



Youth Camp Chronicle

October, 2021 Breezy Point, MN

The Camp Board

Executive Director

John Miller Hopkins 2221

North District

Krazy Thompson Int'l Falls 1599

Charlie Radika PSP 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

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

Contact Us:

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10860 County Rd 118

Nisswa, MN 56468

From the Camp Board

Greetings from the Youth Camp Board of Directors:

Due to Covid, we held 4 sessions this summer at the camp. The last two weeks in July and the first two weeks of August we had 200 members kids, grandkids, and guests. Everything went fine, there were no issues, the weather was fantastic, and all attending had a great time.

During camp opening, we installed a new walk-in freezer (pictured at right) and a new dishwasher. These were two needed improvements. Camp closing was held on September 23rd, 24th and 25th. Two pet peeves of mine got cleaned up. First being the pole building and second the bicycle building. A lot of other work was accomplished also with the 30 members in attendance. Thank you to all the members that came to camp and pitched in to help.



The Youth Camp Board of Directors, along with the Executive Director met on Saturday September 25th at 9:00 a.m. A very productive meeting was held.

- First, we approved Rules of the Camp for hosting the Fall Conventions. The rules will be given to the convention chairman and discussed. No exceptions to the rules will be allowed.
- Second, new bicycles. We are going to start a program and will be purchasing 30 bicycles to start with at \$150.00 each. Lodges or members wishing to donate money can do so, but we ask that you do not buy any bikes on your own. We are going to be purchasing all the same kind of bike in different sizes.
- Third, Family Camp. There will be no Family Camp for 2022. The Camp Board will review in the Fall of 2022 to discuss Family Camp for 2023.
- Fourth, the Winona House. We are going to remodel the inside of the Winona House. Hopkins and Winona have both committed to donating money with the Camp matching the funds. Plans are to start in the Spring of 2022.

Earlier this summer the camp board of directors approved the purchase of a new pontoon boat and sold an old one to help defer costs. We reviewed the Youth Camp budget from April 1st to August 31st and all numbers are in line with the budget. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. Your Youth Camp Directors are listed along the left side of this page. All were in attendance for Youth Camp closing and the meeting. I want to thank them all for their commitment.

Hope you all plan on getting out to the camp this weekend.

Fraternally

Charles Radika , Chairman of the Youth Camp Board of Directors

From Our Youth Camp Directors

Dear Minnesota Elks Members,

August 5, 2021

We would like to thank all the Elks Members who have contributed to the wonderful Minnesota Elks State Project! It continues to be a life changing experience by having the opportunity to live and work at the "EC" for 21 summers and see such incredible improvements and exciting new ideas each year. It is known as the Best Place On Earth and truly shines when you can see the youth of Minnesota enjoying your efforts!

Having staff and campers on site again has been truly refreshing. Our later start date in July and scaled back numbers worked well along with precautionary measures, and we had no Covid issues all summer. After canceling camp last summer and developing a partial summer camp plan this summer, we feel like we are close to returning to a normal plan for the season of 2022. We hope for a full schedule, staff and camper group.

We would like to thank our staff of 2021 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, Charlie Radika and the rest of the Camp Board for the endless hours spent behind the scenes to help us make this a successful season.

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 2021 was a success at EC! We hope we continue to move toward normalcy and less restrictions so we get to see you at camp next season!

Sincerely,

Joel & Kim Baumgarten
MN Elks Youth Camp Directors



Donations Wish List

- Signs
At the Pumphouse and Service Entrance by Office:
"Welcome to Elks Camp-Best Place On Earth
Minnesota Elks State Project
Mission: To provide Minnesota youth with a life-changing experience."
- Hydration Station to fill water bottles at Dining Hall
- Field Lights X 4 (on current posts)
- Court Lights on opposite side of court (east side)
- New Pontoon to replace Palm Beach
- Replace faucets in Girls Wash House
- Washhouse floor /painted-sealed
- 10-15 pair of good binoculars
- 2 more backpack blowers
- 10 push brooms
- Bug spray
- Boat Oil
- \$ toward archery equipment
- Laundry detergent
- Snacks (qty. of 110 - fruit snacks, juice boxes, prepackaged snacks, etc.)
- Paper goods (paper towels, toilet paper, paper plates & cups)
- \$ for sunscreen (must be a specific kind to prevent swimmer's itch)
- Postcard stamps
- Large Rubbermaid food containers

"BUY A BIKE!"

Biking on the roads and trails has become a major activity for our campers but it is time for new bikes. As successful as the donated bikes were, we are going to buy new ones, single speed, wider tires, etc. The average cost will be \$150 and we are asking for monetary donations, not bikes. The bikes are on the way to Camp. Any lodge, PER group, Officer group, pull tab winners, drawing winners and anybody who wants to "Buy A Bike" please send the donation to Bill Schindele, Camp Treasurer! Thanks in advance!

Fix List

- Maintenance on heaters/ AC of cabins-Keep current gas heaters
- Locks on Girls Washhouse stalls
- Continue to Stain/Paint Sheds and Other Buildings
- Thompson sealcoat decks and benches and trailers-natural wood
- Paint all white doors brown
- Fix cabin siding boards on bottoms and door casings
- Continue to fix all split rail fences
- Service all vehicles-carts/truck/mowers/tractor/boat motors
- Have all pontoons ready
- Wire essentials for power outages
- Fix bikes
- Continue maintenance of Wi-Fi
- Golf cart maintenance
- Change all windows to Plexiglas on Lodge and paint Lodge
- Complete Owatonna House, Resource Center, and Winona House
- Repair any loose or missing screws/bolts on mini-golf, treehouse, playground and stage
- Weather stripping on door of Laundry Room
- New tires on both Stevens Lake gates



2022 Camping Schedule

Session 1: June 19-24, 2022

	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, 2022

	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, 2022

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

Session 4: July 17-22, 2022

	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

All lodges kids will be in the first four weeks.

Troops kids will be worked in the 6 sessions offered and we are asking lodges to make them part of their quotas if they apply. Weeks 5 and 6 will be Elks kids and grandkids. 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, 2022.

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.

2022 Schedule

Men's Opening:	May 19-22
Ladies Opening:	June 3-5
Senior Staff:	June 7-10
Training Week:	June 13-17
Session 1 – Lodges:	June 19-24
Session 2 – Lodges:	June 26-July 1
4th of July Break	
Session 3 – Lodges:	July 10-15
Session 4 – Lodges:	July 17-22
Session 5 – Elks Kids:	July 24-29
Session 6 – Elks Kids:	July 31-Aug 5
Camp Closing:	September 22-25

There will not be a Family Camp Weekend in 2022. The board will reassess next year for 2023.

Camp Closing

One of the best ever! Only 30 in attendance but all workers. A great time to see the Camp, talk to other members and get ready for winter. We had 11 PSP's at closing, a tribute to their dedication. We had only 1 ER-we can do better! Mark September 22-25, 2022 on your calendar, you will enjoy the experience.

Raffle News

Youth Camp Raffle

After the drawing on Saturday, proceeds from the raffle will have exceeded \$540,000. That is money in camper fees and assessments that the lodges did not have to pay! Outstanding results! This is the Youth Camp Raffle not "Charlie's raffle" but he is the guy who started it and he has done a tremendous job. Thanks to all the members and lodges for making this happen!

Basket Raffle

Do not forget to see the great baskets on display and enter a bid or two. It is great to see how creative the lodges are and it has become a wonderful fundraiser for the Camp.



Simple Acts of Compassion

Every summer that I have worked here at the Elks Camp I have gained something new; from golf carts lessons, wash houses, kitchen work, and the positive energy that makes camp what it is. It is these experiences at the Elks Camp that have molded me into how I move through this world today.

My first year here was the year Ron took me on my very first golf-cart ride. Over-confident, I assured him that I could handle the seemingly simple task. After reversing the cart into the lodge and running it off the hill, my confidence was checked and I asked Art to drive me down the hill everyday until I could do it on my own. From this first-year-at-camp experience I learned that is alright to ask for help – and never too late to do so either.

The initial years of cleaning at the Elks Camp have taught me to hold a strong work ethic. It's safe to say that wash house cleaning is definitely not the most glamorous of jobs, but it is humbling. The time that I have spent scrubbing toilets has taught me to take pride and responsibility in anything and everything I put my energy into; from my academics to my lifting career to wiping down mirrors, one should always work hard and be accountable.

Third year at camp, first year full time year in the kitchen. I was quickly immersed into everything that the camp kitchen is and all the energy that goes into making meals for hungry mouths. This year was the year that I learned the lesson of teamwork. Like any machine, the kitchen demands cohesiveness in order to function. The skill of working together will forever be transmissible in my future; whether it be in the other work environments or as a student at Madison.

This year at camp has ultimately showed me how simple acts of compassion can alter another's life. A smile, a conversation, a meal provided; can all act as tools to improve someone's situation. One person may not be able to fix all that is wrong with the world but one person has the ability to change someone's world. This attitude that radiates from the Elks Camp is the mentality that has affected my choice to attend UW-Madison to pursue public policy – to improve others' situations in all the ways that I can.

These past four years working at Minnesota Elks Youth Camp have been fundamental in how I look at myself and how I look at the world. From these lessons from camp, I now actively ask for guidance, work hard, value teamwork and commit myself to serving others. The work done here at camp is unparalleled to any other.

From The Executive Director

The members of the Minnesota Elks should be extremely proud of their State Project. Since 1954 over 35,000 deserving kids have attended including our current on site director Joel Baumgarten. It is one of the premier youth camps in the BPOE and more importantly it is owned, operated and paid for by the Minnesota Elks. We do it all and the facility, worth in the neighborhood of \$12,000,000 is owned free and clear.

The Camp has never been in better shape, both physically and fiscally. We are gearing up for full operation in 2022 and improvements and additions will continue.

Your support of Penny-A-Day, ENF and the Raffle has been outstanding. This year they will generate over \$205,000 towards the operating budget. Without this support we would need to have the members contribute more than \$30 per member. Great job!

The Camp incorporates all of our Grand Lodge programs- Americanism, Drug Awareness, Scholarship, Veteran support and of course Youth Activities and more. Truly the personification of Elkdom , right here in Crow Wing county. Elks Camp-BPOE-"BEST PLACE ON EARTH"

Please attend the breakout session with Kim and Joel, new stuff coming. Please come to Camp on Friday, take a tour, ask questions, express concerns and enjoy. See the "CROWN JEWEL OF MINNESOTA ELKDOM". You will be impressed and you should be extremely proud.

John M Miller PER, Executive Director



From Camper to Counselor

The first time I came to Elks Camp was over 10 years ago when I came as a camper myself. I was a kid who liked to spend a lot of time watching TV, playing video games and reading books. It was difficult for me to put those things aside, as well as my parents, for a solid week; however, the exciting outdoor activities and the respectful loving staff members showed me that there was much more to life than what you can see through a screen.

Ten years passed, and I found myself working as a counselor among the loving staff members that worked so hard to give me a memorable experience here at camp. I now get to use "staff only" perks such as coffee, ice, big kayaks, larger bows and so much more. However, I can no longer only worry about myself. I have more responsibilities like taking care of 10 kids in the Mohawk cabin, reminding them to take their towels to free swim, keeping them safe as they hang out with each other, and giving them the wonderful experience at camp that I had when I was a camper. I've learned how to interact better with kids when it comes to dealing with homesickness, arguments, and boredom, which will be great skills to have when I have kids of my own.

I have seen campers in my cabin shed tears for the first three nights because they were homesick, but then shed tears as they're leaving because they had so much fun here that they don't wanna leave. It's at this point that I realized that Elks Camp hasn't just changed my life: Elks Camp gave me the opportunity to change the lives of others. I have enjoyed every day on camp working with these kids, and I cannot wait to have another opportunity to show more kids that there's so much more to life than a screen. They need to have this chance, this wakeup call, just like I did when I was 10 years old.