



# Youth Camp Chronicle

October, 2019 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



## From the Camp Board

The Camp Board thanks the members for a great 2019 season – 650 campers were served and overall things went very well. A record number of Troops Week campers (70) attended as well. The new dock has been a great addition to the waterfront. At this convention, please try to attend the camp breakout session - bring concerns and questions.

As members of the Minnesota Elks, be proud of your state project! We are a smaller state in membership but you support this project to the tune of over \$40/member each year. You are changing lives, you are making a difference, you are providing an experience that otherwise would not happen. Again, thanks to all involved!

John Miller PER, Camp Board Chair

**Basket Raffle: Drawing is Saturday after the meeting. Please support our fundraiser!**

## Marketing Materials for Lodges/Recruiters

Please remember that there are flyers available for download on the state web site at <http://www.mnelks.org> under State Committees / Youth Camp. The flyers can be posted around the community as well as in the Lodge to help promote the camp and recruit deserving youth to fill spots. There are different flyers for Lodge Sessions, Elks Kids Week and Troops Week. They can be modified to use individual recruiter/lodge contact information.



Check out our web site

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

Like us on Facebook

[MN Elks Youth Camp](https://www.facebook.com/MN-Elks-Youth-Camp)

Contact Us:

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

Visit Us:

10860 County Rd 118

Nisswa, MN 56468

## Troops Week

This year Troops Week is July 12-17, 2020. Our Troops Week program is designed to show support and appreciation for our troops and their families. We focus on kids of actively deployed parents but all military families are welcome to sign up.

## Family Camp

Family Camp is August 7-9, 2020. It is an opportunity for you the member to come up with your family and enjoy the camp and all the activities offered at camp. Registration is on a first come first serve basis and the deadline is July 1.

## From Our Youth Camp Directors

Dear Minnesota Elks Members,

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 19 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 such as Troops Week, Elks' Kids Weeks 1, 2 and 3 and Staff Appreciation Day. This year, Troops Week had a record 70 campers from troops families and we also had a large guest attendance at our Veterans Ceremony. We ran our eighth fun run fundraiser called "Four on the Fourth," We again raised some money for four staff memorial scholarships and program costs. Throughout the summer, we have maintained our Facebook page with hundreds of Elks Camp photos that were viewed by thousands of interested people! We had a near record attendance of 650 campers!

We would like to thank our staff of 2019 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.

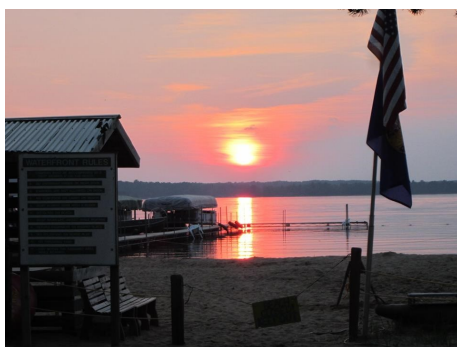
As Camp Directors for the Minnesota Elks Youth Camp and fellow Elks members, we would like to humbly express our gratitude to everyone connected with this fine state project. We especially wish to thank John Miller, Bill Schindele and the rest of the Camp Board for the endless hours spent behind the 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 **Best Program On Earth** for helping youth, and we are happy to report the summer of 2019 was again a huge success at EC! Hope to see you at camp next season!

Sincerely,

Joel & Kim Baumgarten

Minnesota Elks Youth Camp Directors



## Donations Wish List

- 2 or more backpack blowers
- 10 push brooms
- Bug Spray
- Boat Oil
- Monies for archery equipment
- Laundry detergent
- Snacks (qty of 110 – fruit snacks, juice boxes, prepackaged snacks etc)
- Paper goods (paper towels, toilet paper, paper plates & cups)
- Monies for sunscreen (specific kind to prevent swimmer's itch)
- Charcoal (10 bags)
- Tonka trucks and toys or money
- 5 new kayak paddles to match current ones
- 5 new rescue tubes
- 2 small 9-foot kayaks for heavier people
- Wider boat lift for the Bennington pontoon
- Signs at the Pumphouse and service entrance by the office: Welcome to Elks Camp – Best Place on Earth Minnesota Elks State Project Mission: To provide Minnesota youth with a life-changing experience"
- Drinking fountains at Lodge and Markee
- Field Lights x 4 (on current posts)
- New pontoon and motor for Pelican Beach
- New faucets for Girls Wash House
- New tar at Mankato, HRS (by light pole) and boys cabins
- Washhouse floor painted/sealed

If you can help with any of these wish list items or items on the Fix List, please contact John Miller

## Fix List

- Sealcoat tar/court
- Repair or replace dishwasher in kitchen
- Repair or replace kitchen coolers / freezer
- Repair or replace outside walls/ doors surrounding compressors in kitchen
- Replace boards on beach boardwalk
- Maintenance on heaters/ AC of cabins – keep current gas heaters
- Continue to stain / paint sheds and other buildings especially boys/girls cabins. Paint message board, kayak shed at beach and I-Falls front porch
- Thompson sealcoat decks, benches and trailers – natural wood
- Paint all white doors brown
- Fix cabin siding boards on bottoms and door casings (Health House too)
- Continue to fix all split rail fences
- Service all vehicles/carts/truck/mowers/tractor/boat motors
- Have all pontoons ready – Dylan Exe
- Wire essentials for power outages
- Fix Bikes
- Maintenance of Wi-Fi
- Golf cart maintenance
- Fix Lodge bathrooms
- Fix all windows to Plexiglas on Lodge and paint Lodge
- Finish Rochester House and Owatonna House
- Repair any loose or missing screws/bolts on tree-house, playground and stage
- Weather stripping on door of Laundry Room
- HRS toilet handle/flapper needs replacing
- New tires on both Stevens Lake gates



## Important Changes : Camp Schedule

Kim and I would like to respectfully propose a proactive idea for the camp board to consider for the next season of 2020. We would like to shorten the number of days at camp by one day and end on Friday instead of Saturday with a similar pickup time schedule. So, the camping weeks would occur on Sunday through Friday –staying with the original plan for drop off on Sunday at 1-3pm.

The main reason for the change ending one day early would be to allow at least one full day break for our staff instead of just a few hours. Staff could go home to attend family and friend functions that they often miss. Often staff members ask to take off days to attend weddings, graduation parties, reunions and other events leaving us short-handed on weekends. Also, our off-camp cooks do not want to work on weekends as they want to be with their families. We believe this adjustment would allow us to keep veteran staff for more years as they often cannot commit to the full amount of time of work each season and choose to not return.

As camp directors, we feel that we could sell the positions during recruiting time much better as the time period worked for the same pay would look more attractive. Returning staff would see this as a raise with the same pay for less hours.

Kim and I agree that the Minnesota Elks Youth Camp will still continue to provide a positive life changing experience for all the youth who attend camp. In the end, we may retain more quality staff each year and improve the camp experience.

Please consider this proposed schedule adjustment for the summer of 2020. We are eager to begin our recruiting for our 20th year as Elks Camp Directors for the Best Place On Earth.

Sincerely,  
Joel and Kim Baumgarten  
MN Elks Youth Camp Directors

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**Note: The Camp Board has already approved this change. The changes are reflected in the new Camp Schedule located on the last page of this newsletter.**

## Movin' on Down the Road

Dear President Chris,

It is with heavy hearts that we send this letter, as we hope you will accept this as our official resignation from the MN Elks Memorial Ring Committee, effective October 20, 2019.

Fifteen years ago we excitedly accepted Bud Miller's invitation to join the committee – and we can't quite believe how quickly the time – and the miles – have flown! We've made lifelong friends across the state and the nation and will never forget all the good times we've had serving the MN Elks Association in raising money for the Best Place on Earth...the MN Elks Youth Camp.

To our "Boss," John Miller, we are so grateful for the trust you placed in us, the adventures you took us on, the people you introduced us to, and the camp you made us love. We will always be at your service, and at the service of the Camp Board.

To our "partners in crime," Ron and Jeannie Probst, there are no words. For the laughs, the stickers, all the wheels up and down, and a lifetime of memories and friendship crammed into 15 years – there is nothing but love and gratitude. Know that we will continue to be involved and help in any way we can for as long as you need us.

We are looking forward to taking some summer trips in future years that don't involve or include the Grand Lodge, but you never know...we just might show up on the other side of the fence!

With unending gratitude,  
Randy Richmond and Lisa Richmond



Memorial Ring Committee – From Left to Right: Randy Richmond, John Miller, Lisa Richmond, Ron Probst and Jeannie Probst

The following are essays from two of the camp counselors on what the Elks Youth Camp has meant to them this year.

## Elks Camp Family

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Minnesota Elk's Youth Camp has done more for me than I could possibly fit into one page, but being the young buck that I am, I'm deciding to go for it. Elk's camp, beyond any doubt, has provided me with more growth than any other place, group of people, or experience has granted me. I carry the fish philosophy with me everywhere I go, in my actions, my words, and my decisions. My life is forever changed, forever improved by my time here at Elk's camp.

When I was a counselor I grew to develop a way of living that was beneficial to my campers, and my self. It taught me patience, empathy, and how to give more of myself than I knew I had. It was exhilarating, exhausting, and a true trial by fire, and the perfect storm to learn from. I learned how to grow from failure, I learned how to humbly accept victory, I learned how to inspire, and be inspired by those around me. I learned to never doubt the knowledge of those younger than myself. In short it taught me to be more fully engaged with the world around me, and the people in each community.

As a program staff and now a part of the leadership staff I've learned to delegate...well kind of, this is still a struggle for me. More accurately, I've learned that I need to get better at delegating. I've learned to value the input of those less experienced so that the program can grow. I've learned that I can be wrong a lot more than I care to admit. Mostly, I've learned that I somehow had the fortune to be surrounded by truly exceptional people, who have my back when I fall, and will always lift me back up. I've learned that Elk's camp is family that stretches both further back that I can see and continues to go forward long after my time has closed here.

I am so fortunate to have had this opportunity to grow and be my best self, and encourage those around me to do the same. It seems impossible that all of my gratitude could fit into two simple words, but Thank you Elk's camp for all you have given me and for all you have given everyone else.

## From Camper to Counselor

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Elks Camp has had a special place in my heart ever since I came to Elks Camp as a camper. When I first came to Elks Camp through the generosity of the Wadena Elks Lodge, I was overjoyed. Once arriving here, I was amazed by the energy, positivity, and opportunities that this camp had for its campers. Elks Camp allowed me to experience things that I had never been able to (and may not have had the opportunity to otherwise). Activities like rock wall climbing, archery, pontooning, and kayaking. My parents can attest to the several weeks following camp that I couldn't shut up about the amazing carnival games and kayaking and friends I'd made. Even after I was too old to attend Elks Camp, I constantly thought back to this amazing camp that had left an imprint on me. Not only the activities, but also the staff. This is something that drove me to becoming a staff member myself.

My first summer as a staff member was summer of 2016. I was a certified lifeguard and was ready to spend my summer with kids making a difference. Elks Camp has showed me that positivity and kindness can be some of the most important things we give each other, both staff and campers. I have come to understand and appreciate the exciting dynamic of Elks Camp. Everyone on staff truly cares about the kids and wants them to have an amazing experience. Following my first summer at Elks Camp, I truly realized how much I enjoyed working with kids and showing them that positivity and kindness. This encouraged me to continue to work with kids throughout the school year through the local YMCA. While I regretfully didn't return for the summer of 2017, an immediate regret, I was happy to return for this summer.

I have felt myself grow and change as a person through the positive environment that Elks Camp creates for its staff. Eventually helping me realize that I wanted my education to be specifically based around children and understanding them. I personally believe that Elks Camp was the initial stepping stone to discovering a passion for working with kids. Now as I prepare to begin my junior year at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities with a major in child psychology, I feel confident that the positivity and kindness I've learned from Elks Camp will aid me in my future education, career and life.

## 2020 Camping Schedule

### Session 1: June 7—June 12

	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
	<b>53</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>101</b>

### Session 2: June 14—19

	Boys	Girls	Total
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>

### Session 3: June 21—26

	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
	<b>54</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>99</b>

### Session 4: July 5—10

	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
	<b>55</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>105</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 opened April 1, 2020.

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 12—July 17

**Session 6: Elks Kids & Grandkids Week**  
July 19—July 24

**Session 7: Elks Kids & Grandkids Week**  
July 26 – July 31

**Elks Family Camp:** August 7—9

Papa Ron and ELK'S  
 Thank you for  
 helping with my  
 recycling business  
 I donate 10% of my  
 gross sales to charity  
 now I will give it  
 to the ELK'S for  
 charity.

Thank you  
 ELI Fredkove

Stillwater Lodge #179 member Ron Fredkove's 7 year old grandson Eli donated \$5.00 to camp as he decided the Elks Camp was the best charity.