



LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTE: TRACI TRIBLEY

I am excited to share that this summer is shaping up to be our most exceptional one yet! With ten amazing weeks of summer kid camps, we are eagerly preparing to welcome more campers than ever before. Our dedicated team has poured their heart and soul into creating unforgettable experiences for everyone. From the Blind and Visually Impaired Youth Camp, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth and Family Camps, Juvenile Diabetes Family Camp, and all our partnership camps, each day will be packed with fun, adventure, and opportunities for new friendships. We have planned a wide range of activities to ensure every camper enjoys a summer full of joy and growth. This summer promises to be filled with laughter, learning, and countless memorable moments. I am looking forward to seeing our campers' faces light up with happiness and hearing the joyful sounds of their adventures. Together, we are creating a magical summer that will leave a lasting impact on everyone involved. Thank you for being a part of our Lions Bear Lake Camp family and for helping us make this the best summer yet. Here's to an inspiring, fun-filled, and truly magical season! - Traci Tribley





CAMP UPDATES

Celebrating Our Lifeguards: Champions of Safety and Fun!

We are thrilled to announce that our lifeguard team has successfully completed their training. Their dedication, hard work, and commitment to safety have truly paid off. As we gear up for an incredible summer, we can't wait to see our amazing team in action, ensuring a safe and fun experience for all our campers and visitors. Our lifeguards are ready to protect and serve, making this summer one to remember.

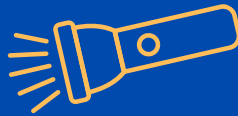
Exciting Grant News: Enhancing Our 2024 Summer Camp Program

We are delighted to share that Lions Bear Lake Camp recently received a generous \$7,000 grant from the Four County Community Foundation. This vital support will fund our 2024 Residential Summer Camp Program, enabling blind/visually impaired and deaf/hard of hearing children from the County area and across Michigan to enjoy a fun and enriching summer camp experience. We are deeply grateful for the foundation's commitment to our mission and their role in making our camp accessible to all.

Special Thanks to Fenton Winery and Brewery & Dream Machine Distillery

A huge thank you to Fenton Winery and Brewery and Dream Machine Distillery for their recent visit to Lions Bear Lake Camp for a special check presentation and tour of our facilities. Their generous donation from the Picnic Pairing Fundraiser held in April will significantly impact our programs. Their support exemplifies the spirit of community and generosity that helps us provide exceptional experiences for our campers.

As we continue to grow and enhance our camp, the support from our community, donors, and partners remains invaluable. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of many, ensuring that every camper has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in a supportive and fun environment.



LBLC SPOTLIGHTS

Kenneth Gilotte

STAFF

Challenge Course/Marketing Director



Kenneth is an enthusiastic and empathetic leader with a deep understanding of working with a diverse population. With 16 years of dedicated experience on the Low Ropes Challenge Course and Climbing Tower with Zip Line at Lions Bear Lake Camp, he brings a wealth of knowledge to his role. He is a passionate advocate for individuals striving to improve their lifestyles through education on making alternative choices and informed decisions.

At Lions Bear Lake Camp, Kenneth's commitment to promoting safe and healthy relationships shines through his encouragement of positive interactions. His approach fosters an environment where every camper feels valued and supported. His dedication extends beyond physical activities; he is devoted to nurturing the emotional and social well-being of all participants, ensuring each person leaves with a stronger sense of self and improved interpersonal skills.

Kenneth's leadership is characterized by his ability to connect with people from diverse backgrounds, creating an inclusive atmosphere that celebrates differences and promotes unity. His work is not just about outdoor challenges but also about building confidence, developing leadership skills, and inspiring campers to achieve their full potential. Through his guidance, he empowers individuals to embrace new experiences, overcome obstacles, and cultivate a positive outlook on life.

Kenneth's holistic approach integrates physical activity with mental and emotional growth, making him an invaluable asset to Lions Bear Lake Camp, where his influence continues to make a lasting impact on countless lives.

Lion Dave's service spans 29 years. He has been involved in countless community service activities in the Unionville Sebawaing Area and beyond as a member of the USA Lions Club. As a district governor, he was instrumental in the growth of his district and finished with a positive membership growth. As a past Area Leader (Michigan, Ohio and Indiana) his tenure witnessed positive membership growth in Michigan and 100% service reporting multiple district wide in Ohio for two years consecutively. Lion Dave has served on the Lions Bear Lake board for more than a decade and is proud to have witnessed growth and opportunity for both our Lions community and the people we serve. He is LCIP certified and trained. Lion Dave is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. Dave has 5 children, 12 grandchildren, and a very supportive wife, Lindy. Both Lindy and Dave are involved in Lions and the positive and encouraging atmosphere that the organization brings.



LIONS BOARD MEMBER
Dave Wineman - President

As members of Huron Forest Camp Cherith Alumni and friends, we were delighted to be able to spend the weekend volunteering at Lions Bear Lake Camp in Lapeer Michigan in May. Our organization is made up of 40-50 years worth of past friendships as campers, counselors, directors, cooks, maintenance, and friends who helped support and ready Bear Lake for its 2024 summer season. Since we as a group recently got reacquainted over the past couple of years, we decided to continue our Christian acts of service to support Bear Lake and its mission. We had been intrigued by their ability to exponentially grow since the pandemic, while providing an array of opportunities for all who went there, including us. As a group, we got excited about the freedom to plan and tailor our program to meet our needs and the needs of Bear Lake.

Built into our daily routine, we incorporated Bear Lake Camp's needs such as painting, cleaning, raking, weeding, etc., while utilizing their facilities, equipment/activities like boats, swimming, archery, campfires, and more. At the end of the weekend, we felt proud to contribute to the overall aesthetic of camp and enjoyed our time as a group together.

What makes this experience so special are the wonderful, professional, hard-working staff who went above and beyond to make our stay a comfortable and happy one. Traci, the Director, was very easy to work with, always accessible and open-minded about what we dreamed our weekend could be. Her ability to promote Lions Bear Lake Camp's mission and philosophy, is evident in her staff as well, as she partners with them in creating leaders. Jesse, the head of maintenance was eager to help us achieve our goals and provided us with an array of service opportunities, creating sign-up sheets, including degrees of difficulty so everyone could choose their comfort level. We appreciated his continued attention to our group throughout the weekend. Chrissy the head cook spoiled us with delectable and scrumptious five star meals while running a pristine kitchen, where everything was timed down to the minute. Everyone left the weekend singing high praise for the delicious food.

When you visit Bear Lake camp, you'll notice that everyone wears a smile of happiness and pride. It is a pleasure to partner together, knowing everyone is benefiting by the experience. We are excited to go back next year! - Cynthia Jarrett



CAMP PARTNERSHIP Huron Forest Camp Cherith Alumni and Friends



CAMPFIRE CHATS

My name is Jack, the Outdoor Director for camp this summer. This will be my 12th year being at camp, which includes my time as a camper in the Visually Impaired and Blind session, and staff. As the Outdoor Director, I coordinate various activities including archery, outdoor cooking, fishing, outdoor games, and camping outdoors. This year, I get the opportunity to have Bennett, another team member of Lions Bear Lake Camp, shadow me. He will observe and participate in the daily tasks performed for this position to prepare him to take over this position in the near future. I am beyond thankful for being a part of a camp that fosters lifelong friends. Most importantly, this camp is a place that inspires all people, regardless of their abilities, to step outside of their comfort zone. -Jack Colbry



VOICES OF THE CAMP



“Rylan is so excited! He’s asked every week since summer started if this is the week he goes to Lion Bear Lake! Thankfully we have some day camps to keep him occupied until Michigan, but it doesn’t deter him from asking, or telling everyone he sees at these day camps that there’s a much cooler camp he can’t wait to go to! Love everything you guys do for these kids ❤️ he has requested that you guys offer a longer session for the kids who just can’t get enough of it! 🤗” -Shelby Manson (Camper Parent)

CAMP CHAMPIONS

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