



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

Check out the highlights from this year's Ice Plunge, where 30 brave jumpers helped raise over \$20,000 in support of the camp! Also, learn about the generous donation of a brand-new tractor and how it will help keep camp running smoothly year-round.

LBLC Spotlights

This month's spotlight features Board Member Fran Grabowski, Staff Member Trevor Lake, and our partnership with Sterling Heights Band Camp—celebrating their dedication and impact on Lions Bear Lake Camp!

Campfire Chats

Meet Camp Champion Bill Blight, the man behind our amazing camp shirts, and Counselor Rachel Lee, who has been part of the camp family since she was 9 years old. Their dedication and love for camp help make every summer unforgettable!

Stay Connected & Get Involved

There are so many ways to support Lions Bear Lake Camp! From attending events to making a donation or contributing items from our wishlist, every action helps us continue to grow and serve our community. Together, we can make a lasting impact!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTE TRACI TRIBLEY



As the snow melts and signs of spring start to appear, we're getting ready to kick off another exciting retreat season at Lions Bear Lake Camp. March brings the return of groups eager to enjoy everything camp has to offer—whether it's leadership retreats, crafting weekends, or school trips taking in the great outdoors. It's always great to see camp come alive again after the quiet winter months.

Of course, for some of us, winter went out with a bang—or rather, a splash. I braved the icy waters for this year's Ice Plunge, and let me tell you, it was just as cold as you'd imagine! But seeing the energy and excitement from all the participants (and knowing how much it helps support camp) made every shiver worth it.

With St. Patrick's Day right around the corner, it seems like a good time to reflect on how lucky we are to have such an incredible community. But the truth is, it's not really luck at all. It's the hard work of our volunteers, the generosity of our donors, and the dedication of our staff that keep camp running and make it such a special place. As we gear up for another busy year, I'm reminded of how fortunate we are to provide experiences that help campers grow, connect, and make lasting memories.

Spring always brings a fresh start, and I can't wait to see what this season has in store. Thanks for being part of the Lions Bear Lake Camp family—I hope to see you out here soon!



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.

Ice Plunge Fundraiser- Huge Success

The 2025 Lions Bear Lake Camp Ice Plunge was a frigid, fun-filled success! With 30 fearless jumpers, 120 enthusiastic attendees, and over \$20,000 raised, this year's event brought the perfect mix of chills and cheers. Brave participants took the leap into the freezing water, some dressed in outrageous costumes, others in full team spirit, but all united by the thrill of the plunge. Spectators bundled up to watch, cheering on every splash and shiver. The energy was electric, and the laughter was contagious as each jumper emerged gasping, grinning, and covered in goosebumps. From first-timers to seasoned plungers, everyone agreed—the icy shock was worth it. Whether jumping solo or as part of a team, participants embraced the challenge, pushing past the cold for an unforgettable experience. And with warm drinks and good company waiting on shore, the post-plunge celebration was just as lively as the jump itself! A huge thank you to everyone who participated, donated, or came out to support. The countdown to next year's plunge starts now—who's ready to take the leap in 2026?



Generous Tractor Donation

Lions Bear Lake Camp is honored to receive a brand-new John Deere tractor, presented at the District 11-A2 Kickoff Dinner, with the keys delivered by AIS Construction Equipment and Nino Messina. This incredible gift was made possible through the generosity of multiple Lions Clubs, businesses, and individuals who recognized the importance of supporting the camp's operations. The tractor will play a vital role in maintaining the property, ensuring that campers continue to have a safe and well-kept environment for their experiences. The evening was also a great success, with Traci, Jesse, and Kenny in attendance and Rachel Lee, a counselor and former camper, sharing how Bear Lake Camp has impacted her life. We extend our deepest appreciation to everyone who contributed, including those who participated in the Parade of Checks—your generosity makes a lasting difference.



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 one of our valued camp partners. These are the people and collaborations that drive our mission forward, ensuring that every camper experiences the magic of Bear Lake Camp.

Fran Grabowski

Board Member

Lions Bear Lake Camp is honored to have PDG Fran Grabowski's leadership and dedication. A proud Lion of District 11-B2 from Kalamazoo, Fran has served in various roles, including District Governor and Vice Council Chair (2018-2019). Since 2021, he has helped shape the camp's future as a Trustee and Marketing Chair. With a strong background in education, Fran holds degrees from the University of Nebraska, the University of Colorado, and Grand Valley State University. His commitment to mentorship and service has earned him numerous accolades, including the Doc Barr, Charles Weir, Ken Lautzenheiser, and Helen Keller Fellowships, as well as the Eversight Shared Vision Award (2015). A bilateral corneal transplant recipient, Fran has served as an Eversight Goodwill Ambassador since 2012, raising awareness about the gift of sight. He also founded the Paw Paw Middle and High School Leos, empowering young leaders to serve their communities. Beyond his service, Fran enjoys time with his wife, Tammie, their four children, and grandson, Charlie. His passion and leadership continue to make a lasting impact on Lions Bear Lake Camp.

Trevor Lake

Lifeguard/Kitchen

Some people come to Bear Lake Camp and immediately find their place. Others, like Trevor, discover new passions along the way. Trevor first joined the team in the spring of 2023, starting in the dishroom, where he quickly became a dependable part of the camp's food service crew. As someone who's always up for a challenge, he took his Food Handlers Certification in the fall, allowing him to step beyond the dishroom and into the kitchen, helping prepare meals for campers and staff. But Trevor wasn't content staying inside. He saw the daylight, felt the pull of the outdoors, and decided to take on a new adventure—becoming a lifeguard. By the summer, he was out on the water, keeping campers safe and earning the nickname "The Boat Guy." Whether it was kayaking, paddle boating, or just making sure everyone had a blast at the waterfront, Trevor embraced his new role with the same enthusiasm he brings to everything he does. Now, as the seasons change, Trevor is back in the kitchen and dishroom during the offseason, proving his versatility and dedication to Bear Lake Camp. With his sense of humor and love for fun, he's the kind of person who makes work feel a little less like work and a lot more like family. From scrubbing dishes to steering boats, Trevor has truly made his mark at Bear Lake Camp. We can't wait to see where his journey takes him next!

Sterling Heights Band Camp

Partnership

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" The Sterling Heights High School "Marching Stallions" have been holding their annual marching band camp at the Lions Bear Lake in Lapper, Michigan for the last 18 years! As other band programs seem to continuously search out new locations to hold their camps, we have remained at Bear Lake for nearly two decades! Bear Lake has provided the ideal location for us to hold our annual band camp. Over the years, we have been blessed to attend a camp facility that has a fantastic staff, high standard for cleanliness and safety, and has kept costs down for our families as much as possible. The willingness of Bear Lake to meet all of our wants and needs does not go unnoticed by the parents students and staff of the "Marching Stallions". As the Director of Bands at Sterling Heights High School, continuously hear many compliments from our families about their positive experiences at Bear Lake. I have found that the students have fun and create lifelong memories when they are at Bear Lake. With the many things I have to do as the Band Director at Sterling Heights High School, it is so nice to be able to say that band camp is all set. I know that we have a place to go and that the cost and the experience will be great for our band family! From the bottom of my heart, Thank You Bear Lake!

-Anthony I., Band Director





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.

Rachel Lee- Cabin Leader

Hello, my name is Rachel Lee and I am currently a second year at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor studying Psychology and Linguistics. I was born with Usher Syndrome, meaning I was born completely deaf in both of my ears and I have a slow degenerative vision loss condition as well. I had no idea camp existed until I was 9 and was very hesitant at first; it would be my first time away from my parents for such a long period of time. However, I decided to give it a try, and in 2015, I attended my first of many Deaf and Hard of Hearing camp sessions. Words cannot even begin to explain how that one week changed me as a person and how this camp has made an impact in my life. I entered that first week of camp as a shy and quiet kid, left as an enthusiastic and energized camper, already looking forward to the next year. Camp has changed me in so many ways, both as a camper and as a staff member over the past nine years. I've met friends who I can always count on and confidently say that I'll always have a bond with these people for the rest of my life. I've grown up with them every summer and I can truly say that I have never been able to connect on such a level with any other group of people I've met in my life. Not only did I gain lifelong friends, I also grew so much as a person and learned so many valuable lessons. I learned how to be fearless and confident in whatever I do, no matter my disability, because I know that I am able to do anything that I put my mind to. That confidence was first grown at camp, starting from my counselors and staff members who encouraged me to do things I didn't want to, like having a main role in our weekly play, or climbing the hard side of the rock wall! Now, as a staff member, getting to watch my campers grow is one of the most amazing things in the world. I can see myself in them, hesitant at first, but growing out of their shell by the last days, laughing with all their friends, and crying because they don't want to leave. My favorite part of every session at camp is being able to watch my campers realize that they'll always have a place and community at camp where they can learn to not be afraid to express themselves, of finding lifelong friends, and gaining an unforgettable experience. Getting to witness that is truly heartwarming and what keeps me coming back to camp, year after year, and back to my second home.



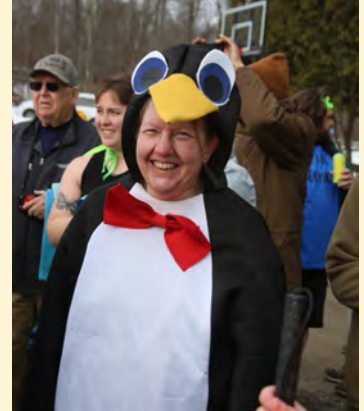
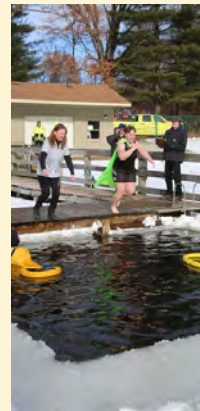
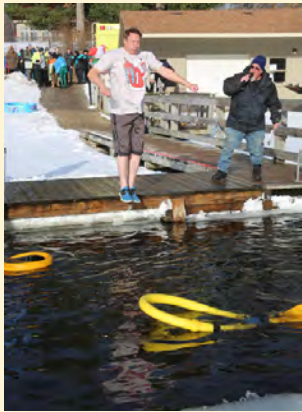
Bill Blight - Camp Champion

For more than three decades, Bill Blight, owner of Blight's Lettering in North Branch, has been the go-to person for all of Lions Bear Lake Camp's screen-printed apparel. From camper and staff shirts to special event designs like the Ice Plunge fundraiser, Bill ensures every piece represents the spirit and energy of camp. His connection to camp runs deep. Long before Lions Bear Lake Camp had a permanent location, Bill met Big Al Kassin, who spoke of his dream of creating a place where all kids could experience the outdoors. Bill believed in that vision and has been supporting it ever since. His dedication goes beyond just providing shirts. Whether it's a large summer order, a custom fundraiser batch, or a last-minute request, Bill always comes through with quality work and reliability. Year after year, he ensures that every camper and staff member proudly wears the iconic logo that ties them to camp's mission and memories. Lions Bear Lake Camp is grateful for Bill's years of support. His craftsmanship and generosity have helped shape the camp's identity, making him an irreplaceable part of our story.





LBLC SPOTLIGHTS: ICE PLUNGE 2025

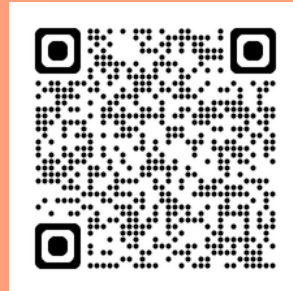




STAY CONNECTED AND GET INVOLVED

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

- **Apr 12th, 2025** - Buffalo/Boar Wild Game Dinner
- **May 10th, 2025**- Annual WorkBee
- **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, 2025**- 4th Annual 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!



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
 hmorris@bearlakecamp.org



**JULY
20-26th,
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!*



Register Online
Starting January 1st, 2025



- 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 jfisch10@emich.edu 810-245-0726



Lions Bear Lake Camp Buffalo & Boar Wild Game Dinner

Metamora Lions Club House, 3790 N. Oak St. Metamora, Mi. 48455

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Doors open at 5pm-Dinner at 6

Tickets \$60 per person OR \$400 Table of 8

Gourmet Wild Game Dinner Catered by Metamora Country Club!

3 Drink tickets! Cash Bar for Mixed Cocktails!

Raffles! Door prizes! Silent Auctions! Hourly Drawings!

SPONSOR OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE

Platinum \$2,500

Gold \$1,000

Silver \$500

See the second page for sponsorship and event details.

Order your tickets today online

www.bearlakecamp.org "under the event tab"

Or to purchase tickets via mail send check payable to Lions Bear Lake Camp

Mail to: 3409 N. Five Lakes Rd. Lapeer, MI 48446

For More information Contact

Jack Patton japlapelp@gmail.com 248-535-9011

Traci Tribley traci@bearlakecamp.org 810-245-0726

Rick Fleming rick.metamoracc@yahoo.com 248-969-2120



LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

Spring Workbee

May 10th, 2025

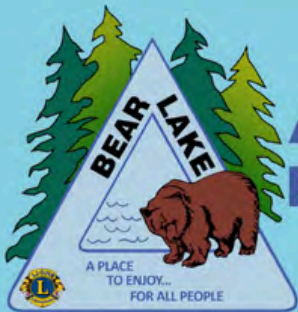
Registration 8:00 AM

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 Golf Classic



Monday, June 9th, 2025
At
Metamora Golf & Country Club



Please join us for the 20th Annual Lions Bear Lake Camp Golf Classic

Metamora CC offers 18 holes of championship golf. The course's scenic layout features rolling terrain, tree lined fairways, and strategically placed bunkers 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

Registration- \$125 per golfer/
\$500 per foursome
Dinner-Only Guest- \$40

If you'd like to learn more about Bear Lake Camp, visit www.bearlakecamp.org
To learn more about Metamora Golf & Country Club, visit www.metamoragolf.com
For additional information, please contact: Rick Fleming 248.342.1702

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 _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Player 2 _____

Player 3 _____

Player 4 _____

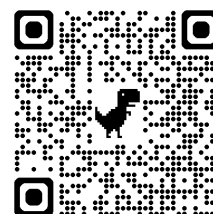
Sponsorship Level _____ Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Lions Bear Lake Camp

Mail registrations and payments to:

Metamora Golf & Country Club
C/O Rick Fleming
1600 Club Drive Metamora, MI 48455

To Register Online
Scan QR Code



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



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