

Camp Knutson Volunteers Spring Newsletter



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Greetings from the President

Hello there Spring,

Even though our Minnesota winter was mild, spring still brings hope, smiles, and the promise of new beginnings! Every summer at Camp Knutson there are many new beginnings for volunteers, staff, and most importantly for our campers! These new beginnings may be profound and even life changing.

I have been a volunteer at Camp Knutson since 2017, and it has truly been the most rewarding volunteer opportunity I have ever experienced. The warm welcome I received from Camp K staff and the Volunteer Leadership team immediately put any concerns and apprehension out of mind. As this year's President, it is my goal to continue this tradition of warm welcomes and inclusion.

Over the years I have enjoyed time spent with campers making cards, bicycling, tailgating, and Angel Flight meet & greets. I've also enjoyed working on the Night Under the Stars gala. This event is a great way to collaborate with other volunteers and see an important fundraiser come to life! I know the volunteers who have worked on the Sundae Funday and Quilt Auction teams feel the same!

If you are already a Camp Knutson volunteer, I thank you. If you are ready to dip your toe into the water and join us, I want to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome!

Please plan to join us at the all-volunteer Spring Meeting and Luncheon at 10:00 am on Thursday, May 30 in the Camp Knutson dining hall. At this meeting you will learn more about Camp Knutson and the many volunteer opportunities.

Thank you for all you do,
Jeannine Acker





2nd Friday Work Crews

If you're looking for another opportunity to work hard and socialize at camp, join our second Friday work crew!

CKV Annual Dues

CKV 2024 Optional Dues are \$10, as in the past. The dues help defray CKV mailing and print costs, as well as supporting the "fairy fund" for campers that do not have spending money at camp. We greatly appreciate your interest in and support of the CKV.

Easy Options for Dues:

1. Mail your \$10 check payable to "Camp Knutson" to camp.
11148 Manhattan Pt Blvd
Crosslake, MN 56442
2. Pay your dues (check preferable) at the Spring Meeting on May 30th.
3. Pay dues online at campkfriends.com (click on "membership info")
4. Drop off a check in the CKV drop box in the lobby of Pauly's Place at Camp Knutson .

Thank you!

Volunteer Coordinator & Membership Message

It's welcoming and rewarding to know that we're ramping up for another beautiful year at Camp Knutson. I'm ready to get busy and am pleased to know that we have an amazing roster of volunteers, like you, to help keep events and camps moving forward.

Our volunteers are caring individuals looking to make a positive impact on others. Our teams and networks of volunteers work together sharing talents, making memories, and forming lasting bonds while supporting a very special and unique organization. I've always felt we "get" more than we "give" when volunteering because the rewards are so great when we help others. Volunteering is truly a sharing of love. If you are new to our Volunteer Team, we welcome you and look forward to working together. If you're a returning volunteer, it's great to have you back!

To give you a recap of last year; in 2023 we had approximately 1,157 campers and 1,222 retreat guests from 22 different states who joined us for twenty-one weeks or weekends of camper groups. This is an impressive number of youth and adults with disabilities, medical conditions, and other identified needs. With your help, and under the guidance of staff, Camp K offers a totally safe, healthy, and happy environment to be shared with all our guests. Some of our campers are repeat guests and some are new to Camp K. Either way, campers always feel welcome, safe, and enjoy time with individuals that are special, just like they are! There were approximately 135 volunteers that donated collectively 2000 hours to help make magic happen last year. We're looking to expand these opportunities in 2024 and beyond.

Did you know that Camp Knutson works with fifteen other non-profit organizations to help make these special events come to fruition for all youth and adult campers? Working in conjunction with the non-profits, our camps are geared lovingly towards groups that are faced with Autism, Heart Disease, Skin Conditions, Down Syndrome, Burn Survivors, youth facing Homelessness and more.



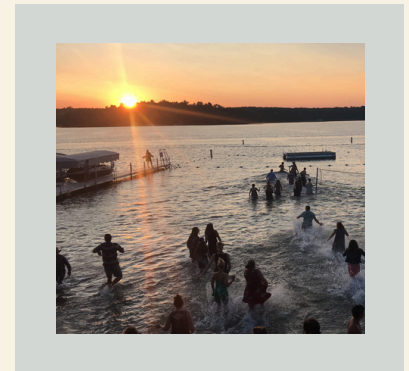
Volunteer Coordinator & Membership Message Cont.

Our special events like Sundae Funday, Night Under the Stars, the Quilt Auction, and Pancake Breakfast are highlights where our volunteers dedicate their time and talent to make them all a success. However, that's not all... we always have additional volunteer opportunities and need your help throughout the summer with Light Housekeeping, Gardening, Biking, Fishing, Beading, Spring Clean-up and more. Your involvement is what helps make Camp K a premier place for our campers.

Last year, most of you were able to use our Better Impact on-line system to schedule your volunteer time. Better Impact has been an amazing tool and I'm hopeful you found it easy to use and will check it out again this year. I can't imagine coordinating volunteer hours without a system like this in place. It's simply amazing! If you've forgotten your Username and Password, not to worry, I'm sure we'll be able to figure it out. Our Spring Meeting and Luncheon is scheduled for May 30th. Part of the agenda will be a reintroduction of Better Impact. We will offer a quick refresher and address any questions you may have. We also have New Member Gatherings scheduled for June 5th at 10:00 a.m. and June 11th at 3:00 p.m. These gatherings are opportunities to help you sign up with Better Impact, offer tutorials or refreshers, or to simply acquaint you with Camp K.

Fun is on the horizon: Mark your calendars – Volunteer Socials are scheduled for July 10th and August 14th targeting a late afternoon start time. More information will be coming. We'd love to have you join us!

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



Laurie Noll,
Volunteer Coordinator

Lori Lee,
Membership Coordinator





Sundae Funday-- May 26th

Camp Knutson Volunteers will be hosting a free community event at Camp Knutson Campus on Sunday, May 26th from 11:00 – 2:00. The event is for all ages! Fun games and tours of the camp will be available to enjoy. Free walking taco's and ice cream sundae's will be served and has been a hit for the visitors in the past. This event allows the community to be aware of the camp's purpose and to get a better idea of what happens during the summer. It is also helpful for new campers to see what the camp looks like, for parents to be able to directly see the campus, and to meet some of the staff. If you have helped in the past, or are a new volunteer, it is a great time for you to meet new people, get to know the campus, and enjoy the fun.

The Team Leaders for Sundae Funday are:

Laurie Ridgley 612-790-0538 - laurieeridgley@gmail.com

Ann Shirey 320-266-1132 sashirey@gmail.com

Please contact us with questions!



Quilt Auction--August 10th

Spring has arrived and we are excited to get to work on the 38th Annual Quilt Auction! The auction will be held on Saturday, August 10th and will feature both live and online events. The "QAC Squad" needs your help! If you are interested in being on our team there will be sign-up sheets at the spring volunteer meeting on May 30th. Again, no quilting experience is needed! If you or anyone you know is planning to donate an item for the Quilt Auction we will be accepting donations from May 1st through July 1st. Mail or drop off your donations at the Crosslake Log Church or contact one of us. Please reach out to any us if you have questions, suggestions, or would like to discuss volunteering opportunities.

We thank you for your support! 2024 Quilt Auction Tri-chairs:

Wendy Bares - 763-670-4427 - wendybares@yahoo.com

Jan Larson - 507-276-9063 - Jlars612@gmail.com

Cindy Melsby - 612-723-0342 - melsby2000@outlook.com





Night Under the Stars

This year's Night Under the Stars event is a "Boots and Bling" theme which is sure to draw a lot of "Yee-haws" from the crowd...after all this isn't our first rodeo. Night Under the Stars is scheduled for Saturday, July 20th. This rootin' tootin' event begins at 4:30 p.m. at Camp Knutson.

Night Under the Stars features a Silent Auction, Dinner, Program, and Live Auction. Dinner attendance is limited, so buy your tickets early! Additional tickets for the Auction and Wine Bar are also available. Watch for an email or mailing, inviting you to register for the event.

Night Under the Stars is one of several events that raise much needed, and appreciated funds, for the campers of Camp Knutson. As mentioned, this event is hosted by Camp Knutson volunteers. There are numerous opportunities for volunteers that work well with all types of schedules and interests.

Night Under the Stars welcomes, and relies on, donations from businesses and individuals. New items and gift baskets of all types and price points are essential for our silent and live auction. Every year we are looking for novel items and new unique experiences! If you have something to offer, we would love to hear about it!

Another way for volunteers to help with the event is by donating wine bottles (white, rosé, red) for the event. In addition to those items, volunteers can bring any empty baskets, crates, or containers that can be used at the Camp Knutson Volunteer spring meeting and luncheon, on Thursday, May 30th (10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.).

For any questions regarding the Night Under the Stars please contact Gretchen Sebald at gasebald83@gmail.com.

We can't wait to see you at camp!

Yee-Haw!!!





Gardening at Camp K

The gardeners were busy last summer & fall! We had some great Wednesday morning weeding, deadheading, watering, and moving plants from one area to another. We planted & cared for the many planters around the campus for campers, visitors, and staff to enjoy.

We will be working on some of the gardens that are getting new black dirt & mulch. Fun information is shared with our fellow gardeners during coffee/treat time after the work is done. This is a great group and there is a lot of laughter! Ladies & gentlemen are invited to join us. We will be adding new plants in a couple of the gardens to add some color. If you are interested, come and join us! We meet every Wednesday morning at 8:30 for about an hour and a half. We are flexible and you can join when you are available.

Chairpersons, Sharon Elmquist and Linda Gates



Beading and Jewelry Making Opportunities with Campers

We are excited to continue beading this summer, the longest run volunteer activity! Join us for a variety of different afternoons, from about 2:00pm – 4:30pm, to help create beading and jewelry projects down by the waterfront. Campers love to get to know the volunteers and create beautiful projects for themselves or to give as gifts. This is a great time to engage in meaningful conversations with many of our campers and staff. Volunteer dates will be released at the spring meeting on May 30th. If you want to help with the beading project implementation, we are looking for someone to work alongside Cathy Esler in a leadership role. We look forward to seeing what everyone can create!





Camp K Directors Letter

Our team of staff and volunteers is gearing up for another busy, joyful and dynamic summer! With retreats and weekend camps, Camp Knutson has stayed busy since our last summer camp season. We wanted to reach out and share what we've been up to – and also what we have in store for the summer ahead.

Introducing New Year-Round Staff: Ellie, Steena, and Jake!

Our year-round, full-time team has grown to a total of six. We are so excited to have Ellie Williams, Steena Johnson, and Jake Wacek join us as program coordinators! They all have spent several summers as K staff. In their roles they will be supporting camp in a number of ways including being a strong resource in the collaboration with all of our volunteers. If you haven't heard Josh Sitarz did take on a new position this past winter working for medical sales team. Camp K appreciates all his contributions over the years. Josh has promised us that we will see him around camp at some point this summer and we plan to hold him to that.

Summer Schedule

We have a full summer schedule of camps lined up, and our camp partners are gearing up as well. You will notice that Camp Benedict for individuals impacted by HIV/AIDS is not on our calendar this year. Camp Benedict had some changes take place in the lives of their leadership team and the ability to carry their camp forward at this point in time. Camp K certainly would welcome them back if things fall in place again in the future. In place of Camp Benedict we will be hosting the Red River foundation the first week of June for individuals with disabilities that come from a series of group homes in North Dakota.

Thank you for joining us in our Mission!

Thank you for choosing to be part of the life-giving mission of Camp Knutson! We're so proud of how our volunteers, staff, and supporters come together to support our campers and their families year after year! Your tremendous efforts and acts of kindness are very much appreciated and helps inspire hope, change lives, and build community here at Camp K and beyond!

There are quite a number of ways to get involved and make a difference in a way that is meaningful to you. Please reach out to any of our volunteer and staff leaders if you need help getting plugged into a volunteer role that suits your time and talents. Also please do spread the word about Camp K to your friends, family, and neighbors and invite them to come out and check things out so they can experience firsthand.

Thank you for your continued support of Camp Knutson, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Jared Griffin
Camp Director

Caitlin Malin
Director of Services

Summer 2024 Schedule

May 20 Staff Training Begins
May 26 Sundaes Funday Open House
May 30 Spring Volunteer Meeting
June 3 – 5 Red River Foundation
June 8 – 12 Down Syndrome Camp
June 14 – 17 Camp RED
June 19 – June 23 Camp Hand in Hand 1
June 25 – June 29 Camp Hand in Hand 2
July 1 – 6 Camp Discovery 1
July 8 – 13 Camp Discovery 2
July 15 – 19 Camp Odayin 1
July 20 Night Under the Stars
July 22 – 26 Camp Odayin 2
July 29 – August 2 Camp Odayin 3
August 4 Camp Knutson Sunday
August 5 – 9 Camp Hand in Hand 3
August 10 Quilt Auction
August 11 – 15 Camp Hand in Hand 4
August 17 – 21 Camp Norden
August 22 Volunteer Fall Meeting
August 23 – 25 Bridging Hearts
August 26 – 28 Youth Experiencing
Houselessness
August 31 Pancake Breakfast
September 2 – 6 Minneapolis Community
Group
September 9 Volunteer Appreciation Picnic



Camp Wishlist

With your help, we can provide all the parts and pieces that make the camp experience truly magical for our campers. Right now we are seeking the following items, as well as more listed on our website and Amazon wishlist linked below:

- New tri-pontoon
- Commercial paddle boat
- Campershops
- Fresh fruits and vegetables each camp week
- Minivan
- Solar powered lift kits
- Epipens and other medical supplies
- New low ropes course elements

[Website wishlist](#)

[Amazon wishlist](#)

