



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 month's camp updates, we highlight the exciting addition of new kitchen equipment generously donated by the Shelby Township Lions. We also recap the Lions of Michigan Camp Experience Weekend, where Lions from across the state joined us for a weekend of camp fun and learning. Learn more about our website upgrades. Read on for more details!

LBLC Spotlights

In this month's LBLC Spotlights, we're shining a light on Assistant Director Jesse for his incredible dedication to camp. We also highlight Board Member Vice President Dave Hill and his leadership contributions. Finally, we celebrate our partnership with Lions Youth Exchange.

Campfire Chats

In this month's Campfire Chats, we're excited to share inspiring stories from a former camper who reflects on their unforgettable experiences at Bear Lake Camp. We'll also spotlight our camp champion of the month, celebrating their outstanding contributions and spirit. Join us as we delve into these heartfelt stories and celebrate our camp community!

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 summer sun gives way to the crisp, golden hues of fall, many think of campfires fading and memories of summer adventures growing softer. But here at Lions Bear Lake Camp, the end of summer is only the beginning of a new and exciting chapter. Our mission doesn't stop when the leaves turn—we are just getting started!

Lions Bear Lake Camp is a place where hearts are touched and lives are changed year-round. As we enter the fall season, our camp transforms into a retreat of renewal, learning, and connection. This time of year is when we host leadership retreats, formal dinners, quilting, scrapbooking retreats, and so much more that bring warmth to the colder months. These gatherings provide opportunities for personal growth, relaxation, and bonding with others in a supportive and peaceful environment.

Whether it's through the challenge of our leadership programs or the quiet reflection found in the art of quilting, we continue to fulfill our mission of fostering confidence, building leadership skills, and creating a sense of belonging for everyone who steps onto our grounds. The falling leaves may signal a change in season, but they also remind us of the beauty in every stage of life and the power of community.

So as the air cools and the days grow shorter at Lions Bear Lake Camp, the spirit of camp endures long after the last summer sunset.

Come, be a part of it. Let's continue to grow, learn, and inspire—together.



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.

Exciting Updates to the Website

We are thrilled to announce that our Lions Bear Lake Camp website has recently received a major upgrade! The new and improved site is designed to provide a smoother experience, with easier navigation and enhanced features that will make it more convenient for campers, families, and supporters to connect with us. Whether you're looking to learn more about our year-round programs, explore upcoming events, or make a donation, everything is now just a click away. Check out the updated website to stay informed and discover all the exciting things happening at Lions Bear Lake Camp! Visit bearlakecamp.org.

Shelby Twp Lions Purchase New Kitchen Equipment

We are beyond grateful to the Shelby Township Lions Club for their generous donation of the purchase of a brand new 10-top stove and 2 fryers! These essential upgrades have replaced equipment that was in desperate need of repair, ensuring that our kitchen is now better equipped to serve our campers and guests.



Lions of Michigan Weekend

The Lions of Michigan Weekend at Bear Lake Camp on September 13-14 was a huge success! Lions from across the state came together to experience the magic of camp and deepen their connection to our mission. Participants had the opportunity to engage in a variety of exciting camp activities, including archery, fishing, boating, zip lining, and conquering the climbing tower. The challenge course proved to be a hit as Lions embraced teamwork and problem-solving in a fun, outdoor setting. Many Lions enjoyed exploring the beautiful grounds and participating in new adventures. The weekend was not only a time for bonding but also a chance to learn more about how Bear Lake Camp continues to make a positive impact year-round. We are grateful for the Lions' ongoing support and look forward to seeing everyone again next year! Thank you to everyone who made this event possible.





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.

Jesse Walling Assistant Director

Jesse has been a dedicated and integral part of Lions Bear Lake Camp since its inception in 1982. With a wealth of knowledge and experience in maintenance and catering, Jesse is an invaluable asset to our beloved camp. Jesse's willingness to tackle any task at hand makes him the go-to person for getting the job done smoothly. From serving as a certified facilitator to ensuring the safety of our waterfront as an observer, Jesse effortlessly transitions between roles, showcasing a profound understanding of every aspect of the camp's operations. Whether it's lending a helping hand in the kitchen, maintaining the buildings and grounds, or overseeing equipment, Jesse's dedication knows no bounds. In every sense, Jesse is not just a team member but a cornerstone of Lions Bear Lake Camp.



Dave Hill Board Vice President

Past Council Chair Dave and his wife, Nancy, are both members of the Vandercook Lake Lions Club. Lion Dave was a colonel in the United States Army and retired from active duty in 2011. He is an Iraq war veteran and served several years in Germany. After retiring from the Army, Dave was a Program Director and Instructor of Business Management at Baker College for ten years. Dave served as the MD11-B1 District Governor in 2016 and 2017 and as the MD11 Council Chair for the Council of Governors in 2021 and 2022. He is currently the President of the Michigan Lions Foundation and vice-president of the Lions Bear Lake Camp Board. He has served on the boards of several South-Central Michigan NFP boards in the past thirty years. During his tenure as the MD11-B1 District Governor the district increased membership by approximately 10%. As the 2021-22 MD11 Council Chair overall membership increased in both MD11 and SD10. Dave and Nancy have been married for forty years and have two children and three grandchildren.



Youth Camps & Exchange

This month, we are excited to spotlight our partnership with The Lions of Michigan Youth Exchange (YCE), which brought together youth from 13 countries and Leos from across Michigan for a memorable weeklong summer camp. The YCE program, which operates globally, aims to foster international understanding and peace by providing young people aged 15 to 22 with opportunities for cultural exchange and fellowship. This year's camp featured a diverse array of activities, including tie-dye, bracelet making, painting, volleyball, fishing, swimming, kayaking, boating, rock wall climbing, ziplining, and archery. Through these engaging experiences, campers not only enjoyed exciting adventures but also built lasting international friendships. We are proud to support such a meaningful initiative that promotes cultural education and global connections.





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.

Karsen R. - Camper

I love Bear Lake Camp! I've been going for two years now, and every time, it's a little different, but always fun. Whether you're there for a whole week, just a weekend, or even just visiting for the day, it's such a cool place. I attend camp during the Visually Impaired and Blind week and this year also the Youth Exchange/Leo Camp, and each time, I learn something new about myself.

One of my favorite things to do is the climbing tower. It's super high, and this year I was able to challenge myself and climb up the harder side of the tower. Thanks to the amazing staff members and my friends cheering me on, I felt so proud of myself when I reached the top. I think that's one of the best things about Bear Lake. It pushes you to try new things, even when you're scared, and you come out feeling stronger.

One of the coolest things about Youth Exchange Camp is getting to meet other Leos from all over the state and even kids from around the world. It's amazing how even though we all come from different places, we have so much in common. We get to do activities together and learn from each other's cultures, which has been really fun and interesting. I've made friends with people I never would have met if I didn't come to this camp, and we still keep in touch. It's really special to be part of something so big and know that, no matter where we're from, we can work together and make a difference.

The camp has helped me grow in ways I didn't even expect. I've become more confident, not just in climbing but in speaking up for myself and trying new things in life. Bear Lake isn't just a camp; it's a place where I've learned that I can do more than I ever thought I could. It's been an amazing experience, and I can't wait to go back!



Elvie Marfil Camp Champion

As the State Chair of the Michigan Lions Youth Exchange Program, Elvie Marfil has been instrumental in promoting cultural understanding and leadership development among young people. This year, her efforts helped secure host families for 19 international youth from 13 different countries, who arrived in Michigan on July 25th.

During their stay, the students embarked on a series of enriching adventures throughout Michigan and neighboring areas, gaining firsthand exposure to local culture. Lion Elvie had a goal to find a way to bring the Youth Exchange Camp to Lions Bear Lake Camp, and working with Executive Director Traci Tribley, we were able to bring these two Lions Projects together. Youth Exchange and Michigan Leos came together at Lions Bear Lake Camp from August 11-17, where these young leaders participated in team-building activities, formed lifelong friendships, and experienced significant personal growth.

Elvie's commitment to empowering youth across the globe continues to leave a lasting impact on the campers and the broader Lions community. Her leadership ensures that the Michigan Lions Youth Exchange Program remains a powerful force for positive change and global unity.





STAY CONNECTED AND GET INVOLVED

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- Oct. 5th, 2024 - Bear Lake Ultra Marathon
- Feb. 1st, 2025 - 3rd Annual Ice Plunge
- Apr 12th, 2025 - Buffalo/Boar Wild Game Dinner
- Jun 9th, 2025 - Golf Classic Fundraiser

DONATE NOW

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!