

FALL NEWSLETTER

CAMP KNUTSON VOLUNTEERS



Greetings from the President

Hello Camp Knutson Volunteers!

I am truly honored to be the President of CKV and I am so fortunate to have an outstanding leadership team join me! The CKV Board includes Linda Gates, Vice President; Mardy Brodil, Treasurer; Jane Borden, Secretary; Lori Lee, Volunteer Membership; Laurie Noll, Volunteer Coordinator; Ronda Morin, Publicity; and Jean Jones, Webmaster.

This has been my seventh year volunteering at Camp K, and it's been one of the most satisfying times of my life. Being part of such a welcoming group and being able to make a difference for the campers and their families has been especially rewarding. I've co-chaired Night Under the Stars fundraisers since 2019. I've also enjoyed volunteering at Sundae Funday, card making with the campers, tailgating and biking.

My husband Keith and I have been married 47 years. We raised our family in Plymouth, Mn but we are now full time Crosslake residents. We have twin daughters Erin and Elisabeth, son-in-law Jason, and two grandsons, Garrett and Grayton. Our son, Kurt, passed away in 2019 at age 36 of sudden cardiac arrest. The support and friendship we received from the Camp K family was especially comforting during that difficult time.

I am very excited about the coming year at Camp Knutson and I hope to meet as many of you as possible! Camp Knutson is a welcoming place to be and I hope each one of you feel that acceptance and appreciation. Each one of you is a vital part of Camp K's success and we are grateful for your service!

With gratitude,

Jeannine Acker

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Volunteer Coordinator & Membership Message

Another amazing summer at Camp Knutson has come to a close and I'm happy to report that our 2023 Volunteer activities have been tremendous and so warmly received by our campers.

The introduction of our BetterImpact website in 2023 has streamlined our volunteer process and has been well embraced by our volunteers. Since the introduction of BetterImpact I've heard positive feedback about the ease of use with our sign-up process. By simply logging in, our volunteers have the opportunity to sign up for activities right from the comfort of their home or even from their iPhone. These improvements have made it easier to coordinate personal calendars with the many volunteer opportunities. For those that prefer not to use an on-line system, I'm still more than happy to help you sign up. You can contact me by phone, text or email. As we move forward into next year if you'd like to reach out to me, please send an email to labonoll@gmail.com or text or call 952-452-0259.

Looking back on the summer of 2023 our volunteers gave hundreds of hours to help make magic happen. Whether it was through beading, biking, fishing, or serving a true tailgating dinner experience to our hungry campers and staff, our volunteers stepped up with smiles to make it all happen.

Our primary events like Sundae Funday, Night Under the Stars, The Quilt Auction, and Happy Camper relied on the support of volunteers to ensure our events were a huge success. So many of you gave freely of your time and talent to help pull everything together and for that I thank you!

All that being said, don't forget, there's a lot of behind-the-scenes volunteer efforts that help make camp an enjoyable adventure. Many of our volunteers helped with grounds maintenance, gardening and light housekeeping which allows camp staff to spend more time with our guests while at the same time making Camp K a beautiful facility for all to enjoy.

As I see it, Camp Knutson is like a huge jig saw puzzle with so many valuable pieces coming together to make one big, beautiful picture. Each of our volunteers are part of the puzzle and we need each and every one of you to help continue to create successful, fun filled end results.

I want to thank all of our volunteers for their service and dedication. I also want to thank our CKV Board that helps keep us on target and moving forward. I would be remis if I didn't acknowledge our Camp K Staff; all of which are so invaluable and so deeply appreciated. We also want to send a special thank you to our kitchen staff and maintenance crews. Without all of you, we'd be missing critical puzzle pieces. Thank you all for your love, caring, and dedication to the best camp around!

As I wrap up this article, I wanted to mention that Summer is the time of year that brings us together with a common goal which is to help make Camp K a safe, fun, interactive, educational embracing experience. Our off season will remain active with committee meetings, activities and planning for an exciting 2024.

Our Membership Coordinator, Lori Lee, will be offering activities throughout the winter months to keep us engaged. There are plans in the works for social gatherings to help us stay in touch with our amazing volunteer friends. Lori has also mentioned we have twenty new volunteers at Camp Knutson. These social events are a perfect opportunity to reach out to them and make them feel welcome. Watch for emails with updates on the winter activities.

In closing I want to again thank you all for your involvement with Camp Knutson and for sharing your time, talent, dedication and love for our campers.

Sincerely,

Laurie Noll
Volunteer Coordinator

Lori Lee
Membership Coordinator



2023 Happy Camper Gift Market

ONLINE AUCTION - OCTOBER 14TH - 18TH

The 4th Annual "Happy Camper Gift Market" is an online auction of over 100 skillfully handmade items, such as table runners, pillows, greeting cards, quilts, placemats, and so much more. Great gift ideas for the holidays or birthdays. Many seasonal items as well. Auction opens at noon on October 14th and closes at noon on October 18th. Register online at www.campknutson.org/events! You will receive a phone call after the auction closes on the 18th with instructions for pick up at the Log Church in Crosslake or we can ship it to you.

BID BIG AND BID OFTEN, IT'S FOR THE KIDS!!

Organized by: Jan Larson, Wendy Bares, Cindy Melsby Questions: Please call Cindy at 612.723.0342



Night Under the Stars - July 15th, 2023

This Year's Night Under the Stars was a fun filled 70's theme. Many "groovy" and "far out" guests attended and helped celebrate Camp Knutson's 70th Birthday. We also had many new faces joining in and we are excited to see so many new friends of Camp Knutson.

The evening consisted of an array of games and activities, the silent auction in the dining hall. Camp counselors circulated with a variety of appetizers and 3 Cheers Hospitality catered a delicious sit-down dinner. Guest Speakers were Knutson Staff, Steph Dalweg and Charlie Nelson. Kelly Conger wrapped up the evening with the live auction.

Jerry and Sandy Bilski and Dan and Sandi Thorson were recognized for their amazing and heartfelt contributions to Camp Knutson over many decades. Their love and support of camp is immeasurable, and we are all truly grateful for everything they have done to enhance camp and each camper's experience.

On behalf of the volunteers and Camp K staff, THANK YOU!

SAVE THE DATE! Next year's Night Under the Stars is Saturday, July 20th..."Boots and Bling" Chaired by Gretchen Sebald, Lori Lee and Kristie Roedl



Quilt Auction

We had another great Quilt Auction this year. We had over 200 donated items, 100 in the live auction, and over 120 in the silent auction, which were sold online. This combination of live and virtual bidding, created during the pandemic, seems to have evolved into something that works well for us. The amazing quality and workmanship of the quilts helped us raise over \$144,000 for Camp Knutson. Many thanks to all of the donors and volunteers that made the auction a success!

For 2024, Cindy Melsby is coming back as co-chair, along with the two current co-chairs, Wendy Bares and Jan Larson. We look forward to another fun year! If you'd like to join the team, call or email Jan at (507)276-9063 or jlars612@gmail.com



Sundae Funday

The first big celebration at Camp Knutson for Summer 2023 was Sundae Funday held on Sunday May 28, 2023. This free event allows the community to be aware of the camp's purpose and get a better idea of what happens during the summer for the campers. We estimated that 330 people attended from the community! 40 volunteers and 20 Camp Knutson staff made this event a success. We took in \$2,689.00 from the donation jars. A special thanks to Cindy Melsby as the food Team Leader. We served walking tacos, and ice cream sundaes. The camp counselors had several games for the kids to enjoy.

We are looking for chairs and food leads for 2024 Sundae Funday. This is a quick and fun way to get involved with CKKV events with many plans and good records provided for you. If you are interested or want to know more information, please contact Jannine Acker at jkacker@comcast.net. We all are looking forward to Sundae Funday 2024!

Linda Gates and Laurie Ridgley



Gardening



Camp Knutson's colorful gardens were enjoyed by campers, staff and visitors all season long. The volunteer gardeners did a great job keeping the gardens weeded and thriving - despite the neighborhood deer! New plants were added and others were moved to better locations. Soon the gardeners will be putting the gardens to bed until Spring 2024.

The 2023 CKV volunteer gardeners include chairpersons Sharon Elmquist and Linda Gates. Joining them were Bobbi Anderson, Susie Baker, Karen Ballor, Bonnie Benson, Sharon Elmquist, Carolyn Forney, June Gens, Ginny Hersey, Pat Hesli, Nancy Hoehn, Jeannie Kellogg, Diane Marsolek, Laurie Ridgley, Renee Schumacher, Bobbi Shallman, Judy Stieve, Linda West and Kate Williams.

If you would like to garden with us next year, please join us Wednesday mornings at 8:30 am at Camp K. It's a great way to meet other volunteers! More details will follow in the Spring CKV newsletter.



Notable Dates



Happy Camper Market

OCTOBER 14-18, 2023

Sundae Funday

MAY 26, 2024

Night Under the Stars

JULY 20, 2024

Quilt Auction

AUGUST 10, 2024



Upcoming Event

VOLUNTEER SOCIAL

Sandra Krienke along with her husband Brian have graciously offered to host the next volunteer social event on Thursday, October 19th, 2023 from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm.

Their address is 24886 CR 36, Emily. If the weather permits, there will be a bonfire and s'mores, so dress appropriately.

Please feel free to bring a guest, spouse or friend. We are also asking you to bring an appetizer to share if you are able. Beverages will be provided.

If you plan to come, please RSVP to Sandra Krienke by texting or calling 763-350-5514. If you have any questions please let us know. We are looking forward to seeing you on the 19th!

THANK YOU



Camp K Friends and Volunteers, We want to sincerely thank you for all of your time, effort, and support this camp season! It is because of people like you that camp can run so smoothly and effectively. It was also great to have you by our sides this year as we navigated the most partner groups we have ever had! You are an amazing part of what we do!

-Camp Knutson Staff

