



# Youth Camp Chronicle

October, 2018 Breezy Point, 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

**Check out our web site**

[www.mnelksyouthcamp.org](http://www.mnelksyouthcamp.org)

**Like us on Facebook**

[MN Elks Youth Camp](#)

**Contact Us:**

[youthcamp@mnelks.org](mailto:youthcamp@mnelks.org)

**Visit Us:**

10860 County Rd 118  
Nisswa, MN 56468



## From the Camp Board

The Camp Board is pleased that the convention has come to camp. Please make sure you take this opportunity to visit one of the premier state projects in the country. Hopkins has worked very hard to showcase what the camp has to offer. Our directors, Kim and Joel, will be at camp as well as some staff members and the camp board to show you the facility and to answer your questions. Do Not Miss It!!

We had 662 campers attend the camping sessions, with a record 63 attending Troops Week! The Camp is in good physical shape and in good shape financially.

We continue to update our buildings and equipment. The new dock will go in May, 2019 and we are looking for another \$15,000 or so to complete the funding. 2019 will be our 65th year of serving campers, having served over 30,000 kids to date.

Thanks for your continue support in all areas of your project – it is appreciated. Let's shoot for 700 campers in 2019!

**John M. Miller, PER**  
**Camp Board Chairman**

## Donations Wish List

- Monies for archery equipment
- Charcoal & lighter fluid
- Troops Week scholarships (\$75/camper)
- Laundry soap & dryer sheets
- Mattress covers (\$25/each)
- Snacks
- Paper goods (towels, toilet paper, cups)
- Paint brushes
- Bath towels
- Monies for craft supplies
- Ten (10) push brooms
- Ten (10) rakes
- Kids clothing including swim suits, tennis shoes, flip flops

## From Our Youth Camp Directors

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Dear Minnesota Elks Members:

August 3, 2018

We would like to thank all the Elks Members who have contributed to the MN Elks wonderful State Project! It continues to be a life changing experience by having the opportunity to live and work at the "EC" for 18 summers and see such incredible improvements and exciting new ideas each year. Also, we have witnessed more and more Elks Members stopping by to see the camp in action and supporting the camp. It is known as the **Best Place On Earth** and truly shines when you can see the youth of Minnesota enjoying your efforts!

Our program has continued to present positive public relations by maintaining our annual programs like Troops Week, Elks' Kids Weeks 1, 2 and 3 and Staff Appreciation Day. Some of the highlights from this year include:

- Hosted a record 63 campers from troops families during Troops Week
- Achieved record attendance at our Veterans Ceremony with 35 guests!
- Ran our seventh fun run fundraiser called "Four on the Fourth" raising money for three staff memorial scholarships and program costs.
- Maintained our Facebook page throughout the summer with hundreds of Elks Camp photos that were viewed by over 11,000 interested people!
- Provided a north woods experience to a record attendance of 662 campers!

We would like to thank our staff of 2018 for choosing a meaningful job mentoring these youth and making a real difference in the lives of these children. This is a very challenging job, which requires tremendous skills that many young people either do not have or choose not to share. Our staff goes above and beyond to create connections and a caring environment where all campers feel comfortable and welcome. Because of this unique growth experience, staff members gain life changing skills which will be useful in future occupations. Elks members can be assured that the camp program being provided is high quality and money well spent.

As Camp Directors for the Minnesota Elks Youth Camp and Fellow Elks Members, we would like to humbly express our gratitude to everyone connected with this fine state project. We especially wish to thank John Miller, Bill Schindele and the Camp Board for the endless ours spent behind the scenes to help us make this place work.

The Minnesota Elks Youth Camp is another example of the great deeds that can be accomplished by Elks members. We are very proud of Elks Camp as the **Best Program On Earth** for helping youth, and we are happy to report the summer of 2018 was again a huge success at EC! Hope to see you at camp next season!

Sincerely,

Joel & Kim Baumgarten

Minnesota Elks Youth Camp Directors

## Thank You

Dear Camp Board of Directors:

Thank you so very much for the Four on the Fourth Scholarship! It means so much to me. Camp has been an integral part of my growing up and has molded my work ethic to what it is today. I cannot wait to make everyone at camp proud of me at Madison! Thank you a thousand times!

Best

Ellen P

Dear John

Thank you so much for sponsoring me for Elks Camp! It was one of the best weeks of my life. I did a lot of amazing stuff there and some even for the first time like pontooning, kayaking and golfing! I got a bullseye in archery and three holes in one in mini golf. I also made a lot of new friends. All of the staff members made me feel at home. Everyone there was so nice. I got and made so many souvenirs. It was my first camp experience and it will be one I will never

forget, thanks again for making it happen!

From

Destiny B



## Opportunities For Members To Use the Camp

There are several opportunities for you as Elks members to utilize and enjoy our state project – the Minnesota Elks Youth Camp.

### Elks Kids Week

The children and grandchildren of Elks members are able to attend one of the weeks set aside during the summer designated as Elks Kids Week. The Elks member sponsoring a child must be from one of the 24 lodges throughout Minnesota and in good standing. It only costs \$175/Elks child and children can also bring a friend or two for a fee of \$225 each. It's an inexpensive way to introduce your children and their friends to

a great north woods experience.

### Family Camp

The camp sets aside one week-end – Friday through Sunday – in mid August for Elks members and their family to enjoy the camp. You can stay in one of the many buildings with kitchens, one of the camper bunkhouses or bring up an RV or trailer and park on our softball field. Space is on a first come first serve basis so register early.

You can find more information on both of these opportunities on the Youth Camp web site at [www.mnelksyouthcamp.org](http://www.mnelksyouthcamp.org)

### Lodge Flyers

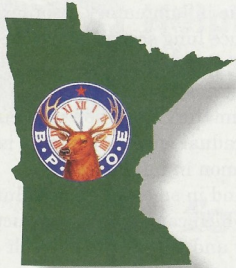
There are also flyers available on the State Association web site to post at your Lodge to inform your members of these programs. You can find them at [www.mnelks.org](http://www.mnelks.org) under Member Resources / State Committees / Youth Camp.

It's a great way to enjoy the camp we all work to support and maintain.



## The following article appeared in the National Elks Magazine in October, 2018

### State Major Projects



# Minnesota

## Minnesota Elks Youth Camp

**I**N A HEAVILY WOODED AREA in central Minnesota, on the southern shore of Pelican Lake, sits a cluster of cabins, athletic fields, and other facilities that make up the Minnesota Elks Youth Camp. Every year for seven weeks, the camp is filled with the happy sounds of campers enjoying sports, cookouts, and other outdoor activities. This is the state major project of the Minnesota Elks Association, which has held summer camps for a total of about thirty-five thousand children since the first camp session was held in 1954.

The camp's 290 acres of property were acquired in 1950 and are located about 140 miles north of Minneapolis. The property boasts a beach, boat house, and pier on Pelican Lake, and the camp's grounds also extend to the banks of three other lakes. Other features of the camp include a miniature golf course, a baseball diamond, a basketball court, a golf driving range, an outdoor stage, an archery range, a climbing wall, and a well-stocked art center.

Minnesota Elks Association lodges sponsor about one hundred boys and girls ages nine to thirteen to attend the camp every week for four weeks in June and July. These sponsorships are awarded at each lodge's discretion and are intended for children who would not otherwise have a camp experience. Lodges also provide transportation for the children to and from the camp. In some cases, when children need additional help to enjoy the experience, their sponsoring lodges go the extra mile for them. In one case, when it was discovered that a boy had arrived at camp without any gym shoes, members of his sponsoring lodge provided him with a pair. At the end of the week, the camper tried to return the shoes and was told that they were his to keep.

The four weeks of lodge-sponsored camp are followed by a session known as Troops Week, which provides a camp experience for children of deployed US armed



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MINNESOTA ELKS YOUTH CAMP

THREE CAMPERS SHOW OFF the artwork they created during their time at the Minnesota Elks Youth Camp.

forces service members and other family members of active-duty and retired armed forces personnel. In most years, about thirty children of service members attend this session, but in 2018 that number grew to sixty-three because of outreach by Elks during a recent deployment of Minnesota National Guard members. In addition to regular camp activities, Troops Week includes a military appreciation day, which features a presentation by a volunteer color guard from the VFW, American Legion, or another service organization and a patriotic speech by a guest speaker. During the camp's Military Appreciation Day, a representative from Minnesota National Guard Camp Ripley brings a military

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MINNESOTA ELKS YOUTH CAMP



TWO BOYS PRACTICE THEIR SKILLS AT ARCHERY, which is one of the outdoor activities that children from the ages of nine to thirteen can take part in at the Minnesota Elks Youth Camp each summer.

vehicle to the camp that the children can explore and a set of combat uniforms that the children can try on to experience the weight of the protective gear. According to Elks National Veterans Service Commission Minnesota State Chairman Thomas Kramin, the camp “gives kids of deployed troops a week to get their minds off of missing their parents.”

The camp also hosts two weeks of camp for the children and grandchildren of Elks in late July through early August, a weekend retreat for Elks families in the middle of August, and the state Soccer Shoot championship. The summer camp sessions are overseen by a professional camp supervisor and are run by a staff of thirty-nine counselors, most of whom are college students. In recognition of the counselors’ service, the Minnesota Elks Association awards them with scholarships each year to supplement the wages they earn. In 2018, the total value of the scholarships was \$11,000.

Elks from around Minnesota hold fund-raising events year-round to support their camp and their sponsored campers. One notable fund-raiser is a Fourth of July fun run that begins and ends at the camp’s beach on the shore of Pelican Lake. The run winds its way around Lake Markee, which is one of the smaller lakes on the camp’s property, and then returns to the Pelican Lake beach. There is also a statewide raffle held at the camp that raises \$50,000 for the state major project each year. In addition, about two hundred local lodge members gather at the camp each May for a weeklong working vacation, during which Elks repair and improve buildings, clear leaves and underbrush, and perform other necessary maintenance to get the camp ready for the summer season. About fifty Elks from around the state return in September for a long weekend to prepare the camp for winter.

Thanks to the Minnesota Elks Association members’ hard work and generous support, hundreds of children every year get to enjoy time spent outdoors, engaged in positive activities. Nearly sixty-five years after the youth camp’s founding, Minnesota Elks are still showing that they are among the Best People On Earth. ■



ELKS FROM ACROSS MINNESOTA spend a week each spring preparing the camp for the summer session. Pictured getting a sign for the camp’s golf driving range out of storage are (from left) Hopkins Lodge members Gretchen Peterson, Richard Peterson, SP Patrick Wright, and Dave Folden. PHOTO: TOM SCUDDER

## 2019 Camping Schedule

<b>Session 1: June 9th—15th</b>			
	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Brainerd	13	11	24
Owatonna	16	18	34
Rochester	12	12	24
Winona	13	8	21
	<b>54</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>103</b>

<b>Session 2: June 16—June 22nd</b>			
	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
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
	<b>54</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>99</b>

<b>Session 3: June 23rd—29th</b>			
	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
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
	<b>55</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>105</b>

<b>Session 4: July 7th-13th</b>			
	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Alexandria	12	14	26
Hibbing	10	8	18
Mankato	12	6	18
Willmar	8	6	14
Worthington	5	7	12
Hutchinson	6	7	13
	<b>53</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>101</b>

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 \$175 for members and \$225 for guests. More info can be found at: <http://www.mnelksyouthcamp.org>. Online registration will be required again this year. Registration opens April 1, 2019.

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 14 – July 20

**Session 6: Elks Kids & Grandkids Week**  
July 21 – July 27

**Session 7: Elks Kids & Grandkids Week**  
July 28 - August 3

**Elks Family Camp:** August 9 – 11

## Camp Openers

Camp Opener will be Friday, May 10-Sunday May 12, 2019 and Ladies Opener will be Friday, May 17 – Sunday, May 19, 2019. If you haven't attended a camp opener, please consider doing so. We need volunteers to help get the camp ready for campers. Activities include raking, cleaning, setting up play areas such as miniature golf, checking fire extinguishers, repairing items as well as other special projects as needed. No special skills are required and you can stay at camp for free. Contact John Miller for more information.