



Youth Camp Chronicle

June, 2018

Red Wing, MN

The Camp Board

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

John Miller (Chair) Hopkins 2221
Tom Hoelscher Minneapolis 44

South District

Ron Sik Mankato 225
Allen Rahn Winona 327



From the Camp Board

As we meet in Red Wing, camp sessions are underway and things are going well. The first session we served 97 campers as we shoot for 700 this summer. Our directors have hired an outstanding staff, the facility is in excellent physical shape and the budget is in place. As members of the Minnesota Elks Association, you own and operate one of the premier youth camps in the country. The Minnesota Elks run their own show and nobody does it better!

The Camp Board appreciates the hundreds of workers who got the camp ready this spring and the hundreds working all summer to recruit and transport the kids to

camp. Your Camp is truly a hands on operation and you should be proud of what is accomplished each year.

The Minnesota Elks have provided over 30,000 deserving kids with the camping experience of a lifetime and that is outstanding. Minnesota Elks Youth Camp—BPOE—"Best Place on Earth".

John M. Miller PER
Camp Board Chairman

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

Mens and Ladies Opening Weekends

Over 200 members attended our opening weekends and a lot of work was done. Painting, remodeling, cleaning and maintenance. The leaf vacuum was the highlight of the spring—all of the leaves were done and the camp was as clean as it has been in many years. The new road and camp signs were installed and they are really sharp. More work on the Owatonna and Rochester houses was also done. A new fire pit was installed behind

the Owatonna House. It is great to see the members working together and also enjoying social hour, meals and telling each other how smart they are. If you have not seen your camp, come to closing—come to opening next spring—come visit this summer. What gets done at opening by the men and ladies would us thousands of dollar in labor alone. The Camp Board appreciates the help. Thank you everyone!

From Our Youth Camp Directors

Greetings MN Elks Members from Elks Camp!

June 12, 2018

It's the first week of camp, and we're excited to have 97 campers attending from six northern Minnesota Elks Lodges. The entire camp is absolutely beautiful and in full swing. Even though the weather has been a little wet at the start of this week, the kids are still enjoying Elks Camp and all of the activities. After a full week of training, our staff is anxious to provide an experience of a lifetime to these campers!

It continues to be our belief that the experiences and character growth of all of our campers in this short time will provide real benefits in the future for each participating community. Last year we set another near record attendance of almost 700 campers for the season, and we'll try again to provide service to a capacity group of campers for Elks Lodges in Minnesota this year. As Elks Members, we are looking forward to another fun and eventful summer, and we are very excited to have such a great start as we enter our 18th year at EC.

The staff is working hard and learning so much. Even though we have a number of regular returners, there has been a large turnover of staff members. They are a very talented, hardworking, creative and energetic group of young people. Their fun, animated, and selfless approach with campers makes Elks Camp an exciting place to work. To see these staff members work their magic with kids should prove to be an inspiration for all Elks. You are invited to come and observe the camp in action anytime. We are very proud of our staff and think you will be impressed as the staff really can give a life changing experience for a child in just a week! 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! Elks members continue to show that they can work together on this incredible state project.

There have been many new projects added to camp by Elks members during the past off-season. A special thanks goes out to the MN Elks Camp Board in helping to guide these improvements and spending so much time and effort for the camp! Some of these projects include: new camp signs, improvements to the International Falls House, Owatonna House and Rochester House, improvements to the cabin counselor quarters, the painting of a large number of buildings inside and out. New washers and dryers installed in the dining hall and girls wash house allow for faster and more efficient cleaning of linens. The additions of the new pontoon, leaf vacuum trailer, leaf blowers and wagons were also much needed for camp operation. The usual woodcutting, trail maintenance, raking, mowing, cleaning, painting, moving, and fixing are also very appreciated. Rick and Gretchen Peterson also designed and installed the complex wifi system to cover camp as well as set up online registration on the website. The camp looks great and is operating great because of everyone's efforts! Thanks Elks Members for all of the assistance!

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. These items and work projects are crucial to the start of our camp. Each year the number of donations continues to grow to save on operating costs for the camp. Thanks to various individuals and groups who donated items this year including clothing, paper goods, food items, and other needed items. All of these products help to support our camp and allow us to keep costs down. Thank you for your continual investment in our state project!

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. Thanks to the Camp Board for providing the needed materials and support to make this a successful place. 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! This state project is the true "Jewel of Minnesota." Keep spreading the word about the Best Place On Earth! This program just continues to grow and improve!

Sincerely,
Joel & Kim Baumgarten
Minnesota Elks Youth Camp Directors

Hopkins Elks Lodge #2221 Presents

Pat Goes to Camp

October 19-20, 2018

MINNESOTA ELKS
2018 Mid Year Convention



LEARN NEW SKILLS

Speakers on Leadership & Marketing

All Members
are Welcome...
and "encouraged"
to attend.

EXPERIENCE ELKS CAMP

Flag Raising, Hayrides, Campfire Skit

SOCIALIZE & HAVE FUN

Bourbon & Cigar Tasting, Wine & Cheese Tasting, Beach Luau



Hosted at Breezy Point Resort - Breezy Point, MN

Information & Online Registration at www.mnelks.org

What Will YOU Discover?

Yes, the rumors are true! The 2018 Mid Year Convention hosted by Hopkins Lodge #2221 will be held in partnership with the Minnesota Elks Youth Camp and Breezy Point Resort rather than at the Hopkins Lodge. Why you ask? We want to provide a unique opportunity to members of the Minnesota Elks State Association to see the camp for the very first time or for those long time members who have been to camp, to see it through the eyes of a camper. And dare we say possibly the start of a new tradition?!

There are many members in our state who either don't know we have a youth camp or have never been to visit it. Those that have seen it and/or volunteered at it will tell you that it reinforces the message of the good works that we as Elks perform in our community. The camp provides kids that often come from a difficult home life a chance to experience a true north woods experience. It teaches respect, teamwork and offers a child a week of downright fun. Come see the camp and you too will be hooked.

And while we poke fun at incoming State President Pat Wright with our theme of "Pat Goes To Camp", we are serious about offering an educational, fun and unique experience with this year's Mid Year Convention. We invite you to attend this year's convention and help make it and our Youth Camp successful. We hope the break out sessions provide you valuable insight not only for your Lodge business but your personal life as well.

We encourage you to reach out to a fellow member or two who hasn't attended a convention and invite them along.

Who knows? What will YOU discover...



Learning Opportunity

During the business session of the meeting on Friday, we'll have two break out sessions hosted by leaders in their field discussing topics critical to our success as an organization:

Leadership: Dan Schultzenberg spent most of his career at General Mills in sales and leadership training. He is now a successful coach and mentor to corporate leaders, helping guide them in their careers. The focus of this breakout session is how to engage, motivate and encourage people to achieve a common goal.

Marketing: Tom Heller built his own successful marketing communications company, which he sold last year. He will use the marketing of this convention as a case study to help us understand that "how to" market is only part of the puzzle. To whom are you marketing? What activity/event are you marketing? Or should you be marketing?

Open Q & A with both available after the business sessions.

Camp Adult Style

Many of you may have been to camp at opener, closing, Family Camp or visits here and there. Have you ever seen it from a child's perspective? There are many different types of activities offered at camp for the kids from fishing, boating, archery, arts & crafts, to theater and more.

Come experience the camp on Friday after the business sessions:

Picnic Lunch: 12:30pm-2:30pm

Camp Activities: 12:30pm-5:30pm

- Flag Raising
- Hayrides/Tours
- Miniature Golf
- And more...

BBQ Rib Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm

Campfire Skit (Adult Style): 6:30pm

Socialize & Have Fun

What would a convention be without finding those opportunities to see and catch up with fellow Elks from across the state? We are changing up the rules in that we aren't offering a spouses event but we are offering several events to appeal to a variety of tastes and desires.

Bourbon/Scotch/Cigar Tasting:

Friday 1:30pm-3:30pm

Wine & Cheese Tasting:

Friday 1:30pm-3:30pm

Beach Luau:

Friday 5:00-10:00pm. Catch the final rays of the day on the beach in the new cabana area while sipping on a delicious beachy beverage.

The Big Chill:

Saturday 6:00pm

This and That

On The Waterfront

We have been and continue to improve many of our buildings at Camp but we are also turning our attention to the beach area. Two major items have been set:

- 1) Herzog 2—new Bennington pontoon boat is on the water. Thanks to the Ring Committee, the Memorial Fund, 3M Gives through Hutchinson, Dakota County Lodge, Alexandria Lodge and Stillwater Lodge we have the first of our new pontoons. They will be safer and more efficient for the Camp.
- 2) New Dock—Our dock has seen better days. We have contracted for a new FLOE dock system to be installed in May 2019. Again safety is the main concern. The project cost is \$30,000 so we will

be exploring funding options if anyone is interested. This dock system will serve for many years.

Troops Week

We will have the most troops week kids this year since we began the program. Thanks to Tom Kramin for taking the lead. The troops program will be July 19th at 11:00am. Members are welcome to attend. With more kids, we are looking for more camperships for troops—\$75.00 per camper. Please consider helping support this program.

Building Update

We continue to improve our housing. The Owatonna House is about 80% completed and should be done next

spring. The Rochester update is underway—baths are in, kitchen has begun, sliding door is in and more on the way. The Winona House is scheduled for kitchen remodel, decorating and flooring to start next spring. The challenge is to remodel around the Camp schedule as we need the buildings for the staff when the camp is in session.

Online Donations

This past year we updated the MN Elks Youth Camp web site to accept donations online. You can use a credit or e-check to make donations to the Youth Camp. There is also information on how to submit memorial and in honor donations. Check it out at www.mnelksyouthcamp.org under “Donations”.

Wish List for 2018

- New cabin by Dakota
- Two signs: At the service and bus entrances “Welcome to Elks Camp—Best Place On Earth
Mission: To provide youth with a life changing experience”
- Drinking fountains at Lodge and Markee
- Two washer/dryer combos in Dining Hall and Girls Wash House
- Field Lights x 4 (on current posts)
- 25-50 hp outboard tiller motor
- New pontoon and motor for Pelican Beach
- New faucets for Boys and Girls wash house
- Blankets (150)

Fix List

- Continue to stain/paint sheds and other buildings—cabins
- Continue to fix all split rail fences
- Wire essentials for power outages
- Service all vehicles-carts/truck/mowers/tractor/boat motors
- Have all pontoons ready
- Replace the wood on the floor of beach cabana (too many splinters)
- New air conditioner in Cheyenne and Mohegan cabins
- Power to stage area and prop shed and light in prop shed
- Wall in main room of health house
- Mohegan electrical
- Girls shower house (old showers) continues to drip

Donations Wish List

- 3 heavy duty hand pull garden wagons for campers to put leaves and sticks
- 3 backpack blowers
- 10 push brooms
- 10 flashlights
- 10 youth life jackets
- Bug spray
- Monies toward archery equipment
- Laundry detergent
- Snacks (qty of 110) - fruit snacks, juice boxes, prepackaged snacks
- Paper goods (paper towels, toilet paper paper plates & cups)
- Monies for sunscreen (need specific kind to prevent swimmer’s itch)
- Charcoal (20 bags)
- Tonka sand toys

2018 Camping Schedule

Session 1: June 10 - June 16th

	Boys	Girls	Total
Bemidji	10	8	18
Duluth	12	12	24
Eveleth	14	10	24
Fergus Falls	2	2	4
International Falls	7	7	14
Virginia	9	6	15
	54	45	99

Session 2: June 17th—June 23rd

	Boys	Girls	Total
Dakota	2	2	4
Faribault	6	6	12
Hopkins	11	10	21
Minneapolis	8	8	16
Red Wing	10	8	18
St. Cloud	2	2	4
Stillwater	10	8	18
Wadena	6	6	12
	55	50	105

Session 3: June 24h—June 30th

	Boys	Girls	Total
Alexandria	12	14	26
Hibbing	10	8	18
Mankato	12	6	18
Willmar	8	6	14
Worthington	5	7	12
Hutchinson	6	7	13
	53	48	101

Session 4: July 8th - July 14th

	Boys	Girls	Total
Brainerd	13	11	24
Owatonna	16	18	34
Rochester	12	12	24
Winona	13	8	21
	54	49	103

All lodges will be in the first four weeks, followed by an expanded Troops Week with a few Elks kids and grandkids in week 5. Weeks 6 and 7 will be Elks kids and grandkids as before. This year all lodge and troops camper fees will remain at \$75.00. Elks kids and grandkids camper fees will be \$150 for members and \$200 for guests.

<http://www.mnelksyouthcamp.org>

Any questions or lodge quota changes should be referred to a Camp Board member listed on the front page. Remember all lodge camper fees are paid by the raffle proceeds and not by the individual lodges.

Session 5: Troops Week + Elks Kids & grandkids
July 15—July 21

Session 6: Elks Kids & Grandkids Week
July 22—July 28

Session 7: Elks Kids & Grandkids Week
July 29 -August 4

Elks Family Camp: August 10—12

State Soccer Shoot Out: August 24—26

Online Registration: Elks Kids Week

In years past, registration and payment for Elks Kids and Troop Week were a paper process. This year for the first time, we introduced an online registration system which made it easier to capture the information needed about each camper as well as allowed us to accept credit cards as a form of payment. There were a few hiccups in the process but overall the registration process went smoothly. Thank you Elks members for your patience as we rolled out this new process.

New Camp Signage

