



Youth Camp Chronicle

June, 2024

Worthington 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

Bob Arthur Hopkins 2221

South District

Ron Sik Mankato 225

Allen Rahn Winona 327

Camp Treasurer

Gretchen Peterson Hopkins 2221

Maintenance Supervisor

Tom Hoelscher Minneapolis 44

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

Mailing Address:

PO Box 764

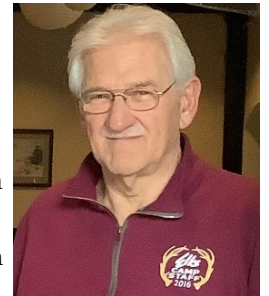
Hopkins, MN 55343



From the Camp Board

Welcome MN Elks to Worthington--"It's a Beautiful Day"

The Youth Camp is in "Beautiful " shape. Since last fall a lot of projects got accomplished. The Owatonna House got a new make over. Another bathroom was added, laminate floors were installed in all four bedrooms, hallway and bathrooms, all trim work was replaced, beds and mattresses were replaced with new. The Owatonna House looks beautiful.



Winona/ Hopkins House got a new screened in sitting room. This new addition is a "piece of artwork", thanks to Bob Arthur and the Elk Members that helped complete this project. The Winona / Hopkins House has been totally redone and is complete. The week of April 21st Krazy came with a group of guys from I Falls. All new windows in the dining hall and kitchen were installed, front of the dining hall got new half log siding replaced. Numerous other work got done including the cutting of fire wood and filling the wood racks.

May 15th was Camp Opening. The mini golf course was all redone and three new holes were added. One of the stages was made bigger, two new ramps were built, new doors were installed on three of the buildings along with many other projects that got completed. The Board thanks all of you that showed up to get these projects done.

On May 29th the Ladies came to camp for Ladies Work Weekend. The Ladies got a lot of work done. They painted the trim work in the dining hall, painted the trim on the Lodge, cleaned boys and girls cabins and numerous other jobs. Thanks to Becky for continuing to set this up and a big thanks to all you Ladies that continue to come to Ladies Weekend. The Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors wants to thank you all for your continuing support and keeping the Camp "The Best Place On Earth"

Charlie Radika
Chairman, Youth Camp Board of Directors

Say Hi to Charity & Justice

"Best Place on Earth" MN Elks State Project!

This past year as State President I have had the opportunity to explore and learn more about this amazing camp. The Members of the Minnesota Elks Association take pride in our project and it shows with the dedication and blood, sweat and tears that they put in to keep it the "Best Place on Earth". As I, myself, have learned more about our state project I am so proud of the respect and time our members continue to give to this project. We realize the value that our camp offers to the youth that attend!



We received a grant this past year to improve designated areas of camp and for some areas this is long overdue. The Camp Board and State Association are grateful for this grant. This grant will update/improve areas so that we can continue offering the "Best Place on Earth" to our youth and fellow Elk members. Stop out to the camp, they love members visiting, and see all the updates that have and are happening! Never stop being proud of our State Project! Don't forget to say "hi" to Charity & Justice!

Sue Foster, MN Elks Association State President

35,000 and Counting!

Members all:

We have completed session 1 of 2024, our 70th year of operation, having served over 35,000 campers! What a legacy, what a tribute to the Minnesota Elks Association. Purchased in 1950 for \$8,400, we've come a long way baby! Remember, the "Best Place on Earth" is owned operated and paid for by the members. We do it all, this year alone spending \$315,000 to operate. You will read and hear a lot about projects, donations, done over the past 6 months. I will not repeat them but I will update the progress on the Foundation 94 grant of \$350,000. Beginning early August you will see a new boys wash house, then later a new girls wash house will follow. Also included in this grant will be an increase in the scholarships we pay to our staff-well deserved for all they do.



So many good things are happening-Penny A Day, Camper Club, new lodges coming to work on projects, excellent recruiting and more, all making the Camp stronger and better. The physical plant has never looked better and the financial position also extremely strong. Be loud-be proud-you have put together one of the premier State Projects in Elkdom, nobody has done it better! You are changing kids lives for the better. All Minnesota Elks should be proud of all that has been accomplished.

John Miller, Executive Director



From Our Youth Camp Directors

June 10, 2024

Greetings MN Elks Members from Elks Camp! The 2024 Minnesota Elks Camp Staff will be arriving to start training in a couple days and we are excited to begin training of staff this week to be ready for the first campers to arrive on Sunday, June 16th. We are anxious to provide an experience of a lifetime for this season's campers during the following 6 weeks here at the Best Place on Earth! As Elks Members, we are looking forward to getting off to a great start as we enter our 24th year at EC.



We are excited to train our staff and prepare for the following weeks of campers. The team of staff we have hired are a very talented, hardworking, 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 again helped prepare the camp for this season. Thanks to everyone involved!

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/improvements include: improvements to the Winona/Hopkins House including the porch, storage shed for the office, counter tops and stairs at the Mankato House, refurbishing the woods stage, mini golf additions and improvements, railings and stairs on numerous buildings, improvements and new bathroom in the Owatonna, new windows and doors and heating/cooling system in the Dining Hall, new wooden signs to welcome visitors, new golf carts, as well as many others. The usual woodcutting, trail maintenance, raking, mowing, cleaning, painting, moving, and fixing are also very appreciated. The camp looks great and is operating because of everyone's efforts.

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, fruit snacks, cereal 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. Thanks to the Executive Director, John Miller, Camp Board Chair, Charlie Radika, Tom Hoelscher and the rest of the Elks Camp Board for providing the needed materials, workers and support to make this a successful state project. A big thanks goes out to Bob Arthur and all of the talent and work he has provided to building projects at camp. Also, 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 and our purpose of a life changing experience for deserving youth!

Sincerely, Joel & Kim Baumgarten
Minnesota Elks Youth Camp Directors

Join the Camper Club!

The Minnesota Elks Youth Camp continues to change children's lives for the better. And, as needs and costs rise, we need your help now more than ever. The easiest way to contribute is by joining The Minnesota Elks Camper Club! For as little as 5 dollars per month, you can help The Best Place on Earth. Your debit or credit card is charged as much as you'd like to give, when you'd like to give. Options are monthly, quarterly, annually, or a one time donation. Our first goal is to get one percent of our Minnesota Membership. Remember, ONE HUNDRED PERCENT of your donation goes to our Camp, your Lodge gets the credit for Penny-A-Day, and everyone wins. Please consider joining our Camper Club! The Camp, the kids, The Minnesota Elks, and our Camp thank you!



Dedication of Schindele Lane

At Camp Opening, a memorial service was held and a road sign dedicated to PSP Bill Schindele. Bill was dedicated to the Youth Camp, having served as treasurer for over 30 years, establishing a financial groundwork and implementing it so we enjoy the position we are in today. When it came to Camp he talked the talk and walked the walk! A scholarship fund has been established in Bills name and every year a staff member will receive an award in his honor. The Camp and the Minnesota Elks owe him a debt of gratitude that we can repay by continuing to recruit campers and give them the experience of a lifetime-free of charge. Bill will be missed.



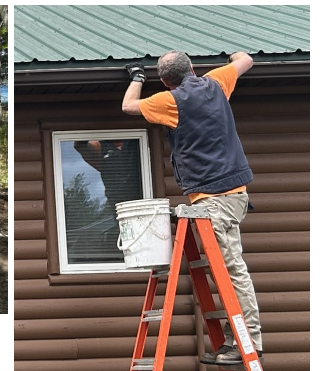
Photos from Camp Opening and More...



2024 Counselors and Staff



Repairing the Stage



Cleaning Gutters



Ladies Opener



Rebuilding the Mini Golf Course



Cleaning Cabins

A Message From Becky Radika – MN Elks State President-Elect

Summer is upon us and I hope all of you are able to get out and enjoy the sunshine.

I attended the Youth Camp Opener this year and handed out my glasses and pins to the many worker bees that were there getting the camp ready for the little ones to enjoy. Thank you to all that take time out of your busy lives to help do this. On May 31st it was the ladies turn to get there and work. Even though we had a smaller group show up to help, we still go a lot accomplished much of it was mentioned in Charlies article. The only thing he did not mention was that Gretchen Peterson now has another new title "The Master Mice Slayer". Hopefully she will not run into that again next year. Thank you to all the ladies that showed up to help and maybe next year more of you will be able to make it. Besides the work we do, we have many laughs around the campfire.



I always say every member should make it a priority to see what this camp is about. Take a day trip when the kids are there to see them in action and how much they are enjoying all we have to offer them and how great the counselors are in interacting with all the kids to make it a great experience for each to enjoy.

Have a great summer everyone, enjoy the convention that Worthington has been working so hard on and remember "RADIATE POSITIVITY" at least once during your day.

Fraternally
Becky Radika MN Elks State President Elect

Camper Donation Wish List

- Bug spray
- Money toward archery equipment
- Laundry detergent
- Snacks (qty. of 110 – fruit snacks, juice boxes, pre-packaged snacks, etc.)
- Paper goods (paper towels, toilet paper, paper plates & cups)
- Money for sunscreen (must be a specific kind to prevent swimmer's itch)
- Postcard stamps
- Water bottles for 6 weeks of campers (110/week)
- Clothing, Swimsuits
- Scholarship donations, Troops week donations
- Charcoal and lighter fluid
- 10 new bikes \$150 each
- Monetary donations for t-shirts for art class
- Boat Oil
- 5 push brooms annually

A Short Course in Human Relations

Words to live by as posted in the Youth Camp Dining Hall:

The **6** most important words: "I admit I made a mistake."

The **5** most important words: "You did a good job."

The **4** most important words: "What is your opinion?"

The **3** most important words: "If you please."

The **2** most important words: "Thank you."

The **1** most important word: "We."

The **LEAST** important word: "I"



2024 Local Lodge Sessions

Session 1: June 16-21

	Boys	Girls	Total
Hibbing	10	8	18
Duluth	12	12	24
Eveleth	10	10	20
Fergus Falls	2	2	4
Int'l Falls	7	7	14
Virginia	6	6	12
	<u>47</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>92</u>

Session 2: June 23-28

	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
	<u>48</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>92</u>

Session 3: July 7-12

	Boys	Girls	Total
Alexandria	10	12	22
Bemidji	8	8	16
Mankato	10	6	16
Willmar	8	6	14
Worthington	5	7	12
Hutchinson	6	5	11
	<u>47</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>91</u>

Session 4: July 14-19

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

All lodges kids will be in the first four weeks. Troops kids will be worked in the 4 Local Lodge 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 grand-kids. This year all lodge and troops camper fees will remain at \$75.00. Elks kids and grandkids camper fees will be \$200 for members and \$250 for guests. **Camper Club members will receive a \$25 discount on their Kids Week fees.** More info can be found at: <http://www.mnelksyouthcamp.org>. Online registration will be required again this year. Registration opened April 1, 2024.

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.

2024 Schedule

Men's Opening:	May 17-20
Ladies Opening:	May 31-June 2
Senior Staff:	June 4-7
Training Week:	June 10-14
Session 1 – Local Lodges:	June 16-21
Session 2 – Local Lodges:	June 23-28
4th of July Break	
Session 3 – Local Lodges:	July 7-12
Session 4 – Local Lodges:	July 14-19
Session 5 – Elks Kids:	July 21-26
Session 6 – Elks Kids:	July 28-Aug 2
Camp Closing:	September 20-22



Royce Bottin and Kevin Riegelman, PSP of Red Wing Lodge. Thanks Royce for the new signage!