



Youth Camp Chronicle

October, 2024

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

Bob Arthur Hopkins 2221

South District

Ron Sik Mankato 225

Dave Norris Winona 327

Camp Treasurer

Gretchen Peterson Hopkins 2221

Maintenance Supervisor

Tom Hoelscher Minneapolis 44

Check out our web site

www.mnelksyouthcamp.org

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[MN Elks Youth Camp](#)

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From the Camp Board

Welcome MN Elks to the MN Elks Youth Camp & Breezy Point--
"It's a Beautiful Day"

The Summer Camper Sessions went very well. There were a few camper issues, all handled very well by the staff. All quotas were filled again this year.

On September 3rd Holm Construction started demolition of the Boys Wash House. The project is moving along on schedule and could be completed by the end of October. We will be installing the divider walls in the bathroom and shower areas at Camp Opening next May. When you are at Camp on Friday stop down to the Boys Wash House and take a look at the progress.

We had about thirty-five members at Camp Closing. The weather was beautiful. Lots of work got completed. Pontoons taken in, extended steps around the cabana on the beach, painting, tree cleanup, class five gravel on raised areas of the black top along with many other projects. As always we will never starve while there, lots of tasty food was served each day. The Board thanks all of you that come to Opening and Closing, your help is greatly appreciated.

The Camp Board of Directors held their Board Meeting on Saturday morning. We are putting together a five year plan for projects at the Camp. One big project will be the Girls Wash House.

Get out to "The Best Place On Earth" this weekend and see the Camp for yourself.

Charlie Radika
Chairman, Youth Camp Board of Directors



From Our Youth Camp Directors

Dear Minnesota Elks Members,

August 3, 2024

We would again 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 24 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!



Seeing all of the staff and campers this summer continues to be truly refreshing. Throughout six weeks of camp this summer we hosted 552 campers and operated near capacity every week. Great job to all of the recruiters for getting all of the campers to Elks Camp to allow our staff to make a difference for these deserving youth!

We would like to thank our staff of 2024 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 2024 was again a huge success at EC!

We are looking forward to working toward preparing for our 25th year at EC!

Sincerely,

Joel & Kim Baumgarten, MN Elks Youth Camp Directors



Our newly repainted flag down by the Lodge



Penny A Day Camper Club

The Minnesota Elks Youth Camp Camper Club is going strong, but we still need your help! The group of people who have joined have helped raise over \$25,000 for the most beautiful piece of property in our great state! Remember to tell your Members at your Lodges about The Camper Club. It's so easy to join, the funds come right off your debit or credit card, and you don't have to be an Elk to be a part of it! For as little as \$5 per month, you can change children's lives. You can choose to donate monthly, quarterly, annually, or one time. The dollars go straight to The Camp Memorial Fund and they are a tax write off. The best part is that you get to feel good that you helped the kids we promise to be there for. If you haven't yet, please consider becoming a member of The Camper Club. Please contact me or any of The Camp Board at our Conventions to join, or visit <https://www.mnelksyouthcamp.org/pad-camper-club.html> and sign up today!

We will have a sign up desk in the meeting room throughout the conference!



Join today and receive a free t-shirt! If you are already a member, increase your donation and receive a free t-shirt!



WHERE IT GOES

100% of dollars donated to go benefit The Youth Camp. The crown jewel of The State of Minnesota

THE INVESTMENT

Plans can be monthly, quarterly, annually, or one time! Monthly plans start as low as \$5 per month. Less than the price of a fast food meal or coffee!

WHO IT HELPS

The Minnesota Elks Youth Camp provides a week of life changing experiences to Boys and Girls. Never once has a family received a bill when their child attends

OH YEAH...

Your donation is 100% deductible!

Scan the QR Code above to join online or go to www.mnelksyouthcamp.org and click "Donations" then "PAD Camper Club"

Radiate Positivity

Welcome to Breezy Point and the MN Elks Youth Camp everyone. Another convention is upon us already. Take time to visit with the membership you may only see once or twice a year. I hope you all share your Lodges ideas, what has been a success for you and what has failed. Sitting around the campfire would be a great time to do this. You should all be very proud of our State Project, The Minnesota Elks Youth Camp. Many members have volunteered hours and hours to keep this place in tip top shape. I hear there is a challenge at the "New" mini golf course. Stop by and cheer this very bad golfer on to victory. If nothing else you might a quite a few laughs.

I have had the honor of visiting 9 Lodges already and hope to get in a few more before the cold and snow sets in. Thank you for all the hospitality shown to Charlie and myself.

Congratulations to the Metro District for hosting another fantastic convention. We all know the work that goes into putting something like this on, so THANK YOU from all the members that attended.

Now go out and RADIATE POSITIVITY this weekend.
Becky Radika, MN Elks Association State President

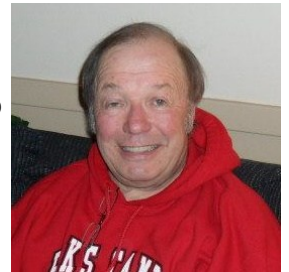


Be Loud – Be Proud!

The vision began in 1950 with the purchase of 15 acres on Pelican Lake in Crow Wing county for \$8,400.00. Fast forward to 2024, 70 years of operation and 35,000 kids experiencing a life changing opportunity. Millions of dollars in investment and improvements have been added to make the Camp the "Crown Jewel of Minnesota Elkdom" and one of the premier Youth Camps in the order. Who did it?–The Minnesota Elks did! The unique feature of the Camp is we own it, we operate it and we pay for it. Collectively, through Penny-A-Day, Camper Club, assessments and donations, the Minnesota Elks support the camp to the tune of over \$40.00 per member! I will tell you that is the best in the order! Simply outstanding.

Please take the time to visit the Camp this weekend, see the new improvements and see what you own and provide for deserving kids. Without the Minnesota Elks support, it would not happen. You are changing lives for the better. In particular check out the new wash house, made possible by Foundation 94. The camp board will be available for questions, suggestions and smart ass remarks. Please tell us what you think. It is your facility and your support that makes the "Best Place on Earth" possible. "Be loud-Be Proud", nobody does it better than the Minnesota Elks.

John M Miller PER, Executive Director



Basket Raffle Matching Funds

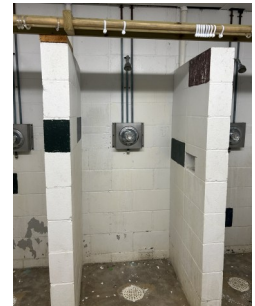
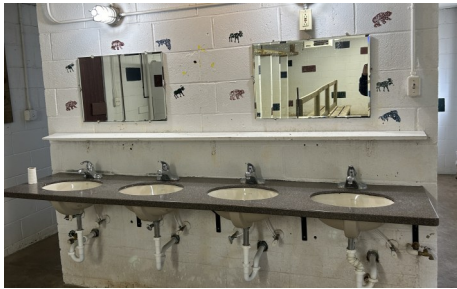
This year, Modern Woodmen Financial will be matching any funds raised through the Basket Raffle. All proceeds of the raffle benefit the Youth Camp. Thank you Patsy Nестeby of Red Wing Lodge #845 for arranging this. We appreciate the support!



Boys Wash House Remodel

We received a grant from Foundation 94 back in February to help us improve our facilities and support our counselors and staff with greater scholarships. The first project undertaken was to completely remodel the Boys Wash House. Below are some of the “before” photos of the wash house. The remodel basically took the wash house “down to the studs.” It will have brand new walls and flooring that will be easier to clean and maintain. All new plumbing and plumbing fixtures including sinks and toilets. It has a new entrance that will reduce the amount of sand tracked into the wash house as well as new siding and a new retaining wall along the back. Each shower stall will have it’s own door and private dressing space.

We hope you will come out to camp during the conference for the activities and to see the newly remodeled wash house. It’s a huge improvement! We will also be updating the Girls Wash House next year as part of our 5 year project plan. Thank you all for your continued support of our State Project!



Camp Closing

Thank you to everyone that came and help close up the camp in September. There was participation from all four districts which is greatly appreciated. The pole barn was cleaned out and reorganized, a new walkway added to the pavilion, wood was restocked throughout camp, a new trench dug for wifi, touch up painting and many more projects. All that work tuckered out our fearless leader...



2025 Local Lodge Sessions

Session 1: June 15-20

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

Session 2: June 22-27

	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
	47	45	92

Session 3: July 6-11

	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

Session 4: July 13-18

	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
	47	44	91

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 opens April 1, 2025.

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.

2025 Schedule

Men's Opening:	May 9-11
Ladies Opening:	May 16-18
Senior Staff:	June 2
Training Week:	June 9-13
Session 1 – Local Lodges:	June 15-20
Session 2 – Local Lodges:	June 22-27
4th of July Break	
Session 3 – Local Lodges:	July 6-11
Session 4 – Local Lodges:	July 13-18
Session 5 – Elks Kids:	July 20-25
Session 6 – Elks Kids:	July 27-Aug 1
Camp Closing:	September 20-22

Donation Wish List

- Flip flops , Swim suits, Bath towels
- Rain ponchos & umbrellas -15
- Youth size white t-shirts
- Sun screen 40-50spf
- Bug spray-30-40-det
- Snacks for campers 100 servings
- 10 new coaster bikes \$200 each
- Troops week \$75 each
- Scholarship donations

Contact John Miller if you can help