

June 2025 | Vol 02 Issue 5



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

In this month's Camp Updates, we're expressing our gratitude to Jean Becher for her donation of a lawn mower. Also, thank you to all those who came out and volunteered at our Annual Workbee.

LBLC Spotlights

This month, we're highlighting Board Member Ronald Coleman, staff member Kenzie Beem, and hear from our challenge course director. Learn more about the incredible people and programs making a difference at Lions Bear Lake Camp!

Campfire Chats

This month, we're celebrating our feature on The Balancing Act Local Edition. Also this month we are spotlighting our Camp Champion Steve Glazier. We also hear from Maeve, one of our campers as they share their story on what Lions Bear Lake Camp means to them.

Stay Connected & Get Involved

Check out upcoming events, discover ways to support the camp, and see how you can make a difference. Whether through donations or hands-on involvement, there's a place for you at Lions Bear Lake Camp!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTE TRACI TRIBLEY



Not everything that matters gets written down. Not every story gets told. Some of the most powerful moments at camp never find their way into the spotlight. They don't get posted. They aren't shared in updates or shown in pictures. They unfold quietly, in places where only a few are watching. Or sometimes no one at all. Like the camper who sat alone until someone slid over beside them and said nothing, just stayed. Or the one who cried during archery, not because they missed the shot, but because for once, they weren't being laughed at. There's no highlight reel for that kind of moment. Just the feeling that something inside them shifted. Maybe even healed. It's easy to talk about the big things. The climbing tower, the cheers, the campfire songs. But most of what makes this place unforgettable lives in the small stuff. The stuff that never gets documented but somehow still stays with you. The glance, the gesture, the quiet decision to be kind when no one was watching. I think that's the part that gets me every time. The knowing that someone left here changed, and we might never know how or why. That a moment we barely noticed might have meant everything to someone else. That's the weight and the beauty of this work. We don't always get to see the impact. But we feel it. And we trust it. Camp holds space for the stories no one else would have written. The ones that needed this place to begin. The ones still unfolding inside the people who carry them home. If you've ever been part of that—thank you. You may not have seen the story. But you helped write it anyway. Looking forward to a magical life changing summer. - **Traci Tribley**



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.

Lawn Mower Donation

We are incredibly grateful to Jean Bechar for her generous donation of a lawnmower to Lions Bear Lake Camp. This addition to our fleet may seem small, but it plays a big role in keeping our grounds in top shape. Unlike our larger mowers, this one allows us to easily maneuver between cabins and access the tighter spaces that are otherwise difficult to reach. With 120 acres to care for, every tool we have makes a difference and this one will save both time and energy for our hardworking site team. Thank you, Jean, for supporting the camp in such a practical and impactful way. Your generosity helps us create a welcoming and well-maintained space for every camper who joins us.



Annual Workbee

Our annual Workbee brought together more than 75 volunteers who showed up with sleeves rolled and hearts ready. It was one of those weekends where you could feel the difference being made in real time. Tables were scrubbed, bricks were laid, trails were cleared, and every corner of camp got a little extra care. People weren't just checking off a to-do list. They were sharing stories, working side by side, and putting love into every task—big or small. Some came with their families, others with their clubs or friends, but all came with the same goal in mind: getting camp ready for the kids. The transformation was more than just physical. There's something about seeing this place come alive through community effort that reminds us why we do what we do. Because of these volunteers, camp is not only ready—it's already full of the spirit that makes summer here so special. Thank you to every single person who showed up, pitched in, and made it matter.





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, a board of directors member, and hear from our challenge course director. These are the people and collaborations that drive our mission forward, ensuring that every camper experiences the magic of Bear Lake Camp.

Ronald Coleman Board Member

Lion Ron Coleman has been a proud member of Lions Clubs International since 1979, sponsored by his stepfather, Lion Robert M. Walker, into the Detroit Renaissance Lions Club. Over the years, Ron has served in countless roles at the club, district, state, and international levels. He leads with quiet strength and a deep love for service. This is Ron's second term on the Lions Bear Lake Camp Board of Directors. His first term came during a pivotal time in the camp's history. He had the honor of working alongside Lions legends like Big Al, his wife Elsie, Jack Becher, Al Lindsey, Paul Hemeryck, Steve Messina, and Jim Leach Sr. Together, they helped build what would become the foundation of our Lapeer campground. Ron also played a key role in coordinating fundraising efforts in District 11 A1 to secure a \$27,000 LCIF matching grant. Those funds made it possible to build one of our beloved cabins, still in use today. Now serving once again, Ron is passionate about helping the camp grow and evolve, making sure future generations can benefit from its life-changing experiences. He brings both historical insight and a deep personal investment in our mission. Outside of his board service, Ron is proudly supporting his wife, First Vice District Governor La Wonna Coleman, as she serves as District Governor for the 2024 to 2025 year. Their shared commitment to Lionism continues to make a lasting impact.



Kenzie Beem Waterfront Director

Kenzie first joined the Lions Bear Lake Camp family in 2022 as a lifeguard, and it didn't take long for her to make waves—both in the water and in the lives of our campers. Her natural leadership, calm confidence, and ability to connect with kids made her a standout from the start. By 2024, she stepped into the role of Waterfront Director, and she's been thriving ever since. We're thrilled to welcome Kenzie back for another season this year. Her energy is contagious, and the way she leads by example leaves a lasting impression. Whether she's keeping everyone safe at the lake, cheering on a camper trying something new, or simply being a steady presence for those who need it, Kenzie brings heart to everything she does. Her passion for camp life runs deep, and it shows in every moment she spends here. From early morning swim checks to sunset reflections on the dock, Kenzie helps make the waterfront one of the most magical places at camp. We're so lucky to have her as part of our team—and even luckier to have her returning this summer.



Challenge Course News

Ken Gillotte-Challenge Course Director

Hello again! Great job Bear Lake G's. Our team had a great annual training/re-certification for the new season that empowered us to feel a sense of community and togetherness. Individually, some faced hard things and succeeded over worry and doubt to achieve their goals and belief in themselves. Working through their adversity will set the foundation to continue developing their character, skill techniques and confidence. Their commitment and dedication to utilizing concrete skills will resonate with campers to ensure they leave with definite takeaways. From the compassion, kindness, understanding and good humor I observed, will allow the team to become a part of each campers' success stories. Wonderful job team! Most importantly the staff have trained well on how to manage risks and safety to facilitate and properly operate our challenge course and climbing tower with zip line according to approved procedures when leading groups. Our goal is to put these skills into practice in efforts to have a powerful impact on individuals' lives for an exciting camp experience that transcends outside of camp. Through the delivery of a positive attitude and healthy interactions fosters an experience where each participant can stretch and grow to eventually overcome personal obstacles for a better quality of life. Thank you to all, here we go!!! - **Kenny G.**





CAMPFIRE CHATS: STORIES THAT WARM THE HEART

Welcome to Campfire Chats, where we share the inspiring stories and unforgettable memories from our past campers. 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.



Maeve M. (8)-D/HH Camper Spotlight

Last year was my first time at Bear Lake Camp, and I loved it SO much! At my school, I'm the only kid with a hearing aid, and I didn't even know other kids had them too. But when I walked into Bear Lake and saw lots of other kids with hearing aids, I didn't feel alone anymore. I realized there are other kids like me—and we're all just normal kids! I didn't know what to expect, but camp felt like home. The counselors and friends were super nice. I liked doing funny stuff like knocking down bowling pins so that we could blindfold our counselors at dinner. I even liked cleaning (which I never do at home!) because we could win the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Toilet Seat Awards—it was a great method to make me want to clean, ha ha. One of my favorite parts was sleeping in a cabin with bunk beds. I got to pick my bed and be with my friends. And I LOVED doing the play! I got one of the lead roles, and it was my first time acting. It made me want to do more plays and maybe musicals one day. Watching everyone's plays on the last night in the lodge was really cool, especially with our sleeping bags all spread out on the floor. I'm so excited to go back this year! I want to meet more friends who are just like me and try new things. I loved rock climbing, swimming in the lake, and can't wait to do more theater. I want to come back every year—Bear Lake is the BEST, and I'll never stop looking forward to it! **-Maeve M.**

Steve Glazier- Camp Champion

This month, we're shining the spotlight on someone who brings big energy, bigger heart, and a whole lot of camp spirit—Lion Steve Glazier. Steve serves as the District 11-E1 Chair for Lions Bear Lake Camp, and he's one of our strongest voices out in the field. He was also just appointed as a Board Member for Lions Bear Lake Camp in May. Whether he's writing one of his thoughtful newsletter articles or striking up conversations at Lions meetings across the state, Steve always finds a way to bring Bear Lake Camp into the conversation. It's not something he does out of duty—it's something that comes straight from the heart. He believes in what we do here, and it shows. You'll find Steve attending our fundraisers, celebrating with us at events, and rolling up his sleeves to help wherever he's needed. He even jumped into the freezing lake at this year's Ice Plunge and showed up ready to work at the spring Workbee, proving he's not afraid to get cold or get dirty for a good cause. What makes Steve stand out isn't just his commitment. It's the way his passion draws others in. He makes people want to learn more, get involved, and see the camp for themselves. That kind of spirit is what keeps our mission moving forward. We're lucky to have Steve on our team, and even luckier to call him family. Thank you, Steve, for everything you do. You remind us what it means to show up, speak out, and give fully from the heart.





INSIDE THE DHH EXPERIENCE: A SPECIAL SESSION FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

Take a closer look at our Deaf & Hard of Hearing (DHH) Program through the eyes of those who help bring it to life. Hear from Program Coordinator Melissa Behnan as she shares what makes this week so meaningful for our campers.

My journey with Lions Bear Lake Camp began in the summer of 2008. As a certified teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH), I was invited to facilitate an activity period during the camp's DHH session. At the time, I had no idea how profoundly this experience would impact my life. That week, I witnessed the power of a space where kids could be surrounded by others just like them. I watched as they bonded over their shared experiences—navigating hearing loss, discussing the pros and cons of their technology, and simply enjoying being understood. It's hard to put into words how incredible that experience was—but I'll say this: I've returned to camp every single summer since. After many years as a facilitator, I stepped into the role of DHH Program Coordinator. Although my responsibilities have changed, the deep personal impact of camp remains the same. I'm honored to work alongside four other certified teachers of the Deaf—Beth, Jessica, Samantha, and Josiah—to create an unforgettable experience for our campers. Each summer, our goal is to provide children with hearing loss the opportunity to connect with others who share similar experiences, all while enjoying a wide range of traditional camp activities. We tailor our session to support campers who communicate through spoken language and use listening devices, ensuring full access to every activity in a way that builds confidence, encourages independence, and fosters lifelong friendships. For me, camp is more than just a place. It's a family. A community. A sense of belonging. It's the belief that everyone deserves a space where they can be themselves, feel understood, and be celebrated. I will be forever grateful to Lions Bear Lake Camp. **-Melissa Behnan, DHH Program Coordinator**





ADVENTURE FOR EVERYONE: LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP ON THE BALANCING ACT

Experience the magic of Lions Bear Lake Camp as The Balancing Act Local Edition takes a closer look at how we create life-changing opportunities for campers of all abilities. This special feature highlights the confidence-building, leadership development, and outdoor adventures that make our camp so unique. From our accessible facilities to the dedicated staff who ensure every camper thrives, see firsthand what makes our camp a place where everyone belongs.



DETROIT



We are excited to share some incredible news—Lions Bear Lake Camp was recently featured on The Balancing Act Local Edition! This opportunity allowed us to showcase the heart of our camp and highlight the life-changing experiences we provide for campers of all abilities. For those unfamiliar, The Balancing Act Local Edition brings inspiring stories to communities across the country. Our segment, which aired on WMYD-MyNetwork Detroit, shined a light on our mission to create an inclusive, empowering, and adventure-filled environment where campers can build confidence, develop leadership skills, and gain independence. At Lions Bear Lake Camp, we believe that adventure is for everyone. With universally accessible facilities and tailored programs, we ensure every camper has the chance to explore the outdoors, challenge themselves, and create lasting friendships in a supportive and welcoming space. If you missed our feature, don't worry! You can watch it now by scanning the QR code below or clicking the "Watch Now" button. Stay connected with us on social media, where we'll be sharing highlights from the show! A huge thank you to The Balancing Act Local Edition for helping us spread the word about the impact of Lions Bear Lake Camp. We are proud to share our story and can't wait for even more families and supporters to discover the magic that happens here.

The
BalancingAct
Local Edition



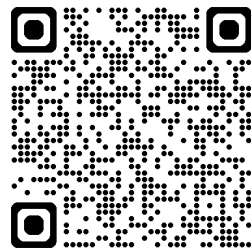
  @THEBALANCINGACTLOCALEDITION #THEBALANCINGACTLOCALEDITION



STAY CONNECTED AND GET INVOLVED

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

- **June 9th, 2025** - Golf Classic Fundraiser
- **July 12th, 2025** - Open House
- **July 27th, 2025** - 4th Annual Baseball Game/Picnic
- **September 6th, 2025** - Clay Pigeon Shoot
- **October 4th, 2025** - Ultra Marathon
- **February 7th, 2026** - 4th Annual Ice Plunge
- **April 11th, 2026** - Buffalo/Boar Wild Game Dinner



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 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
13-19, 2025**

**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 beginning
January 1st, 2025



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

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



**JULY
20-26th,
2025**



**Register Online
Starting January 1st, 2025**



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!**

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 YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2025



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 13-19th, 2025

Session 2(DHH)
July 20-26th, 2025



LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

DEAF & HARD OF HEARING FAMILY CAMP

AUGUST 1-3 2025



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

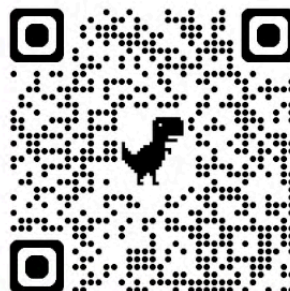
- ✓ Swimming & Boating
- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Climbing Tower & Zipline
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Making Friends
- ✓ Much More!!

PARENTS WILL ENJOY

- ✓ 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



Register Online

More Info jfishch10@emich.edu 810-245-0726

LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP OPEN HOUSE



**JULY 12TH 2025
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

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

RSVP Online or contact:



810-245-0726

traci@bearlakecamp.org

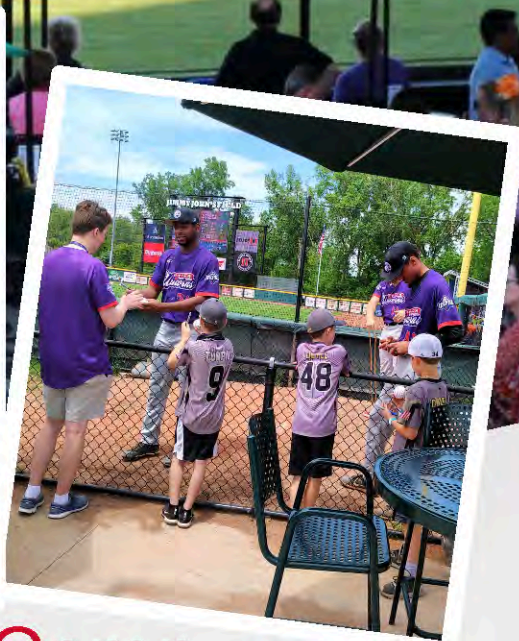


BEARLAKECAMP.ORG

JIMMY JOHN'S®

. FIELD .

Join us for a night of fun, entertainment & baseball!



Lions Bear Lake Camp SUMMER FUNDRAISER

Ticket Price: \$38

\$10 per ticket sold will be donated back to our organization

Group Perks Include:

- FREE PARKING
- OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD THE FLAG DURING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
- 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

Enjoy an All American BBQ!

Premium Hot Dogs, Slow Roasted BBQ
Pulled Chicken, Fresh Pasta Salad, Coleslaw,
Baked Beans, Potato Chips, and Cookies.
Food is served starting when the gates open for 90 minutes. Each guest will receive unlimited soft drinks, lemonade, iced tea, and water. (2)
Domestic Beer or Wine Credits for bar located in Patio



BEAVERS VS. MAMMOTHS

SUNDAY, JULY 27

Jimmy Johns Field

7171 Auburn Rd, Utica, MI 48317

FIRST PITCH 1:05 PM | GATES OPEN 12 PM



Click Here to Purchase Tickets
or Scan QR Code



If having difficulty ordering online call the
Box Office at: (248) 759-5278

Bear Lake Ultra Marathon

SPONSORSHIP *opportunity*



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 4TH, 2025**

**3409 N FIVE LAKES RD
LAPEER, MI 48446**



SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS/ LEVELS

Aid Station Sponsor \$1,000

- 4ft X 2ft Color banner hanging in the aid station (banner will be supplied by BLU and given to the sponsor after the race)
- Sponsor table at packet pick up (Friday Oct 3rd 5-8pm).
 - 1 entry to the current year's race.
- Company logo on the back of the event hoodie.
 - 1 event Hoodie (sizes S-XL).

Gold Level Sponsor - \$750.00

- Sponsor table at packet pick up (Friday Oct 3rd 5-8pm).
 - 1 entry to the current year's race.
- Company logo on the back of the event hoodie.
 - 2 event Hoodies (sizes S-XL).

Silver Level Sponsor - \$500-749.00

- Sponsor table at packet pick up (Friday Oct 3rd 5-8pm).
 - Company logo on the back of the event hoodie.
 - 1 entry to current year's race.

Bronze Level Sponsor - \$250-\$499

- Sponsor table at packet pick up (Friday Oct 3rd 5-8pm).
 - Company logo on the back of the event hoodie

Jr. Gold Sponsor - \$100-\$249

All sponsorship levels include:

- Company logo on a "Mile sponsor sign" located on the course.
- Sponsor literature in racers packet (supplied by sponsor 3 week prior to the race)

To Sponsor please contact:

Robert Lykins, Race Director and Ultra Marathon Runner
www.Cutcorob@yahoo.com 586.531.4684



1st Annual **LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP BUSTING CLAYS FOR BEAR LAKE FUNDRAISER**

**13
STATIONS**

**BREAKFAST
&
LUNCH
PROVIDED**

2025

SATURDAY

SEPT 06

**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!

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



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$100 SHOOTING STATION SPONSOR

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

\$500 BREAKFAST SPONSOR

- 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

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