



Youth Camp Chronicle

June, 2022

Eveleth, MN

The Camp Board

Executive Director

John Miller Hopkins 2221

North District

Krazy Thompson Int'l Falls 1599

Charlie Radika Hibbing 1022

Central District

Herman Wisneski PSP Brainerd 615

Dick Lyscio Brainerd 615

Metro District

Pat Wright PSP Hopkins 2221

Tom Hoelscher Minneapolis 44

South District

Ron Sik Mankato 225

Allen Rahn Winona 327

Camp Treasurer

Bill Schindele PSP Willmar 952

Check out our web site

www.mnelksyouthcamp.org

Like us on Facebook

[MN Elks Youth Camp](#)

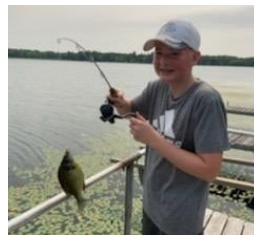
Contact Us:

youthcamp@mnelks.org

Visit Us:

10860 County Rd 118

Nisswa, MN 56468



From the Camp Board

Welcome to Northern Minnesota, the second best place on this earth.

Youth Camp opening was held on May 19 thru 21. There was about 80 Elk members in attendance. A lot of work got accomplished in three days. The pontoons got water ready, new ramp was built on the dining hall, thirty new bikes got put together, grass got cut, all leaves were picked up and many other projects were completed. The HRS building got the old insulation from the ceiling removed and new blown in, replaced some water damaged sheet rock in the back bedroom.



The main project is the Winona Hopkins Cabin. The Youth Camp Board of Directors approved twenty five thousand dollars for this project. The work on this cabin started in January. Bob Arthur is the project manager. This cabin was completely stripped inside and out. The cabin now has five bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen area and sitting area. All new siding was installed. Work on this cabin still continues and hopefully will be completed by fall. A lot of volunteered hours went into this project along with all the volunteered hours for the many projects that need to get done at the camp.

The week of April 17th Krazy Thompson came to camp with forty men from I-falls to take on some projects. A lot of work got done, wood racks were filled, stump grinding, painting, plumbing and rebuilding of the store just to name a few. There is a ladies work week also at the Youth Camp, it was held June 1st thru the 4th. This is headed up by Becky Radika. She recruits a lot of women to come to camp and take on projects also. The Youth Camp Board greatly appreciates all you women do and thanks you for your support.

The Youth Camp has a new 2022 Ford Pickup. It is sitting in front of the Eveleth Elks Lodge for you to look at. Please note the lettering and where the donations came from. Lodges and Elk Members donate money to help support all the projects that need to get done.

If you have any question or concerns please feel free to contact us.

Respectively submitted

Charlie Radika, Youth Camp Board of Directors Chairman

From Our Youth Camp Directors

June 13, 2022

Greetings MN Elks Members from Elks Camp!

The 2022 Minnesota Elks Camp Staff are arriving today and we are excited to begin training of staff this week to be ready for the first campers to arrive on Sunday, June 19th. We are anxious to provide an experience of a lifetime for this season's campers during the following 6 weeks with a return to a normal schedule. Last year we provided a partial season after having the previous season canceled. We are looking forward to again provide service to a capacity group of campers for Elks Lodges in Minnesota. As Elks Members, we are looking forward to getting off to a great start as we enter our 22nd year at EC.



We are excited to train our staff and prepare for the following weeks of campers. The staff are a very talented, hard-working, creative and energetic group of young people. We think you will be impressed as the staff really can give a life changing experience for a child in just a week! It continues to be our belief that the experiences and character growth of our campers in this short time will provide real benefits in the future for each participating community. If you would like to check us out, go to mnelksyouthcamp.org or on Facebook, LIKE our page at MN Elks Youth Camp. We have numerous photos on Facebook and post updates with more photos several times each week. Families have enjoyed the ability to catch a glimpse into their camper's experience.

Each year the camp facilities continue to improve and grow, allowing us to offer new and improved opportunities for youth. The number of Elks committing time and effort to various important projects continues to grow and the camp visibly improves each season. The efforts of the men and women during the opening weekends, along with other individual lodge's projects, have helped prepare the camp for this season. Thanks to everyone involved!

In addition to the numerous work projects and hours of work, donations from various lodges also help to provide much needed goods for camp operation. Thanks to various individuals and groups who donated items this year including clothing, paper goods, food items, other donations such as water bottles, binoculars, fruit snacks, cereal, pillows, blankets to name a few of them. All of these products help to support our camp and allow us to keep costs down.

Thanks again to all Elks members for providing this camp and all it has to offer. This is a team effort, and it cannot be successful without all of you. A special thanks goes out to the lodge recruiters who put in numerous hours searching their communities for deserving youth. Hats off to you for getting these campers to camp!

All Elks members should be proud of the service that is provided at the Minnesota Elks Youth Camp because we all truly make a difference! No matter what role you have in supporting this camp, you are important! Keep spreading the word about the Best Place On Earth being back in full operation!

Sincerely, Joel & Kim Baumgarten

Minnesota Elks Youth Camp Directors



Facilities Updates

New Truck

Dakota Lodge, Mankato Lodge, Owatonna lodge, Memorial Fund, Ring Committee and Owatonna Motor Company donated to buy a new truck. Spearheaded by Ron & Jeanne Probst who raised \$38,000 in 30 days. Great job!



New Items

- Ice machine-\$5000. Thanks Virginia Lodge
- Hydration Stations \$1100 each
- Ansul System-Dining hall \$5000-thanks Memorial Fund

Coming soon

- Full Camp water softener system-\$7500
- Pontoon Trailer \$3000
- Dining Hall Furnace/Air--\$7000

Wish List

- Monies for scholarships, programs, and troops
- Clothing donations.
- Bug spray, laundry soap, sunscreen-call Kim B for details

Long Range Plan

We need a new roof on the Lodge Building-\$20,000 needed in the next 5 years

News & Notes

Scholarship Update : With the passing of Roger Schmitz and approval by Kira, we have renamed a fund to the Leonard Stelzel-Roger Schmitz scholarship fund. Both from Minneapolis Lodge 44, they were good friends and strong supporters of the Youth Camp.

Kids Giving to Kids: Eli Fredkove, grandson of Stillwater elk Ron Fredkove, saves aluminum cans and donates 10% to charity. For the second time, we received an envelope with \$10.00 and it said "Papa-for the Elks" Put Eli down for membership when he is old enough!!

Opener Recaps

Men's Opener

- Assembled 30 new bikes
- New ramp on dining hall
- Insulation put in HRS and Winona/Hopkins
- Split rail repair, leaves cleared, mowing
- Washhouse floors sealed
- Winona/Hopkins-sheetrock wiring etc

Ladies Weekend

Known as "Cleaning up after the men"

- Cabins windows curtains cleaned
- Flowers planted
- Clothing room sorted and organized
- Painting of cabins HRS, mini golf course

Krazy's weekend

- Resource center -doors windows rebuilt/replaced
- Winona/Hopkins resided and painted
- Trails cleared, wood cut and stacked
- New shower in Owatonna



Red Wing Lodge #845 built a new ramp from the kitchen to the outdoor freezer at Camp Opener. **Back row:** Wynn VonBargen, Mark Lynch, Kevin Riegelman **Front Row:** Fred Tremper, Mike Bignell, Joe Fox, Royce Bottin



Support the BEST PLACE ON EARTH
Minnesota Elks Youth Camp

Introducing

PENNY-A-DAY
CAMPER CLUB 



Support our Youth Camp all year round by joining the
Penny A Day Camper Club - the Camp's Monthly Giving Program!

Why Join?

- Be part of providing a once in a lifetime experience for kids
- Show your love of kids and camping
- Build your own legacy at Youth Camp

Do you want to be a Penny A Day Camper Club Member?

Head over to www.mnelksyouthcamp.org and click on
Donate / Penny A Day Camper Club or scan the QR code

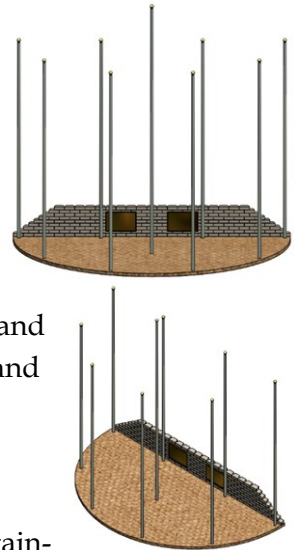


Veterans and Membership Memorial at Youth Camp

In a joint effort of the Minnesota Elks Veterans Services and the Minnesota Elks Youth Camp, construction of a Memorial, which will honor both our Military Veterans and our Membership, will begin this Fall at the Best Place on Earth headquarters of Minnesota.

A nine-flagpole memorial, consisting of 6 Military Branch flags, 1 Minnesota State Flag, 1 B.P.O.E. Flag, and a Centralized American Flag/POW flag, will replace the existing flagpole area at Camp. This area will also house the Bull and Doe Elk statues as well as four signs indicating the pillars of Elkdom: Charity; Justice; Brotherly Love; and Fidelity. Each flagpole will have a plaque describing what each of the Flags represent and will be used as an education tool for the youth (and adults) who attend the Camp.

The first stage of the construction project will be the placement of the Flagpoles and Plaques, the block wall, the Elk statues on a landscaped bed of woodchips. Additional plans will consist of replacing the wood chips with paving stones and replacing the retaining block back wall with an area that will offer the virtue of a member's name in Love and Memory to be engraved upon. More details on how members can purchase/donate to receive a memorial brick will be provided at a later date.



State President – John Jennings

Members All,

The season is finally here and The Minnesota Elks Youth Camp is finally open! Many "thanks" to the men and women who came up once again this spring to get the camp ready for the kids. While I was up there for opening I thought to myself "never once have I encountered a person in a bad mood while they are here." The camp isn't only to better change the lives for the kids we send. The camp brightens personalities and brings cheer to anyone who visits it. We are so very lucky to be a part of such a great piece of property.



The exciting news for 2022 is that we have a new avenue to help support our Youth Camp! The Penny A Day Camper Club will be unveiled at The State Convention. You now can submit a donation to Penny A Day that is taken out of your debit or credit card. You can choose a one time gift or monthly recurring donations. All of your dollars invested in this club go straight to The Youth Camp Memorial Fund (the same place Penny A Day donations go to). There will be an opportunity to sign up at The State Convention, and I hope you take advantage of that. The Camp will always need our financial help. The Camper Club is a way to simply commit to buying the camp a cup of coffee, fast food lunch, or a steak supper per month. A "set it and forget it" feel good tax deduction that goes to what is in my opinion, the crown jewel of The State of Minnesota...our camp.

If you haven't been to camp yet, what are you waiting for? See you at "The Wow Factor."

John Jennings

State President, Minnesota Elks Association

2022 Camping Schedule

Session 1: June 19-24

	Boys	Girls	Total
Alexandria	10	12	22
Hibbing	10	8	18
Mankato	10	6	16
Willmar	8	6	14
Worthington	5	7	12
Hutchinson	6	5	11
	49	44	93

Session 2: June 26-July 1

	Boys	Girls	Total
Brainerd	12	12	24
Owatonna	14	16	30
Rochester	10	10	20
Winona	10	6	16
	45	45	90

Session 3: July 10-15

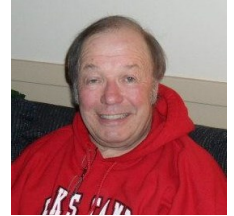
	Boys	Girls	Total
Bemidji	8	8	16
Duluth	12	12	24
Eveleth	10	10	20
Fergus Falls	2	2	4
Int'l Falls	7	7	14
Virginia	6	6	12
	45	45	90

Session 4: July 17-22

	Boys	Girls	Total
Dakota	2	2	4
Faribault	6	6	12
Hopkins	10	8	18
Minneapolis	8	8	16
Red Wing	8	8	16
St. Cloud	2	2	4
Stillwater	8	6	14
Wadena	4	4	8
	48	44	92

From The Executive Director

In 1950, 15 acres of Pelican Lake shoreline was purchased for \$8400.00. Now we begin our 68th year of sending campers to the "Best Place on Earth"-The Minnesota Elks Youth Camp. Now with 300 acres, 24 buildings, 4 lakes, we have a \$14 million dollar facility, debt free, owned and operated solely by The Minnesota Elks. When you talk about "Elks Care-Elks Share" and "Elks -Meeting the Challenge", you are talking about the crown jewel of Minnesota Elkdom - your youth camp. Over 35,000 kids have been give the opportunity to enjoy this great facility! Please consider joining the Penny A Day Camper Club, you will hear about at the convention. The goal is simple, grow the Memorial Fund to further support camp operations and lessen the cost to the lodges. This year the Fund will provide \$125,000 to the Camp and as the fund grows that number will increase. "Be Loud-Be Proud", you all own and operate the premier youth camp in the BPOE!



John Miller, Youth Camp Executive Director

Ladies Camp Opener

Ladies clean-up weekend was held on June 3rd and 4th. We had members from Red Wing, Minneapolis, Hopkins, Hibbing, Virginia and Willmar show up to help out. Even though we were down in numbers we had 5 new ladies attend and they all said they would be back next year and be bringing more with them. So we must not have scared them away. Some of the things we had the pleasure to do was get all the kids cabins cleaned inside and out and all the curtains washed. This was a huge chore. All the curtains and windows in the dining hall were cleaned along with the whole building being power washed. The mini golf course got a fresh coat of paint, but might be needing more repair work down the road. Last but not least, all the flower beds received some TLC and look marvelous again. Hope more of you members will try to make it next year and enjoy a fun weekend.



Thanks to all again for helping
Becky Radika, Organizer Ladies Weekend