



LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTE: TRACI TRIBLEY



As we reflect on another incredible summer at Lions Bear Lake Camp, I'm reminded of the profound and often unintentional mentoring that happens here. This mentoring doesn't just impact a single child; it reverberates through their lives, influencing their return to school, their interactions with peers, and their relationships within their families and communities. Our returning staff, many of whom are excelling in their academic and professional pursuits, embody this ripple effect. They take breaks from their studies and careers to be here, driven by a passion for the camp and its mission. Their presence alone serves as a powerful example for our campers. Witnessing these role models balance life's achievements and challenges ignites a domino effect of inspiration and aspiration. At Lions Bear Lake Camp, we're not just building better campers; we're nurturing a better future for everyone they touch.



CAMP UPDATES

Summer Camp in Full Swing

Lions Bear Lake Camp has been having a highly successful summer season, with a record number of campers attending. We just finished up week 9 of our 10-week youth summer camp programs which included our Visually Impaired & Blind Youth Camp, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Family Camp, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Youth Camp, and our partnerships with Providing a Better Journey(PBJ) Camp, Sterling Heights Marching Band, and Youth Exchange/Michigan Leo Camp. We are looking forward to hosting Camp Quality next week.



Kapala Cares Donation

Kapala Cares, run by Kapala Heating & Air Conditioning, is an amazing initiative designed to raise awareness and support for local nonprofits. Each quarter, three local nonprofits vie for the public's votes, with a chance to win cash prizes to support their programs and services. Thank you so much to Kapala Heating & Air Conditioning and everyone who voted for Lions Bear Lake Camp.



LBLC SPOTLIGHTS

STAFF

Dorothy Walling
Nature Center Director

Dorothy Walling is a retired special education teacher whose passion for nature and dedication to working with children has left a positive impact on Lions Bear Lake Camp. Since the camp's inception in 1982, Dorothy has been an essential part of our team, sharing her love for the outdoors among campers. Dorothy has made it her mission to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, can fully engage with and appreciate the wonders of nature. Dorothy has been an active participant in the growth of Lions Bear Lake Camp. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and she eagerly anticipates the upcoming renovations and upgrades to the Nature Center in the 2024 season. Dorothy's excitement reflects her dedication to creating an even more enriching and enjoyable experience for campers, ensuring that the Nature Center continues to be a core area of inspiration and discovery.

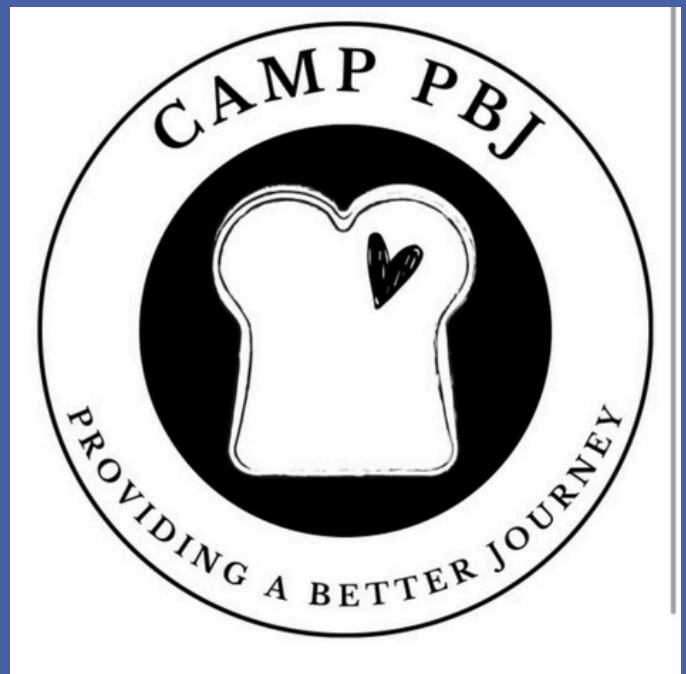


Lion Jack Becher is the son of a Lion, the father of a Lion, the brother of a Lion and the husband of a former Lion. Jack is a Past President of the Warren Lions Club with almost 60 years of perfect attendance and just retired as their Club Secretary after 12 years. He is a Past District Governor for Lions District 11-A2 and a past Train-the-Trainer for MD-11. Jack is a Veteran and graduate of EMU. He started working with veterans for the AMVETS and later at Oakland County Veteran's Services, retiring after 30+ years. He currently works part-time as a Veterans Benefits Specialist for an Elder Care law firm. Jack serves on the Oakland County Workforce Development Board of Directors. Jack resides in the City of Warren with his wife Jean and their youngest son James. His older son Adam, a Lion, is married, with two daughters and lives in Clawson, MI. Jack is active in the community having served on the Warren Historical Commission, Cable Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. He currently serves as the Chairman of the City of Warren Building Authority.

LIONS BOARD MEMBER
Jack Becher-Fundraising Chair

Last year our partnership's with the Lexington and Jeddo Lions led us to Bear Lake Camp. On just our first visit to the grounds we knew Bear Lake would be an incredible place for our program. Bear Lake is a place we can call home with a staff that feels like family. Traci and her team are always welcoming, positive, attentive and flexible. From setting up 30 foot slip n slides, flooding the volleyball court for muddy tug of war, to massive sundaes served with a smile off the back of a golf cart, I am always blown away by the ease at which they'll go above and beyond. No matter the request or question, regardless of the challenge, the answer is always yes! These qualities make such a difference in our abilities to focus solely on the kids attending camp. We never need to worry about our daily activities, the cleanliness of the grounds, meals and when needed an extra helping hand. For the kids in our program, it is so important to be surrounded by loving adults who also know how to let loose and have fun in a safe environment. Bear Lake is that loving and safe environment and is one of our greatest blessings. There aren't enough words to express how grateful we are for this partnership.

Tiffany Winn, Executive Director PBJ4Kids



CAMP PARTNERSHIP PBJ4Kids



CAMPFIRE CHATS

There's seriously no place like camp. I started going to camp when I was 8 years old, I'd never met anyone with a visual impairment before. I had a relatively negative outlook on life, I didn't think I was as good as other kids. Going to camp really made me realize just how many people really are like me, and it made me realize I was going to be okay in life. Camp is like a home away from home, I got to try so many new things I never even thought I could do as a VI person. Going to camp year after year was always something I looked forward to, which is why I came back to work here, I wanted to give other new campers that same feeling. Everyone deserves to feel like they belong, camp is that place for so many kids.

-Paighton Argue, Cabin Leader



SUMMER 2024



CAMP CHAMPIONS

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YOU!