




# LBLC

CAMP CONNECTIONS

## 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 year-round.



What's Inside ?

### Camp Updates

It was a strong month of support for Lions Bear Lake Camp as two major fundraisers brought people together for a great cause. The Buffalo & Boar Wild Game Dinner and the District 11-C2 Fundraiser were both a success, raising important funds while showing the power of community and commitment to camp.

### LBLC Spotlights

Get to know two dedicated leaders who help make Lions Bear Lake Camp stronger. This month we feature Staff Spotlight Melissa Behnan, our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program Coordinator, and Board Member Spotlight Aleta Cozart, whose years of service and leadership continue to make a lasting impact.

### Campfire Chats

This month we shine a light on two valued supporters of Lions Bear Lake Camp. We highlight our partner group MASTA and recognize Camp Champion Rick Fleming for his continued generosity, leadership, and dedication to helping camp thrive.

### 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



May always feels like the month when camp wakes up. The quiet days of winter are behind us, and summer suddenly feels close enough to touch. What once seemed far off is now right around the corner, and the excitement that comes with a new season is starting to build all across camp. Our summer staff has been hired, and training has already begun. New team members are learning the ropes, returning staff are stepping back into familiar roles, and the work of getting ready is well underway. It is always special to watch people come together with one goal in mind, giving our campers and families the best summer possible. Camp only works when everyone pulls together. It takes counselors, kitchen staff, maintenance, office staff, board members, and volunteers all doing their part. Some jobs are out front where everyone can see them. Others happen quietly in the background. Every one of them matters.

We are still looking for volunteers to help in the dishroom and with cleaning cabins as we get ready for campers and throughout the summer. These tasks may not always get the spotlight, but they make a real difference. A clean cabin and a smooth mealtime help create the kind of space where kids can relax, have fun, and feel at home. Before long, the cabins will be full again, the dining hall will be buzzing, and the sounds of summer will return to Bear Lake Camp. There will be laughter, new friendships, and moments that stay with people for years to come. Thank you to everyone who gives their time, support, and heart to this place. We are ready for a full summer and look forward to all the good that is waiting just ahead.



## 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.

### Lions District 11-C2 Fundraiser

The annual District 11-C2 fundraiser for Lions Bear Lake Camp was an amazing evening filled with generosity, laughter, and heartfelt support for the mission of camp. Lions and guests gathered together for a fun night that included bingo, a great dinner, 50/50 drawings, and silent auctions, creating an atmosphere of fellowship while raising important funds for camp. Thanks to the incredible support of everyone who attended, donated, and helped organize the event, more than \$3,000 was raised to help support the children and families we serve each year. This fundraiser has become a valued annual tradition for the Lions of District 11-C2 and continues to show the deep commitment their members have to Lions Bear Lake Camp. We are truly grateful for their partnership, generosity, and belief in the life changing experiences camp provides.



### Buffalo & Board Wild Game Dinner

The Buffalo & Board Wild Game Dinner continues to stand as one of our biggest and most anticipated fundraisers of the year, and this year's event was nothing short of incredible. Held on April 11th at Boulder Pointe Golf Club, the evening brought together nearly 300 supporters who showed up ready to enjoy great food and even better company. The meal, expertly prepared by Fairway Catering, was a highlight of the night and added to the overall experience that kept people talking long after the event ended. There was an energy in the room that you could feel, a shared understanding of why everyone was there and what it all supports. Events like this remind us how strong this community is when it comes together for a purpose that matters. Because of that support, the night was a true success and will have a lasting impact on the programs we provide.

*Where do you start?? Maybe WOW!! Was it the food, the venue, the year long planning, the auction items, the team work, how about the chairman, Jack & Charlotte Patton. I think Lions are a bit different. As a Lion we really do not do things for the pat on the back we do it from the heart. I really think Jack, Charlotte, and the whole team needs a pat on the back. This was such a well oiled machine. Everything was just perfect (not just cause I won two prizes.) The food was wonderful. Venue...hard to bear. Just everything was perfect. - Lion Jim Lykins*





## 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 mission forward, ensuring that every camper experiences the magic of Bear Lake Camp.

### Aleta Cozart

#### Board Member

Lions Bear Lake Camp is proud to welcome Aleta Cozart to the Board of Directors. Aleta brings with her decades of service, leadership, and a deep belief in helping others. For more than forty years, she has been part of the Lions family, beginning as a Leo, later serving as a Lioness, and now continuing her service as a Lion. Her lifelong commitment to giving back reflects the heart of what Lionism stands for. Aleta has supported Lions Bear Lake Camp for many years through hands on service and fundraising efforts. She has volunteered at the annual Workbee, Ice Plunge, Clay Shoot, District 11-C2 fundraiser, and has also spent time helping in the camp kitchen whenever needed. She understands that the strength of camp comes not only from its mission, but from the many people willing to step in and help make it possible. Her leadership experience is extensive. Aleta currently serves as District Governor for Lions of Michigan District 11-C2 and is also the LCIF Coordinator for the Bancroft Lioness Lions Club. Over the years, she has held many important roles including Zone Chair and First Vice District Governor. She has also served on her club's Board of Directors and led numerous committees. What stands out most about Aleta is her heart for the mission. She believes every child deserves the chance to experience camp, build confidence, gain independence, and discover what they are capable of achieving. That passion, paired with her years of experience, makes her a valuable addition to the Board of Directors. We are grateful to have Aleta Cozart helping guide the future of Lions Bear Lake Camp and look forward to the difference she will continue to make.



### Melissa Behnan

#### Staff Member

Melissa Behnan's journey with Lions Bear Lake Camp began in the summer of 2008 when she was invited to lead an activity period during the Deaf and Hard of Hearing session. As a certified teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, she arrived ready to help, but what she found was something far greater. She saw campers surrounded by others who understood their daily experiences, forming friendships, sharing stories, and enjoying the simple gift of belonging. That first summer left a lasting mark, and Melissa has returned to camp every year since. After many seasons as a facilitator, she now serves as the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program Coordinator. In this role, she helps lead a dedicated team of certified teachers including Beth, Jessica, Samantha, and Josiah, all working together to create a meaningful and memorable week for campers. Melissa and her team focus on giving children with hearing loss the chance to connect with peers who share similar experiences while enjoying all the fun of a traditional summer camp. Campers take part in activities that build confidence, encourage independence, and create lifelong friendships. The session is designed for campers who use spoken language and listening devices, helping ensure they can fully participate in every part of camp life. For Melissa, Lions Bear Lake Camp is more than a summer tradition. It is family, community, and a place where people are valued for exactly who they are. She believes everyone deserves a space where they feel understood, accepted, and celebrated. We are grateful for Melissa's years of dedication and the heart she brings to camp each summer. Her leadership continues to make a lasting difference in the lives of so many campers and families.



## 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.



### MASTA Partnership Group

Lions Bear Lake Camp proved to be an ideal location for the MASTA String Camps when we unexpectedly needed a new site. We initially explored the camp on the advice of fellow music teachers and were immediately impressed by the clean, well-maintained, and consistently updated facilities, including the cabins and dining hall, as well as the wide array of activities available. Upon the arrival of our campers, the positive experience continued. The camp operates with remarkable efficiency, particularly concerning meals and recreation (such as archery, swimming, and the ropes course), and the staff was extremely helpful whenever needed. The facilities were perfectly suited for a summer music camp, offering ample space for both large and small groups. The meals were delicious, nutritious, and very well organized. We felt exceptionally welcome at Lions Bear Lake and eagerly anticipate returning for many more summers.

-Ted McDonald, Program & Camp Director, MASTA String Camps



### Rick Fleming Camp Champion

Rick Fleming has been one of those steady people in the story of Lions Bear Lake Camp who continues to show up, help, and make a difference whenever needed. As club manager and co-owner of Metamora Golf & Country Club and Boulder Pointe Golf Club in Oxford, Rick has played a major role in the success of two of our biggest fundraisers, the Buffalo & Boar Wild Game Dinner and the Golf Classic. These events were held for many years at Metamora and are now proudly hosted at Boulder Pointe, giving camp a first class setting to bring supporters together. Through Fairway Catering, Rick also provides the meals that help make these events such a memorable experience. His support does not stop there, as he has sponsored many camp fundraisers and has always been willing to lend a hand behind the scenes when something needs to get done. Rick is also a former board member who understands the heart of our mission and what it takes to keep camp moving forward. We are thankful for the time, care, and loyalty he has given to Lions Bear Lake Camp, and proud to recognize him as this month's Camp Champion.





## 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.

### ***French Toast Casserole***

Prep Time: 15 mins  
Cook Time: 45 mins  
Refrigerate: Overnight or 4 hrs  
Total Time: 5 hrs  
Servings: 24

#### **Ingredients**

##### ***French Toast***

3 (24-ounce) loaves sourdough bread  
(or brioche, challah, or French bread)  
24 large eggs  
6 cups milk  
1 1/2 cups heavy cream  
3 tablespoons vanilla extract  
2 1/4 cups sugar


##### ***Topping***

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 1/2 cups packed light brown sugar  
3 teaspoons ground cinnamon  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
1 1/2 cups cold unsalted butter, cut into pieces

#### **Instructions**

- Cut bread into 1-inch cubes and scatter evenly in a greased 9 x 13-inch baking dish.
- In a medium bowl, mix eggs, milk, heavy cream, vanilla, and sugar together. Pour evenly over bread.
- Cover the dish with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 4 hours or overnight.
- To make the topping, mix flour, brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt in a medium bowl. Cut butter into the mixture until crumbly. Place topping in a small resealable plastic bag and refrigerate overnight as well.
- When ready to bake, preheat oven to 350°F.
- Unwrap the baking dish and sprinkle topping evenly over the bread.
- Bake uncovered for 45 to 60 minutes, depending on how soft you like it.

**FUN FACT**



**Favorite  
staff meal:  
Pizza and  
Tacos**

# STAY CONNECTED AND GET INVOLVED

## FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

- May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026- Annual Workbee
- June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026- Golf Outing
- June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026- Baseball Game Fundraiser
- June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026- Open House
- September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026- Clay Shoot
- October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026- Ultra Marathon
- January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027- Ice Plunge



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!

**LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP**  
**Buffalo & Boar**  
**Wild Game Dinner**  
*We Appreciate Your Support*



CHECK OUT OUR CAMP  
WISHLISTS!

FOLLOW US!



@LBLC\_LAPEER  
WWW.BEARLAKECAMP.ORG

# LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP OPEN HOUSE



JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2026  
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**Tour Camp**  
**Meet the Staff**  
**Family Friendly Event**  
**Snacks Provided**

RSVP Online or contact:



810-245-0726

info@bearlakecamp.org



**BEARLAKECAMP.ORG**

# LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

# VISUALLY IMPAIRED & BLIND FAMILY CAMP

JULY 3-5<sup>TH</sup>, 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

- ✓ Swimming & Boating
- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Climbing Tower & Zipline
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Making Friends
- ✓ Much More!!

## PARENTS WILL ENJOY

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

## LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

3409 N Five Lakes Rd  
Lapeer, MI 48446  
[www.bearlakecamp.org](http://www.bearlakecamp.org)



Register Online  
starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

More Info [info@bearlakecamp.org](mailto:info@bearlakecamp.org) 810-245-0726



# LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP VISUALLY IMPAIRED & BLIND YOUTH CAMP

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
- Challenge Course
- Climbing Tower/Zipline
- Team Building
- Nature Exploration
- Evening Programs
- Arts & Crafts
- 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



**JULY  
12-18th,  
2026**

## LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

# DEAF & HARD OF HEARING YOUTH CAMP

**Ages 6-16**

*\*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!

# LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

## DEAF & HARD OF HEARING FAMILY CAMP

**JULY 24-26<sup>TH</sup>, 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

- ✓ Swimming & Boating
- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Climbing Tower & Zipline
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Making Friends
- ✓ Much More!!

### PARENTS WILL ENJOY

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**More Info** [info@bearlakecamp.org](mailto:info@bearlakecamp.org) 810-245-0726



# Lions Bear Lake Camp YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2026



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**



LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP



# 21st Annual GOLF CLASSIC



*Boulder Pointe  
Golf Club*

*Ranked #1 public golf course in the metro Detroit area*

**June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Boulder Pointe Golf Club  
1 Championship Drive, Oxford, MI**

**Please join us for the 21st Annual Lions Bear Lake Camp Golf Classic.**

Boulder Pointe Golf Club, ranked the #1 public course in metro Detroit, features three distinctive 9-hole layouts—Bluffs, Peaks, and Dunes—offering endless 18-hole combinations ranging from just over 5,000 to 7,000+ yards, perfect for both relaxed play and serious competition. that will make for a fun and challenging event.

Proceeds from this event will support blind and visually impaired children at Bear Lake Camp. Together, we can make this a great event for such a wonderful cause.

## ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Use of Driving Range  
18 Holes of Golf with Cart  
Course Contests  
Buffet-Style Awards Dinner  
Door Prizes & Raffles

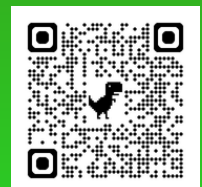
## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Registration 9:00am  
Shotgun Start 10:00am  
Awards Dinner 3:00pm

## EVENT FEES

Player \$125  
Foursome \$500

**Register Now**



810-245-0726

[info@bearlakecamp.org](mailto:info@bearlakecamp.org)

[bearlakecamp.org](http://bearlakecamp.org)

# EVENT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A great way for your group or business to do a bit more!

## Event Sponsorship \$2,000

Sponsor's name will be part of the official title of the golf event and all aspects of the event's activities, such as course signage and recognition on event materials.

Includes golf for eight players and awards dinner.

## Dinner Sponsorship \$1,500

Sponsor's name will be featured at the awards dinner, on course signage, and on event materials. Includes golf for four players and awards dinner.

## Platinum Sponsorship \$1,000

Sponsor's name will be featured on event materials and hole signage. Includes golf for four players and awards dinner.

## Beverage Cart or Special Event Sponsorship \$500

Sponsor's name will be featured on multiple beverage carts or special event hole signage throughout the day.

## Hole Sponsorship \$100

Sponsor's name will be featured on signage at one hole.

Donations Welcome!!!

Donated raffle and prize items are appreciated.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Captain \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Player 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Level \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Lions Bear Lake Camp

To Register Online: Scan QR Code  
or visit [bearlakecamp.org](http://bearlakecamp.org) under  
the "Events" tab



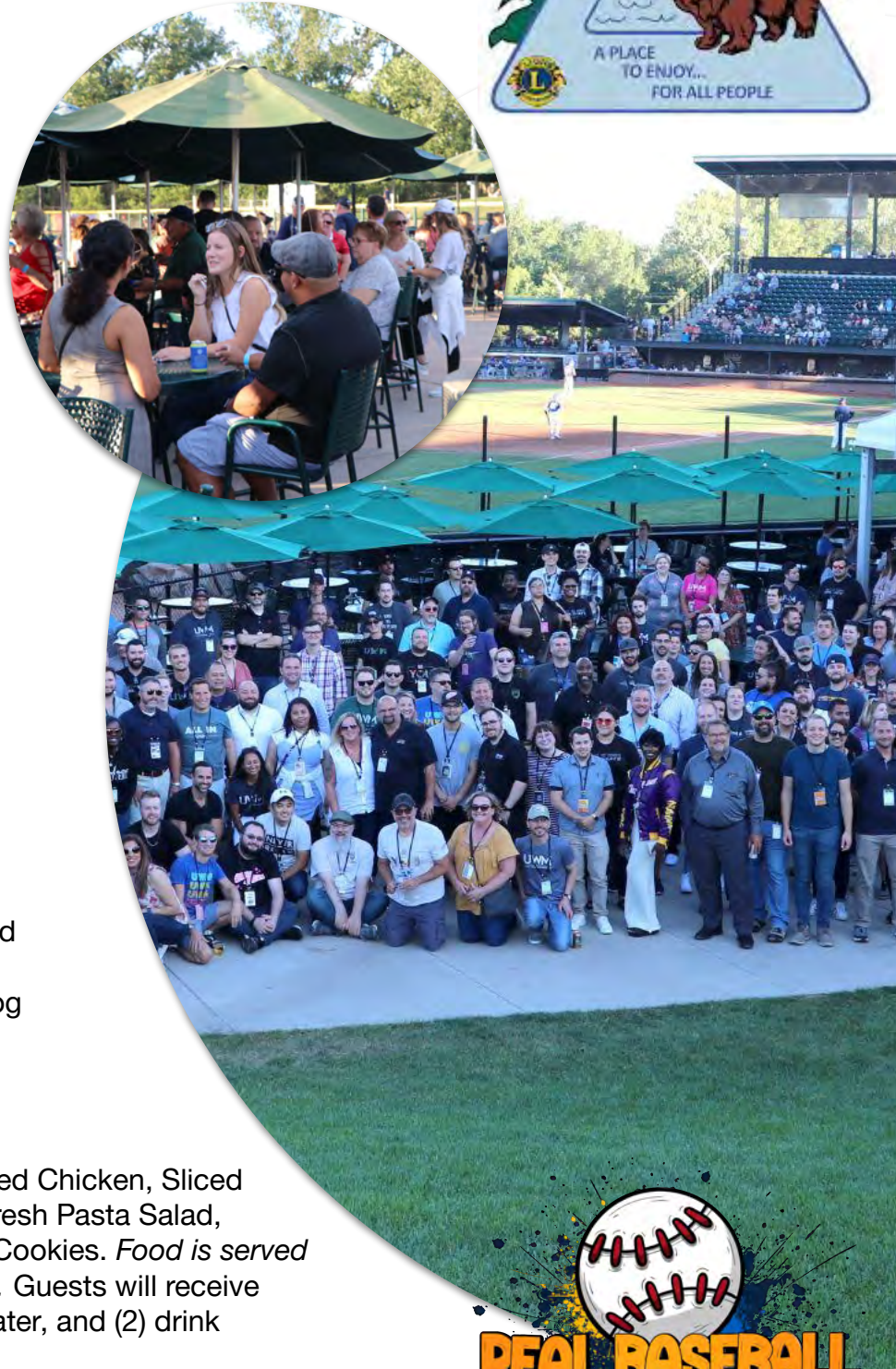
Mail Registrations & Payments to: Rick Fleming 1 Championship Drive Oxford, MI 48371



Join us for a night of fun,  
entertainment & baseball  
at Jimmy John's Field!



# Lions Bear Lake Camp FUNDRAISER



**MAMMOTHS VS. BEAVERS  
FRIDAY, JUNE 12 - 7:05 PM  
GATES OPEN 6 PM**

## ***Group Perks Include:***

- Game seating in party patio area
- Group photo on the field
- Welcome message on the scoreboard
- Kids Run the Bases after the game
- Meet JJ the Field General, the bat dog
- Meet & Greet with a team mascot
- Free Parking

## ***Enjoy an All American BBQ!***

Premium Hot Dogs, Slow Roasted BBQ Pulled Chicken, Sliced Smoked Sausage with Peppers & Onions, Fresh Pasta Salad, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Potato Chips, and Cookies. *Food is served starting when the gates open for 90 minutes.* Guests will receive unlimited soft drinks, lemonade, iced tea, water, and (2) drink vouchers for 12oz. Domestic beer or wine.

**[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE  
YOUR TICKETS](#)**



*"Your exemplary team made our night smooth and effortless. It was an amazing event and everyone went home happy. Jimmy John's Field is a true field of dreams." - Stewart*

# 2nd Annual LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP BUSTING CLAYS FOR BEAR LAKE FUNDRAISER

**BREAKFAST  
&  
LUNCH  
PROVIDED**

**2026**

**SATURDAY**

**SEPT 26**

**8:00AM REGISTRATION  
9:00AM START**

**FENTON SPORTSMAN CLUB  
1140 BUTCHER RD.  
FENTON, MI**

Test your skills in friendly competition while supporting our mission to provide transformative outdoor experiences for individuals of all abilities.

**REGISTRATION FEE**

**\$75**

**PER PERSON**

**LOCK & LOAD  
FOR A DAY OF  
PRECISION &  
THRILLS!**

Secure your spot by visiting:  
**BEARLAKECAMP.ORG**

Limited slots available, so don't miss your chance to be part of this shooting extravaganza!

**ONLY MEALS: \$20**

For More Information: Kurt Stromlund  
stromlund@comcast.net 810-923-4252

**Gun Raffle  
&  
Squares**



# **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

## **\$100 SHOOTING STATION SPONSOR**

- Your business name displayed at one of the shooting stations
- Recognition on event materials and during announcements

## **\$250 D.J. SPONSOR**

- 1 Free Shooter
- Recognition on event materials and during announcements

## **\$325 TABLE/CHAIR SPONSOR**

- 1 Free Shooter
- Recognition on event materials and during announcements

## **\$500 BREAKFAST SPONSOR**

- 2 Free Shooters
- Your business name prominently displayed during breakfast
- Recognition on event materials and during announcements
- Special shout-out at the start of the day

## **\$500 LUNCH SPONSOR**

- 2 Free Shooters
- Your business name prominently displayed during lunch
- Recognition on event materials and during announcements
- Special shout-out before awards ceremony

## **\$1000 TENT SPONSOR**

- Four Free Shooters
- Recognition on event materials and during announcements
- Special shout-out before awards ceremony