



Youth Camp Chronicle

Minnesota Elks Youth Camp

June, 2017

Alexandria, MN

The Camp Board

North District

Krazy Thompson Int'l Falls 1599
Charlie Radika Hibbing 1022

Central District

Herman Wisneski PSP Brainerd 615
Dave Zane Willmar 952

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

We are ending Session 2 as we meet in Alexandria and things are going well at camp! We have served close to 200 campers so far. You, as members, should be proud that the Minnesota Elks continue to lead the way in funding and operating one of the longest running youth camps in the country having served almost 30,000 campers since 1954. We also updated the banners for our convention booth. You'll see some of the new images on pages 2 and 3.

Remember your state project is owned by the Minnesota Elks, funded by the Minnesota Elks and operated by the Minnesota Elks. Nobody does it better! In the past 20 years, over \$8,000,000 in time, talent and dollars have been invested in this facility and it shows. If you have not seen it you need to! You own it, come see it—participate—and you will understand why we call it the "Best Place On Earth".

John M. Miller PER
Camp Board Chairman

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

This and That

Four on the Fourth Run

Our Camp Director, Joel, sponsors a run around Markee lake on the 4th of July to raise money for our scholarship fund and to make the public aware of what we do. We will have about 100 runners making the 4 mile route. He does this on his week off and has been a great fundraiser. Please consider sponsoring these runners. They will do 400 miles so \$.05 a mile would be a \$20.00 donation.

Conservation Easement

We are working with the Minnesota DNR on an easement to preserve the Markee property for future generations. We will have an information meeting on Friday afternoon at the convention and the Camp Board will present a resolution to the membership on Saturday morning. Please attend if you want further details.



A new convention booth banner

Donations...

We can't list all the names but what a great spring for donations. The following were donated by our generous members:

- Toilet paper and other paper goods
- 200 My Pillows
- Snacks, Jonny pops
- Charcoal, lighter and new grills
- Monies—3M, Xcel, Red Wing Shoe, Troops Week, Scholarships
- Kids clothing
- Arts and crafts supplies
- Generators

We are still looking for scholarship and Troops Week donations.

From Our Youth Camp Directors

Dear MN Elks Members:

June 12, 2017

It's the first week of camp and we're excited to have 96 campers attending. The weather, as well as the entire camp, is absolutely beautiful! After a full week of training, our staff is anxious to provide an experience of a lifetime! It continues to be our belief that the experiences and character growth of all of our campers in this short time will provide real benefits in the future for each participating community. Last year we set a new record attendance of almost 700 campers for the season and we'll try again to provide service to a capacity group of campers for Elks Lodges in Minnesota this year. As Elks members, we are looking forward to another fun and eventful summer and we are very excited to have such a great start as we enter our 17th year at Elks Camp.

The staff is working hard and learning so much. They are a very talented, hard-working, creative and energetic group of young people. Their fun, animated and selfless approach with campers makes Elks Camp an exciting place to work. To see these staff members work their magic with kids should prove to be an inspiration for all Elks. You are invited to come and observe the camp in action. We are very proud and think you will be impressed. These staff really can give a life changing experience for a child in a week! If you would like to check us out, go to www.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. The efforts of the men and women during the opening weekends, along with other individual lodge's projects, have helped prepare the camp for this season. Thanks to everyone involved! Elks members continue to show that they can work together on this incredible state project.

There have been many new projects added to camp by Elks members during the past off-season. A special thanks goes out to Tom Hoelscher, John Miller and the rest of the MN Elks Camp Board in helping to guide these improvements and spending so much time and effort for the camp! These projects include: the construction of the new beach shelter, the construction of the new addition and improvements to the Owatonna House, the painting of a large number of buildings inside and out, improvements to the International Falls House such as doors and heating and air conditioning, finishing the outside of the HRS House, refurbishing and painting the mini golf area, prepping and staining the Mankato House, fixing the John Deere tractor and the addition of the water slide. Of course, the usual woodcutting, trail maintenance, raking, mowing, cleaning, painting, moving and fixing are also very much appreciated. Thanks Elks Members!

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. These items and work projects are crucial to the start of our camp. Each year the number of donations continues to grow to save on operating costs for the

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camp. Thanks to various individuals and groups who donated items this year including clothing, paper goods, food items and needed emergency items such as generators. 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 Camp Board for providing the needed materials and support to make this a successful place. 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! This state project is the true “Jewel of Minnesota.” Keep spreading the word about the **Best Place On Earth!!!**

Joel & Kim Baumgarten
Minnesota Elks Youth Camp Directors

Camp Openings—A Job Well Done

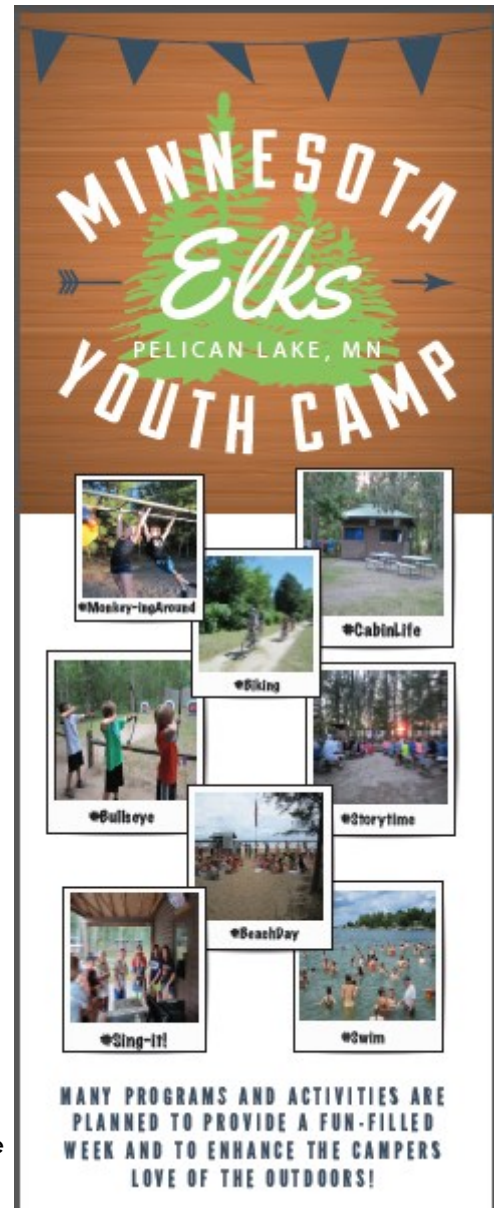
The Camp Board extends it’s appreciation for all of the work done to prepare for the 2017 season. April brought a crew of 40 from I-Falls. Under Krazy’s leadership much of the winter storm damage was cleaned up and lots of firewood was cut and split. Many buildings were improved and many were painted. Plus they managed to have some fun.

May brought the men’s opener with 100 plus workers and the best weather in years. Lots of work done, including a new deck/sun shelter on the beach by Red Wing Lodge. The HRS siding was done, buildings painted, grounds cleaned, internet updated, mini golf greens redone and many other projects making for one of the best openings in years. We can always use more folks at opening if you have not been there.

Ladies opener or as they call it—“Cleaning up after the men!” Cabins were cleaned. Mini golf painted, kids clothes arranged (my Nixons the one shirt was thrown out), flowers planted and more. Great job!!

Owatonna House

As we remodel and update our current buildings Owatonna has partnered with the Camp and the project is about 70% done and is in use this summer. Tom Hoelscher has headed the project and you will see a new kitchen, new 400 sq foot addition, new walls and flooring, improved deck and more. Completion should be September 2017. Lodges involved were Hutchinson, Stillwater, Hopkins, I-Falls and Owatonna. A great example of Elks working together to get the job done. We are planning improvements to the Winona House, the Rochester House and the Health House. Stay tuned for details and the opportunity to participate (participate means time and money).



A new convention booth banner

2017 Camping Schedule

Session 1: June 11th—June 17th

	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
	55	50	105

Session 2: June 18th—June 24th

	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
	53	48	101

Session 3: June 25th - July 1st

	Boys	Girls	Total
Brainerd	13	11	24
Owatonna	16	18	34
Rochester	12	12	24
Winona	13	8	21
	54	49	103

Session 4: July 9th - July 15th

	Boys	Girls	Total
Bemidji	7	6	13
Duluth	12	12	24
Eveleth	10	8	18
Fergus Falls	2	2	4
International Falls	6	5	11
Thief River Falls	8	6	14
Virginia	9	6	15
	54	45	99

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 \$150 for members and \$200 for guests. The sign up info will be posted on the web site

<http://www.mnelksyouthcamp.org>

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 16—July 22

Session 6: Elks Kids & Grandkids Week
July 23—July 29

Session 7: Elks Kids & Grandkids Week
July 30 -August 5

Elks Family Camp: August 11—13

State Soccer Shoot Out: August 25—27



Theater night



Time for a Pontoon ride