessible activities, shared adventures, and meaningful connections.

ACTIVITIES

- Archery
- **⊘** Climbing Tower & Zipline
- Arts & Crafts
- Making Friends
- Much More!!

LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

3409 N Five Lakes Rd Lapeer, MI 48446 www.bearlakecamp.org

PARENTS WILL ENJOY

- (Informative sessions about current issues
- Networking & sharing with other parents and families
- (7) Family activities & bonding
- **⊘** Creative break from the daily grind!



Register Online starting January 1st, 2026

More Info info@bearlakecamp.org 810-245-0726



Join us for a week long overnight camp for blind and visually impaired youth ages 6-16. Kids enjoy a jam packed week of fun while making friendships, developing independence, and learning life skills.

July 5-11, 2026

Ages 6-16

Activities Include:

- Archery
- Swimming, Boating
- Fishing
- Camping and bonfires Arts & Crafts
- Challenge Course
- Climbing Tower/Zipline

- Team Building
- Nature Exploration
- Evening Programs
- Much More!



Register Online starting **January 1st, 2026**



3409 N Five Lakes Rd. Lapeer, MI 48446 bearlakecamp.org

Info: 810-245-0726 info@bearlakecamp.org



*This program is for children who use listening and spoken language as their primary mode of communication. Our camp focus is building speech, language, and audition skills while participating in traditional camp activities and making positive social connections!



Register Online Starting January 1st, 2026



ACTIVITIES:

- Archery
- Swimming, Boating
- Fishing
- Camping and bonfires
- Challenge Course
- Climbing Tower/Zipline

- Team Building
- Nature Exploration
- **Evening Programs**
- Arts & Crafts
- Much More!

info@bearlakecamp.org





DEAF & HARD OF HEARING FAMILY CAMP

JULY 24-26TH, 2026



Come enjoy a fun themed weekend for families of deaf & hard of hearing children. It is geared to meet the unique needs of children who use listening & spoken language as their primary mode of communication.

ACTIVITIES

- Archery
- **Output** Climbing Tower & Zipline
- Arts & Crafts
- Making Friends
- Much More!!

LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

3409 N Five Lakes Rd Lapeer, MI 48446 www.bearlakecamp.org

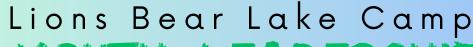
PARENTS WILL ENJOY

- (Informative sessions about current issues
- Networking & sharing with other parents and families
- (7) Family activities & bonding
- **⊘** Creative break from the daily grind!



Register Online starting January 1st, 2026

More Info info@bearlakecamp.org 810-245-0726



YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Our Leadership Development Program is specifically designed for teens aged 15 to 17, providing them with the opportunity to take on entry-level leadership roles within our camp community.

Through hands-on experience and mentorship, participants will:

Learn valuable leadership skills, gain practical experience in leading camp activities, serve as role models for younger campers, develop a sense of responsibility and teamwork

Session 1 (VIB) July 5-11th, 2026

Session 2(DHH) July 12-18th, 2026



Sponsor a Camper for \$995
Sponsor a Family Weekend for \$500



The Mission of Bear Lake Camp is to develop leadership skills, build confidence, and to provide premier outdoor educational and recreational experiences year-round to all persons, regardless of ability.

Sponsor a Child for a Weeklong Residential Camp or Sponsor a Family for a Weekend Camp

Visually Impaired & Blind Family Camp \$500 July 3-5th, 2026 Visually Impaired Youth Camp \$995

July 5th-11th, 2026

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth Camp \$995

july 12th-18th, 2026

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Family Camp \$500 July 24th-26th, 2026



Did a Lions Club refer you to this sponsorship?		
☐ Yes – Club Name:	District:	
□ No		
Organization Name:		
Contact Person:		
Phone Number:		
Address:		
Sponsorship Session(s):		
Number of Sponsorships:		
Total \$:		







Lions Bear Lake Camp

Lions Bear Lake Camp's Mission is to develop leadership skills, build confidence, and to provide a premier outdoor educational and recreational experience year-round to all persons, regardless of ability.



Founded by Big Al Kassin and the Lake Orion Lions Club. Camp opened in its current location in 2000.



Number of campers & visitors since 2000.

2025

Trail Markers:

Our Year in Impact



Total number of meals served by our food service team in 2025.



Percentage of our summer camp staff who are returning campers that have been through our leadership development program.

2025 Campers and Visitors



Number of Individuals Served in 2025.

Weeks of summer kid camps.

Kids served.

Lions Sponsored Camps

Years of providing mission focused residential camps.

Visually Impaired & Blind Youth Camp

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Youth Camp

Camp Life

120

Acres of trails. nature, & adventure

160

Individuals we can house at full capacity in 10 cabins

Dining Hall Capacity

Partnerships

We have many partnerships allowing us to host several summer camp opportunities

- o Camp Quality- Kids with Cancer Sibling Camp
- o MSU Kesem- Kids with Parents who have Cancer
- o PBJ- Foster Kid camp ages 6-12
- o Jack and Jill Motor City Chapter, Youth Leadership Development
- o MASTA String Camps
- o Sterling Heights Marching Band Camp

3409 N. Five Lakes Rd. Lapeer, MI 48446









