



LAKETRAILS BASE CAMP

PO BOX 810, WARROAD, MN 56763 800-450-6460
SUMMER: PO BOX 25, OAK ISLAND, MN 56741 218-223-8281

Fall 2023

Dear Laketrails Family and Friends,

There are certain sights, sounds and smells that I always associate with Laketrails, and if you think about it, I'm sure you can conjure up those same images that are really the signs of life at camp. For example, the sounds of laughter drifting across the island, and young voices singing around the campfire; the scent of a fresh, cool breeze wafting across the water on a warm summer morning; and the first sight of a paddle flash in the distance, signaling the return of a canoe trip to the island; the bell ringing to welcome campers and canoe trips. Those hallmarks have been missing for the past few years, but the summer of 2023 brought them all back. Simply put, it was good to be up and running once again!

The summer was not without its challenges, however, as we dealt with dock issues and low lake levels, increased costs of operation, and failing kitchen and laundry equipment that gave out after sitting idle for several years. And, as the canoes had also sat idle, we discovered that basic knowledge of typical canoe trips and practices had also drifted away—staff had to learn nearly everything from scratch since all were new to their positions. That said, enrollment for the summer was slightly over half of our normal numbers, and we made encouraging progress in getting camp back on track. In many ways the future looks bright as we continue to re-build.

Now, as we look forward to 2024, our goals are clear: continue to re-build our camper numbers, replenish our campership funds, and raise funds to meet our infrastructure and program needs, enabling us to continue offering our top quality and life-changing wilderness camping program for teens.

For these reasons, Laketrails is currently focusing on an important fund raising goal of \$40,000. Gifts of *any* size will be critical for us, but we are pleased to announce that **contributions of \$500 and greater will be matched up to \$10,000 if given before the end of 2023.** Jim and Stephani Tikalsky along with an anonymous donor have teamed up to make this matching challenge a possibility. This is great news for camp as it creates a solid path towards our overall goal. Please keep in mind that *every* donation of *any* size is meaningful. We hope you can contribute to reaching our goal!

On the opposite side 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 of these items, and if you're not able to give financially at this time, we ask for your prayers to fulfill our mission and make a difference in the life of a teen.

In looking back over his session at camp this summer, one young man commented that he "became an observer of Nature as well as of himself." What an amazing gift he received! That's exactly why *your* gifts mean so much!

With sincere gratitude,

Sue

Sue Lemm
Camp Director

Janae

Janae Streufert
Board Chair and Volunteer

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

Here are several ways to give to Laketrails:

- Use the enclosed card and envelope to send your check or credit card information.
- Go to the Laketrails website, www.laketrails.org, and select the “Donate” button at the top of the page.
- Go to GiveMN.org and type “Laketrails Base Camp” in the “claim your non-profit” box. Then, just 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 check out this “Planning and Advice” article from Fidelity at <https://tinyurl.com/76svt3ra> or 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 2024 Camping Season:

NEED	EXPLANATION	APPROX. COST
Large commercial kitchen refrigerator	Our current unit is 29 years old and has experienced significant operational issues.	\$4,500
Large commercial kitchen freezer	Our current unit is 29 years old and has experienced intermittent operational issues.	\$5,500
Camperships	Assistance for campers who cannot afford the full camp fee	\$18,000
AED machine (Automated External Defibrillator)	Emergency medical device now recommended for safety in Base Camp	\$1,500
Four new windows in the Lodge	Four windows in the “Bee Hive” (a.k.a. the small dining room) are rotting and must be replaced	\$5,600