May 2025 | Vol 02 Issue 4



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 yearround.



In this month's Camp Updates, we're sharing a look at two incredible events. From the excitement of the Wild Game Dinner to the last-minute hosting of the District 11-D2 Convention, it's been a month full of community, connection, and impact.

LBLC Spotlights

This month, we're highlighting Board Member Martha Owens, staff member Cynthia Slater, and our partnership with Lapeer Search & Rescue. 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 Identities Screen Printing and Embroidery. Learn more about our VIB program from our Program Coordinators and hear the latest from our Challenge Course/Marketing Director.

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!

There's something about this place. Maybe it's the fresh air, or the way the morning light hits the trees. Maybe it's the sound of laughter echoing across the lake. But more than that, it's the people. The way we show up for each other. The way we learn each other's quirks, rhythms, and ways of thinking. Not to change them, but to make space for them. Every summer, I get to watch something remarkable happen here. People grow. Sometimes it's loud and easy to spot. A camper conquering the Climbing Tower or finally paddling a kayak on their own. Other times it's quieter. A staff member who starts out unsure, learning how to lead. A shy kid who finds their voice. A kitchen team learning how to move like a family. And sometimes, it's in the eyes of a child who walked in guarded and unsure, but walks out standing a little taller. Kids who might have come in thinking they were different in the wrong ways, only to realize their differences are what make them strong. You see them start to trust their own voice. Start to feel seen. Start to believe they belong. That kind of growth doesn't always come with a cheer or a celebration. Sometimes, it comes in a quiet moment. A shared laugh. A new friendship. A sense of safety they didn't expect to find. Growth doesn't always look the same. It doesn't always happen when we expect it. But it happens. And it's beautiful. We don't always come here knowing who we're going to be. We figure it out by being around people who believe in us. People who remind us of what we're capable of when we forget. That's the real magic of camp. It's not just about activities or schedules. It's about becoming. And it's about how we do that together. This summer, we're anticipating over 1,400 kids walking through these gates. That's 1,400 chances to be part of someone's story. 1,400 moments where kindness, encouragement, and connection might be exactly what someone didn't know they needed. The ripple effect of that kind of impact is impossible to measure. But I know it lasts. We're not here to be perfect. We're here to be present. To lift each other up. To recognize that we all bring something different to the table. And that every one of those differences has a place here. Thank you for being part of this. For bringing your heart, your patience, and your belief in what this place can 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.

Wild Game Dinner Success

The Annual Buffalo and Boar Wild Game Dinner was once again a great success. Held at the Metamora Lions Club, the event brought together a full house of supporters for an evening of great food and good fun. Guests enjoyed a wide variety of wild game dishes, catered by MGCC Fairway Catering, each one more delicious than the last. The room buzzed with excitement as silent auctions, basket raffles, 50/50s, square boards, and door prizes kept everyone engaged throughout the night. This event continues to be one of our most successful fundraisers, and the energy in the room reminded us why. It's more than a dinner. It's a night that brings our community together in support of something meaningful. A heartfelt thank you goes to Chairperson Jack Patton for your incredible leadership and dedication. Your work behind the scenes makes this event run smoothly year after year, and we're so grateful for all that you do.





District 11-D2 Comes Together

We were truly grateful for the opportunity to step in and host the District 11-D2 Convention. Just a few days before the event, they received word that the hotel and convention center they were scheduled to use had suffered water damage and could no longer hold the convention. With little time and a lot of uncertainty, they reached out to us. We had the weekend open, and we didn't hesitate. Sometimes the right things come together at just the right moment. We pulled together what was needed, and they showed up with the heart and spirit that makes this organization so special. It was a weekend full of connection, laughter, and that familiar sense of purpose that brings Lions together. Being able to help meant more to us than most people probably realize. We were honored to be part of their weekend, and we're always grateful when we can say yes in moments like this.



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.

Martha Owens **Board Member**

Some people find their purpose early. Others Since joining us in 2023, Cynthia has been a quietly live it out long before they ever give it a name. Martha is one of those people. With over 30 years of service to the State of Michigan as a Departmental Analyst and just as many years dedicated to the Lioness program, her heart has always been rooted in service. In 2019, she officially became a Lion-but she's been living like one far longer. For Martha, Lions Bear Lake Camp isn't just a place on a map. It's a piece of her heart. "This camp has always been a passion of mine," she says, and it shows. Her belief in what this camp stands for acceptance, confidence, joy, and growth is why she continues to serve on the board of directors. Ask her what makes Bear Lake Camp special, and she won't just talk about activities or cabins. She'll tell you about the moments that matter most, the ones that create more than memories. The ones that change lives. Martha's quiet dedication and years of service, both professionally and through Lions, remind us that impact doesn't always come with fanfare. Sometimes it comes from simply showing up, again and again, because you believe in something with your whole heart. We are grateful for the heart, strength, and belief she continues to pour into this camp and everyone it touches.

Cynthia Slater Facilitator, Team Leader

burst of sunshine at Lions Bear Lake Camp. Her bubbly personality, constant positivity, and natural way of connecting with others have made her a standout from day one. Whether she's helping a nervous camper take that first step off the zipline platform or encouraging a team to push through a challenge on the ropes course, Cynthia brings an energy that lifts everyone around her. She's a rockstar on the Climbing Tower and Challenge Course, where her enthusiasm and steady presence make even the most intimidating tasks feel possible. Campers trust her. Staff look up to her. And there's just something about the way she celebrates every small win that reminds us why this work matters. This summer, we're excited to see Cynthia step into a new role as Team Leader. It's a natural next step for someone who has already been leading with heart all along. Her ability to motivate, listen, and bring out the best in others will no doubt make a lasting impact on her team and beyond. We're proud of all she's accomplished so far-and even more excited for everything Congratulations, Cynthia! We can't wait to see what you do next.





Lapeer Search & Rescue Partnership

How would you describe the partnership between LCSAR and Lions Bear Lake Camp?

"It was naturally made," said a member of the Lapeer County Search and Rescue team. "We're thankful to have become acquainted with Lions Bear Lake and look forward to continuing a partnership well into the

What drew you to the camp in the first place?

"The terrain is realistic and challenging, which has been instrumental in helping us provide quality training opportunities. The facilities are beyond expectations."

What stands out most about the camp?

"The professionalism of the staff at Lions Bear Lake models that which we promote amongst our members. The service they provide to the community really reflects what we aim to do as well."

In what ways has the camp impacted your team's mission?

"Training at Bear Lake allows us to build confidence in our capabilities and prepare for difficult scenarios. It strengthens our response efforts across both wilderness and urban areas."

What do you hope for moving forward?

"We believe that together, the communities we serve are only made better. We're proud of what this partnership represents and excited to keep building









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.

Challenge Course: Preparing for Impact

Welcome! Big thanks to Myron Geinner with Experiential Systems Inc. Even though the April date for our challenge course inspection included wind, snow, sleet, and fridged temperatures, Myron remained committed and continued as scheduled. As we inch closer to the start of the 2025 season, we are preparing for the annual facilitator training and re-certification. Some of the many components include hard and soft skills learned, practiced, and sharpened. These skills allow the facilitator to engage everyone with the tools necessary to challenge individuals to step out of their comfort zone and into new growth. Together as a team we build a positive environment in which camp values are demonstrated and reinforced. Facilitators role model healthy interactions and put lessons into actions and words for intentional teaching campers can understand. Being kind, being respectful and above all being safe are not just the expectations of campers, but of staff as well. It's powerful to think of the impact we can make on children and families' lives. Building self-esteem becomes essential to the transformative power of promoting character development at camp. Providing campers with opportunities to reflect on difficult individual or social experiences allows them to practice different perspectives for better life management outside of camp. An education that can come from discussions or just engaging in the camp environment helps discover the magic for years to come! -Kenneth Gillotte Challenge Course & Marketing Director



Identities Embroidery - Camp Champion

Some partnerships just make sense. They grow naturally, built on mutual respect and a shared sense of pride in doing things well. That's what we've found in Identities Screen Printing and Embroidery in Lapeer. Over the years, they've become a steady part of how we operate, providing high-quality embroidery for our polos, button-downs, and hats. These aren't just items on a checklist. They're part of how we represent ourselves. How we welcome guests. How we build a sense of unity and identity at camp. Identities brings a level of care to their work that doesn't go unnoticed. Every piece they send us reflects the same attention and consistency we try to bring into everything we do at Bear Lake. That kind of alignment matters more than people might realize. While they may not be here with us each day, their work quietly threads itself into the daily rhythm of camp. It supports how we show up, how we feel connected, and how we take pride in this place we all love so much. We're thankful not just for what they do, but for how they do it. With care. With quality. And with a sense of pride that matches our own. Identities, thank you for being part of our story. You are, without question, a Camp Champion.





INSIDE THE VIB EXPERIENCE

Take a closer look at our Visually Impaired and Blind (VIB) Program through the eyes of those who help bring it to life. Hear from Program Coordinators Harleigh Morris and Gabrielle Allers as they share what makes this week so meaningful for our campers—and for them.

Lions Bear Lake Camp provides a transformative experience that promotes independence and resilience through participation in typical summer camp activities. Each summer, the camp hosts a week-long session specifically tailored toward children with low vision or blindness. During this session, campers engage in a wide range of activities, including archery, boating, fishing, outdoor cooking, and swimming, which serve as avenues for skill-building and personal growth. Throughout the week, there is a strong emphasis on fostering teamwork to overcome challenges and create more inclusive spaces. As part of a peer group, campers navigate a low ropes course, learning to trust and support each other to accomplish collaborative goals. At the end of the session, campers have the opportunity to conquer a rockwall and zip line, proving to themselves that they can achieve anything with determination and encouragement from others. At the end of each day, evening activities are thoughtfully adapted to accommodate those with blindness and low vision and ensure all campers can fully participate in the planned camp fires, dances, games, and more. Throughout the week, accessibility is prioritized, and accommodations are seamlessly incorporated into daily activities and routines. For instance, braille and large print labels are implemented throughout the camp, and at different activities, campers are given the opportunity to explore new areas or unfamiliar pieces of equipment through touch to enhance their understanding and engagement. At LBLC, campers not only have fun but develop crucial life skills, form lasting friendships, and leave with increased confidence and independence. Harleigh is a teaching assistant from Ann Arbor, who first attended the VIB session at LBLC in 2021 and became the program coordinator in 2024. Harleigh previously attended our Juvenile Arthritis camp, beginning in 2011. She is passionate about creating accessible and memorable experiences for campers with any differences in abilities and looks forward to another fun-filled summer. Her favorite camp activities are arts and crafts and our end of the week dance. Gabrielle is a graduate student at Wayne State University from Port Huron. She began attending the VIB session at age 9 and joined the staff in 2019. This summer will be her first assisting Harleigh in the planning and execution of summer programming. Gabrielle is looking forward to taking on this new role and witnessing the growth and increased independence of campers for another summer. Her favorite camp activities are swimming, archery, and fostering lasting memories and relationships with campers and staff.











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.

















STAY CONNECTED AND GET INVOLVED



FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

- 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, 2026- 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!

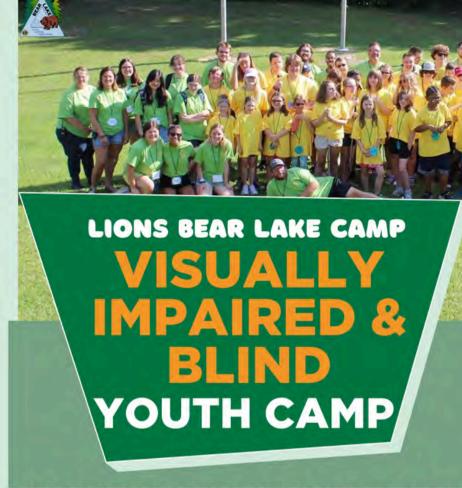


CHECK OUT OUR CAMP WISHLISTS!

FOLLOW US!



@LBLC_LAPEER WWW.BEARLAKECAMP.ORG



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 · Arts & Crafts
- Challenge Course
- Climbing Tower/Zipline

- Team Building
- Nature Exploration
- Evening Programs
- · 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



ACTIVITIES:

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

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



Register Online









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
- Olimbing 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

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



Register Online

More Info jfisch10@emich.edu 810-245-0726

LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

Spring Workshee 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

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

traci@bearlakecamp.org jwalling@bearlakecamp.org

PLEASE RSVP TO:

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:







BEARLAKECAMP.ORG

810-245-0726

traci@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	
	E-mail
Address	
	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



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

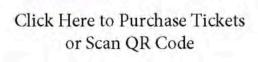
Enjoy an All American BBQ!

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





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



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

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