

November 2024 | Vol 03



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 section, we spotlight the success of the Bear Lake Ultra Marathon, which raised nearly \$10,000 with 114 runners, and the stunning fall color changes transforming the camp into a vibrant autumn landscape. The camp is alive with rich colors, offering a perfect opportunity to experience nature's beauty.

LBLC Spotlights

This month's LBLC Spotlights feature Outdoor Director Jack Colbry, who has dedicated 12 years to creating unforgettable outdoor experiences for our campers. We also recognize Board Member Jim Lykins for his continued leadership and commitment to Bear Lake Camp. Lastly, we shine a light on the Great Lakes Deaf Quilters, one of our retreat groups, who come together at Bear Lake Camp to enjoy a peaceful weekend of crafting and quilting. Their creativity and passion make their visits a special tradition each year.

Campfire Chats

In this month's Campfire Chats, we'll hear from a former camper who shares their personal journey and the impact Bear Lake Camp has had on their life. We're also excited to highlight our Camp Champion, Jay Caldwell, whose dedication and hard work have made a lasting difference at camp. Join us as we celebrate these inspiring stories!

Stay Connected & Get Involved

Stay connected with us through our social media channels for the latest updates and upcoming fundraisers. Explore our wishlist to see how you can support our needs, and consider making a donation to help us continue our mission. Your involvement makes all the difference!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTE TRACI TRIBLEY



As the leaves change color and the air turns crisp, we're reminded of the beauty of this season of gratitude. At Lions Bear Lake Camp, Thanksgiving is not just a holiday; it's a time for us to celebrate the incredible experiences and friendships we've built together.

There's something truly special about gathering with friends—both old and new—around tables filled with warmth and laughter. Each retreat this fall is more than just an event; it's an opportunity to connect, share stories, and create memories that will stay with us for years to come. Whether it's during our leadership retreats, cozy evenings of quilting, or heartwarming dinners, every moment we spend together strengthens our bonds and enriches our lives.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage you to reflect on the amazing people who make our camp so special. From our dedicated staff to the volunteers and supporters who believe in our mission, each person plays a vital role in creating a space where everyone can thrive. Your involvement, no matter how big or small, contributes to our camp's spirit and sense of community. Let's celebrate our stories of growth, resilience, and joy, always remembering to extend grace to one another and ourselves as we navigate our unique journeys.

So, as we move into this holiday season, let's carry gratitude in our hearts and grace in our actions. Reach out to someone you haven't connected with in a while, lend a helping hand to a fellow camper, or share a smile with someone new. Every little act of kindness can make a big difference, and together, we can continue to create a place where everyone feels valued and at home.

Thank you for being such an important part of the Lions Bear Lake Camp family. May your Thanksgiving be filled with love, joy, and countless blessings. Let's embrace the spirit of gratitude and continue to inspire one another on the journey 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.

BEAR LAKE ULTRA MARATHON

The Bear Lake Ultra Marathon was a remarkable success this year, with 114 runners hitting the trails and embracing the challenge. Participants showcased their endurance and spirit, all while contributing to a great cause. Thanks to their efforts, we are thrilled to announce that the event raised nearly \$10,000!

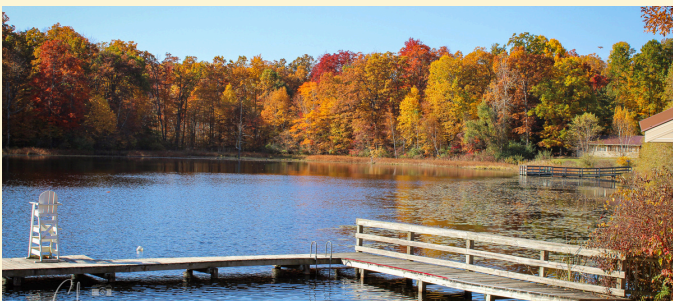
This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication of our incredible volunteers. Their hard work and enthusiasm ensured that the marathon ran smoothly from start to finish. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved—the runners, volunteers, and supporters—who made this event a true celebration of community and perseverance. We can't wait to see you all next year for another unforgettable race!



FALL COLORS IN FULL BLOOM

The beauty of fall has arrived at Lions Bear Lake Camp, transforming the landscape into a canvas of rich reds, golds, and oranges. The trees are alive with color, and everywhere you look, there's a sense of calm and wonder in the air. It's the time of year when the camp feels even more magical—whether you're walking the trails or just taking a moment to soak in the view, the colors of autumn bring a quiet beauty that makes you appreciate nature's simple gifts.

There's something special about experiencing fall at camp, surrounded by the peacefulness that this season brings. The vibrant leaves won't last long, so now is the perfect time to visit and enjoy the crisp air, warm sunshine, and the breathtaking scenery. Fall at Lions Bear Lake Camp is more than just a change in season—it's a reminder of the beauty that's all around us.





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.

Jack Colbry Outdoor Director

Meet Jack Colbry, our dedicated Outdoor Director, who has been a vital part of Lions Bear Lake Camp for an impressive 12 years. Jack's journey began as a camper in the Visually Impaired and Blind session, and over the years, he transitioned to a leadership role, now overseeing a range of outdoor activities. From teaching archery and outdoor cooking to leading fishing, camping adventures, and outdoor games, Jack's passion for the outdoors shines through in every activity he coordinates.

For Jack, camp is more than just a place for fun and adventure—it's where lifelong friendships are formed and where every individual, regardless of ability, can find inspiration. His commitment to creating a positive and inclusive environment has made him a loved figure at camp, and his leadership continues to enrich the experiences of campers and staff alike. Jack's enthusiasm and dedication remind us all of the true spirit of Lions Bear Lake Camp—a place that empowers and inspires everyone who walks through its doors.



Jim Lykins Board Member

Jim Lykins has been a proud Life Member of the Lake Orion Lions Club for over 15 years, and his dedication to service is evident not only in his work with the Lions but also through his role at Lions Bear Lake Camp. With a rich history as an electrician for 47 years, Jim brings a wealth of experience, precision, and hard work to everything he does. His expertise and passion are matched by his unique hobbies, including hot air ballooning and classic cars—interests that showcase his love for adventure and craftsmanship.

One of Jim's greatest influences is Big Al Kasin, a fellow Lake Orion Lion and the founder of Bear Lake Camp. Jim speaks passionately about the deep respect he holds for Big Al, describing him as a driving force behind his continued commitment to the camp. "I absolutely love that man and would do anything for him," Jim says with heartfelt conviction. "He inspires me every day to do what I do for the camp." This connection to Big Al's vision has propelled Jim's involvement with Bear Lake Camp, making him a vital part of the camp's ongoing success.

Jim's dedication to service, both in his professional life and through his work with the Lions and Bear Lake Camp, reflects a profound sense of community. He embodies the spirit of giving back, and his commitment to Bear Lake Camp is a testament to the lasting impact that mentorship, friendship, and shared values can have. As Jim continues to serve with passion and determination, he remains an invaluable part of the camp's history and future, ensuring that Big Al Kasin's vision lives on for generations to come.



Great Lakes Deaf Quilters

Our group, the Great Lakes Deaf Quilters, find getting together at Bear Lake Camp a great opportunity to share new quilting ideas and work on our projects. The camp is incredibly accommodating and communication was easy. Quilters come from 8-12 states just to visit the camp, quilt, and socialize. This is a wonderful and beautiful location to walk the trails, hang out by the lake, and have plenty of space to quilt.

G. Chapp
GLDQ Chairperson





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.

Gracie- Deaf & Hard of Hearing Camper

This month, we spoke with Gracie, a camper who describes her time at camp as nothing short of “amazing.” Gracie shared that one of the best parts of camp is the wide range of activities: “You can swim, do archery, rock climbing, and lots of activities together in a group,” she said with excitement. She added a tip for fellow campers, reminding everyone, “When doing activities, please stay with your group and have fun!”

For Gracie, camp is much more than just the activities—it's about the friendships and memories. “Camp is special to me because of all the friends you make and the special memories you make there,” she shared. Each day brings opportunities to connect, try something new, and build bonds with others. As Gracie describes it, there's something magical about spending time with people who become like family over the course of the camp session.

Gracie encourages everyone to experience the fun for themselves, saying, “So please come and have fun!” Her words capture the spirit of camp perfectly—bringing people together to share laughter, try new things, and leave with memories that last a lifetime.



Jay Caldwell Camp Champion

Jay Caldwell, a valued member of the Lions Bear Lake Camp Board of Directors, is no stranger to rolling up his sleeves and getting involved. Whether it's putting in culverts or tackling any other task that arises, Jay is always ready to lend a hand whenever the camp needs an extra push. His commitment to the camp goes beyond his role as a board member—he's consistently on-site, contributing his time and energy to ensure everything runs smoothly.

As a Past President of the Shelby Township Lions Club, Jay brings leadership experience and a passion for service to every project he undertakes. One of his notable contributions came in 2023, when he helped deliver the camp's brand-new golf carts that were purchased thanks to Lions Clubs across Michigan, a welcome addition that will support the camp's activities and mobility needs for years to come.

Jay's willingness to go above and beyond makes him an essential part of the camp's success. His dedication ensures that Lions Bear Lake Camp continues to thrive, and his presence is felt in every corner of the campgrounds, from the trails to the equipment that keeps things moving forward.

STAY CONNECTED AND GET INVOLVED

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- **Feb. 1st, 2025** - 3rd Annual Ice Plunge
- **Apr 12th, 2025** - Buffalo/Boar Wild Game Dinner
- **Jun 9th, 2025** - Golf Classic Fundraiser



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!

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CHECK OUT OUR CAMP
WISHLISTS!

FOLLOW US!



@LBLC_LAPEER

WWW.BEARLAKECAMP.ORG



Lions Bear Lake Camp

3RD ANNUAL ICE PLUNGE & DINNER *Fundraiser*

**DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVORITE SUPERHERO AND ENJOY A
FUN FILLED AFTERNOON. JOIN OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FOR AN ICE PLUNGE, FOLLOWED BY A DELICIOUS DINNER.**

FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Dinner Includes Costume Contest

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

**Prizes for
Best Costume
Best Jump (no diving)
and Crowd Pleaser**

FEBRUARY 1ST 2025

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

\$50 - Jump/Dinner

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



**Seating limited to 200
so get your tickets early.**



For More Information Contact

Chrissy Andre 989-627-3808 chrissy@bearlakecamp.org

Traci Tribley 989-277-7437 traci@bearlakecamp.org

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

****Costumes are encouraged, birthday suits highly discouraged.****

LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP

ICE PLUNGE & DINNER FUNDRAISER

FEBRUARY 1ST, 2025 2:00PM

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

ICE PLUNGE REGISTRATION FEE & PLEDGES

There is a \$50 registration fee to jump. Jumpers may collect pledges to support Lions Bear Lake Camp. Jumpers Receive:

\$50 Registration Fee: Plunge, Dinner, T-shirt, Medal

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

\$250 or More: Jump, Dinner x2, T-shirt, Tote Bag, Medal

\$500 or More: Jump, Dinner x4, T-shirt, Tote Bag, Medal, Event Hoodie

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Event Sponsorship Opportunities

Sub Zero Hero Sponsor \$1,000

Sponsor's Logo will be featured on back of T-shirt and sponsor banner, Table of 8 Dinner Tickets, Exhibitor Table, 5 Minute speaking opportunity to promote services during dinner.

Arctic Champion Sponsor \$500

Sponsor's name or Logo will be featured on back of T-shirt, 4 Dinner Tickets

Frosty Friends Sponsor \$250

Sponsor's name will be featured on back of T-shirt, 2 Dinner Tickets

Ice Breaker Sponsor \$100

Sponsor's name will be featured on back of T-shirt

Donations Welcome!!!

Donated raffle and prize items are appreciated.

Donors will be acknowledged throughout the event via announcements

Please visit the "Events" page on bearlakecamp.org or send check to:

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





LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP 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 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