



LAKETRAILS BASE CAMP

April 2023

Staffing Need

Do you know someone who likes cooking and kids? Laketrails is looking for a mature adult to serve as a **Kitchen Assistant**. Please call the Laketrails office at 218-223-8281 for details.

Camper News

Summer is coming! Yes, we're pretty positive it's really going to happen! So, below are some things to keep in mind as we approach the summer months.

For those of you sending a child to camp, please remember to gather and organize the required forms—either a birth certificate, passport, or passport card and Parent Authorization form (for crossing the border). Keep these forms with you and hand them to the bus chaperone who will present them to Customs agents upon arrival at the border.

Also, don't forget the **health form**. This must be sent to the camp office at least two weeks prior to the start of the camper's session. If you have any questions or concerns about any of the paperwork, please call Sue at 218-223-8281.

As we've expected (after being closed for three years), enrollment is still a little slow. So, if you know of a teen or middle school youth who could benefit from some "unplugged" time Up North experiencing the wonders of Lake of the Woods, please encourage them to get signed up for camp! Just call the camp office to inquire about camperships, session availability, or anything else. We're happy to help!

Memorial Day Weekend at Camp

As we often do, Laketrails is hosting a gathering on the island over Memorial Day weekend. Dates are **May 26-29**. After our long closure plus last summer's flooding, there's a LOT of work to be done! For arrival on the 26th boats will run from 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. and again (after supper) from 7:30-8:00 p.m.

Workers for the weekend will get a chance to meet our summer staff, sing traditional Laketrails songs, and whistle while you work with friends old and new. Depending on your skills you might be asked to help rebuild docks, cut up stray logs left over from the flooding, fill woodsheds, clear flood debris, wash windows, clean cabins... and the list goes on.

For planning purposes, it's important for us to have a good handle on numbers. So, weekend participants are asked to sign up by clicking the "Register" button on the Laketrails website. If that doesn't work for you, please call the office **by May 15th** at 218-223-8281 to let us know you're coming.

So, pack your favorite pair of work gloves, some water boots, sleeping bag and gear. Let's get ready to make some new memories!

Sue Lemm, Laketrails Camp Director

Laketrails: Inspiring teens with an appreciation of self, community, and environment through a wilderness canoeing adventure.

Fund Raising

Dear Laketrails Family,

As we approach the start of the 2023 camping season there are many reasons to be optimistic and hopeful. Our staff is hired and excited to get camp running again, campers are gradually signing up for various sessions, and there are currently no signs of flooding on the horizon. There's a good feeling in the air!

However, the one "fly in the ointment" is that, quite frankly, our budget has a rather dismal appearance. Our anticipated operating costs have risen significantly while at the same time our donations have decreased significantly. Transportation costs have doubled (due to higher fuel prices), staff salaries have increased (due to market pressure), and food costs are expected to be much higher (due to simple inflation). And, in addition to these basic costs of operation, Laketrails faces the added burden of recovery from last summer's flooding.

Besides flood recovery, perhaps our greatest and most immediate need is that of camperships. Laketrails has a long history of helping teens and their families afford the wonderful and life-changing experience that is gained by a session at camp. Being on the island and going on a canoe trip can *truly* change lives in an amazing way for our youth. With anxiety and depression at record highs among teens, they need us now more than ever!

While all this is true, it's important to remain optimistic and remember that in many ways this is a rebuilding year for Laketrails. The budget doesn't look so great right now, but in time we'll bounce back. However, in the short term, Laketrails is sincerely asking for your support in order to make a difference for the camp we all love. Truly, every donation counts!

At the end of this letter are listed the various ways to give to camp along with some of our specific needs and the amount of money we hope to raise. Please consider a donation towards one—or even several—of these items.

To help incentivize giving, an anonymous donor has put forth a challenge for our fund-raising campaign. **All donations between \$500—\$1,000 will be matched up to \$10,000 if given by May 17th**—great news for Laketrails! We hope you can be a part of this challenge and make a positive impact in the life of a teen.

And, to those of you who have contributed in the past—and continue to do so—we say a heartfelt "Thank you!" We couldn't even consider running camp without your generous support. *YOU* are helping to keep the mission of Laketrails alive and well!

With sincere thanks,

Sue

Sue Lemm
Camp Director

Janae

Janae Streufert
Board Chair and Volunteer

Jim

Jim Tikalsky
Board Treasurer and Volunteer

As always, there are several ways to contribute to Laketrails:

- Go to the Laketrails website, www.laketrails.org, and select the “Donate” button at the top of the page.
- Go to GiveMN.org and click the “Donate” button. Then just type “Laketrails Base Camp” in the Search bar and follow the prompts. Using this method you can make a one-time gift or even set up a small monthly donation.
- Call the Laketrails office at 800-450-6460 with your credit card information.
- For other ways of giving such as appreciated stock, gifts from your estate, trusts or IRAs, please contact Laketrails Treasurer, Jim Tikalsky at 612-220-2022 or by email at tikalskyjt@gmail.com.
- If you cannot afford a monetary gift right now, please pray for our mission to be successful and for the campers who need us. Thank you!

Laketrails Needs For 2023 Camping Season:

NEED	EXPLANATION	APPROX. COST
Flood Recovery Fund	Primarily dock reconstruction—includes crib repair/removal, barge cost, purchase of dock floats and additional lumber	\$10,000
Camperships	Assistance for campers who cannot afford the full camp fee	\$8,000
20-25 hp boat motor	There is currently no working motor for our 16-ft. boat.	\$4,000
SPOT Messengers and service	Emergency communication devices that are now required for all canoe trips	\$3,000
AED machine (Automated External Defibrillator)	Emergency medical device now recommended for safety in Base Camp	\$1,500