



# LAKETRAILS BASE CAMP

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

Fall 2024

Dear Laketrails Family and Friends,

It feels like we're back! This past summer at camp was nothing short of wonderful! The sessions were more full than last year (although we still have a ways to go in our recovery), the staff and campers were amazing, and even the weather wasn't bad. It was a *really* fun summer of canoeing and camping on Lake of the Woods!

We're now in the midst of our fall fund raising campaign which kicked off with our "Pass the Paddle" event held at Camp Sacagawea in Apple Valley on Oct. 27th. We were blessed with a gorgeous fall day, a good crowd of Laketrailers and friends new to us, great food, and plenty of enthusiasm. Proceeds for the day came in at just over \$12,000, an incredible total for a first-time event! However, this is just the beginning.

Laketrails has set a goal of raising an additional \$20,000 to supplement our campership funds as well as refreshing some of our old and tired camping equipment. To boost us along the way, Jim and Steph Tikalsky have once again paired with an anonymous donor and agreed to match up to \$10,000. Exciting news for us!

So, if you were unable to participate in the "Pass the Paddle" event, please thoughtfully consider a gift to make the Laketrails program stronger than ever. We feel confident that our enrollment will continue to grow over the next several years, so there's a definite need to renew our gear as well as provide more camperships for those in need. As many of you know, we strive to provide a top-quality program while holding costs as low as possible. In keeping with Fr. Bill's wishes, our philosophy continues that no youth should be deprived of a Laketrails adventure because of money, so funding now is vital.

For those who might wonder about our constant need for gear replacement, we hope you'll understand how camping equipment simply wears out over time. Packs, tents, tarps, and paddles tend to be fairly expensive items, but they are obviously vital to our program. We teach good care of our equipment, but few things last forever, thus the need for continuous replacement.

Over the years we have seen countless examples of how Laketrails has made a positive impact in the lives of our campers. Teens grow in confidence, learn the importance of community, how to work as a team, and so much more. They create lasting friendships, memories and stories that stay with them for a lifetime. At a time when our youth are facing more challenges than ever, it's important for us to be there for them. We hope you'll keep these things in mind as you consider a donation to camp.

On a final note, some of you probably know of my upcoming retirement at the end of the year. I am grateful to have had the privilege of serving as the Laketrails Camp Director for the past 15 years, and I look forward to supporting Troy Douglas as he takes the reins in January. I wish him the best as we continue the tradition of paddling canoes with teens and exploring beautiful Lake of the Woods.

Below are listed a variety of ways to contribute to Laketrails along with a chart of needs for the 2025 season. 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 our youth.

With sincere thanks,

*Sue*

Sue Lemm  
Camp Director

*Janae*

Janae Streufert  
Board Chair and Volunteer

*Jim*

Jim Lynch  
Fund Raising Chairman

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](http://www.laketrails.org), and select the "Donate" button at the top of the page.
- Go to [GiveMN.org](http://GiveMN.org) and type "Laketrails Base Camp" in the search 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 contact Laketrails Treasurer, Jim Tikalsky at 612-220-2022 or by email at [tikalskyjt@gmail.com](mailto: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!

### Specific Needs For 2025 Camping Season:

NEED	EXPLANATION	APPROX. COST
Camperships	Assistance for campers who cannot afford the full camp fee	\$10,000
Tents	Replacing 4- and 6-person tents	\$7,700
Paddles	Need shorter paddles for middle school campers	\$400
Packs, tarps, and miscellaneous cooking gear	Replace worn-out or damaged gear	\$1,900