

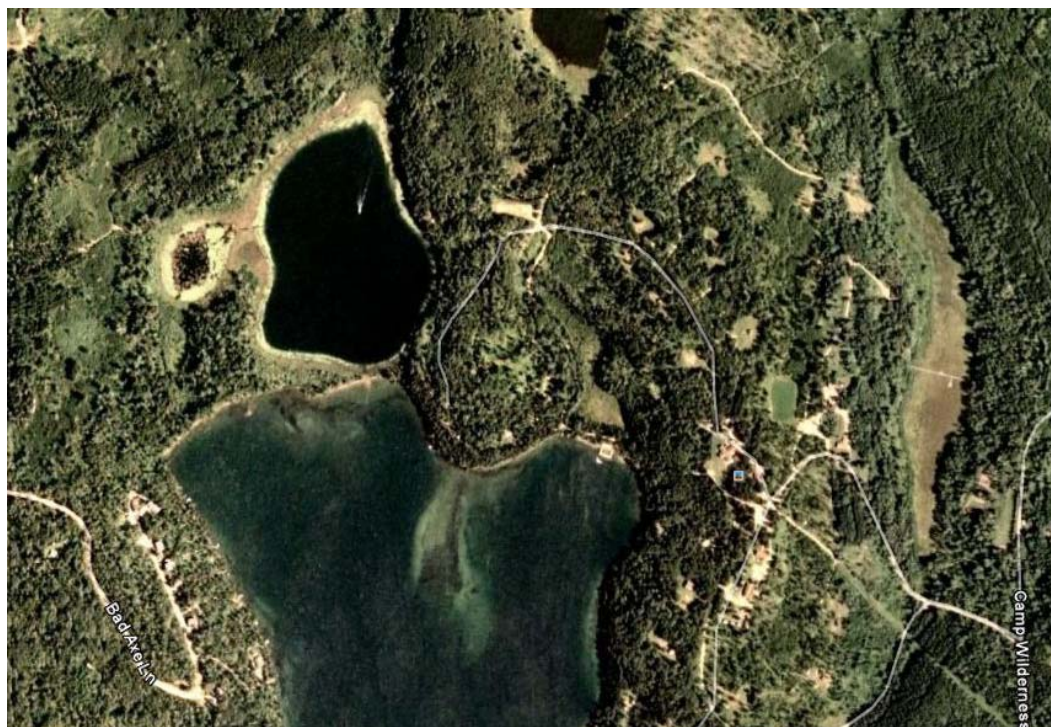


FALL 2011 EDITION

Buck Lake: An Integral Part of Camp Wilderness

By Steve Shark

Buck Lake was named after a John Buck in the 1880's, who purchased and owned the land around Buck Lake. He sold it in the early 1900's to the Red River Logging Company for logging purposes, which was logged around 1909-1912. This land was purchased in 1945 by the Red River Valley Council as part of the land acquisition for Wilderness Camps. Buck Lake is the true "headwaters" of the "Mantrap Chain of Lakes" (tourism info says it's Bad Axe). Buck Lake has a spring, possibly in the north end of the lake and flows into Bad Axe at the south end. Some of the other lakes included in this chain include Big Mantrap, the Bottle Lakes, Big and Little Sand (Zorbaz) before ending in Belle Taine along MN Highway 34. Buck Lake is a virtual bowl, hitting 48' in the middle-a depth that is deeper than Bad Axe. Buck Lake has a marshy shoreline, with weed beds surrounding all shores, outside of the south outlet. Anyone who has been an "Indian" in a canoe in Buck Lake in an O.A. callout can attest to the marshy shore line and the challenges to keeping feet dry (or even leggings!).



Buck Lake has been an integral part of the Order of the Arrow program at Camp Wilderness. One of the earliest tapout and/or induction ceremonial locations was the far northwest side of the White Trail. When this higher elevation site was used 50-60 years ago, the trees were small and offered a gorgeous view of Buck Lake. After a few years, the trees began to block the great view and the distance away from camp became a concern. Today, the lake can once again be viewed from this location on the trail, as the trees have grown tall, with minimal lower branches. There is also another site located closer to the lake, on the northwest hill (north of the Little Buck channel). I'm not sure whether this site was used before or after the far north end site, or perhaps in concert with the upper one. Both of these early sites still show remnants of arrow shaped, fire pits. The current east side site was developed 45-50 years ago, and has been used ever since. For many of us, this site is our favorite location in camp.



Buck has 15+ feet water clarity, probably due to being spring fed, absence of lake homes and minimal, motorized boat traffic. Buck Lake's clear water makes this lake a joy for canoeing, kayaking and even snorkeling. Fish love to hang out right on the steep drop off of the weed beds. On a sunny day-it's like a big aquarium. Little Buck, the lagoon reached by a short channel on the west side of the lake, is a major spawning ground for bass in the spring, and they are easy to see. Loons always utilize Buck Lake for their summer homes- I have seen nests on the west side of Buck (south of the Little Buck channel), and on Little Buck- on the south shore. I'm sure there are/have been other sites. On a late afternoon, wait patiently in a canoe or kayak on the west side of the lake and you're bound to see at least one deer come down the east bank shore for a drink. They especially like anywhere from the tap-out site to the clearing with the large white and red pines (and Eagle nest). Speaking of Eagles- you are bound to see and or hear, at least one of them.

Buck Lake is just one of the many, many reasons why Camp Wilderness is such a special place.

NORTHERN LIGHTS COUNCIL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD

AND THE AWARD GOES TO:

Sounds so easy, doesn't it? This year's committee of nominations judges had some 'hair splitting' votes to deal with. The judges represented Districts four, five, eight, and ten.

Congratulations goes to:

Chad Swenson received the individual recognition for the Alumni Achievement Award and The Fisher Family received the group/organization award. Both were recognized during the Open House during Alumni Week at Wilderness. Below is what the people making the nominations had to say about the recipients.



Chad Swenson

Chad was one of the primary 'drivers' for the establishment of the Northern Lights Council's Alumni Association. Chad is one of those preverbal 'recruiter of volunteers' with a persistent streak leading to a successful program. He was instrumental in organizing reunions for four Northern Lights Council Camps. It takes a lot of energy to keep up with Chad's enthusiasm for the Scouting Program.

For nearly 35 years, Chad has been impacting the Northern Lights Camps in a positive way. Chad works in all aspects of betterment for the Camps. From being a long time staff member, to pounding nails, to fundraising, Chad has been involved in it all.

Chad is a visionary who inspires himself and others to make constant improvements to the camps. Chad is one of the few in the Council who have worked at Heart Butte, Metigoshe and Wilderness. Chad also spent a small time at Minnie Pont when they needed help at the end of one of their camp seasons. One of Chad's visions was to create a new program area focusing on the Scouting Skills. From this vision, he created what is known now as the Scoutcraft area. Chad was also the first Scoutcraft director. Chad was also the first Camp Director when camps started running Cub resident camp.



Chad has held a wide variety of camp staff positions including COPE Aide, Trading Post Manager, C.O.P.E. Director / Asst Outpost Director, C.O.P.E. Director, Commissary Director, Camp Director-Webelos, Asst. C.O.P.E. Director, Quartermaster/Asst. Ranger, Scoutcraft Director, Program Director and Volunteer Commissioner.

Chad helped establish the foundation of The Alumni Association and helped write the By-laws and develop the infrastructure for the continued growth. Chad has served as President, Executive Secretary, Past President and on the Board of Directors. Chad also heavily supports the Open House, Membership and History Committees.

When not directly supporting The Association or Camp, Chad gets involved in district and council related activities. Chad actively supports camp promotions throughout North Dakota and Minnesota. Chad is also a member of the National COPE inspection team. Chad also is integral in winter camping programs such as Polar Cub.

Fisher Family

For many years, the fisher family has served the Northern Lights Council Camps in many ways. Jim and Bev Fisher raised three Eagle Scouts, all of who served on summer camp staff in various positions from Commissioner Aide to Camp Director. Each of the three boys brought a different aspect to summer camp service. All of them left a lasting mark on hundreds of Scouts, Scouters, and visitors to the Northern Lights Camps. As I have witnessed, each member of this family would strive to maintain the highest of quality and standard in any aspect of service to Scouting.

The Northern Lights Council Camps are only one aspect of the Fisher family's outreach into Scouting. The family has supported the Thief River Boy Scout program on many levels from direct troop leadership and participation, to indirect support of district activities and events. The support further extends to the Order of the Arrow program and transporting and supporting the growth of young Arrowman as they strived to understand their new obligation to service. The Fisher family has and still is a role model of service.

Beyond Scouting, the Fisher family has touched the life of their community. The Fisher family and Fisher Electric reach out to the community of Thief River falls in ways too numerous to describe. The family has been active in St. Bernard's Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, Morning Kiwanis Club, Elks Club,



Ducks Unlimited Electrical License in Minnesota and North Dakota Executive Board of the Minnesota Electrical Association. The family continues today to serve and support the American Cancer Society, Daffodil Days, Relay for Life and the U6 league of the TRF Soccer Association.

Further, there are few buildings on the grounds of Camp Wilderness that has not been touched by the Fisher family in some way. The family business, Fisher Electric, has donated not only labor, but materials as well to ensure that the lights are always on and the electrical wiring is up to code. Without equivocation, Fisher Electric has stepped up to the plate and made many building renovations economically possible. With silent, dedicated support, for decades, they have worked behind the scenes with council and Ranger staff to bring electricity to the buildings of camp. Their work touches the lives of every Scout, Scouter, Volunteer, or visitor that enters a Northern Lights Council Camp.

Be sure to congratulate these scouters when you see them at Council Events.

Fall Fellowship

This year's Fall Fellowship will be held October 14- 16. All of the details are still in the works, but the weekend will include a lot of time for socializing, catching up with old friends, and making new ones.

Activities for the weekend include:

- Plenty of coffee drinking and “war story” sharing.
- Gathering at Camp Friday Night- Starting around 5 PM. This will include a cracker barrel as well as a campfire to “melt the ice.”
- Assisting Camp with work needs Saturday
- Enjoying Zorbaz fun Saturday Night



One thing that I am still interested in doing, that was brought up last year, would be to have a speaker over the lunch period share some details about the way camp was in the past. I am still working on finding a speaker, but if you would be interested please contact me (see the following paragraph).

It would be nice to know if you are interested in coming by September 25th, that way Ranger Andy will have plenty of time to plan for our arrival. Feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas for the event, or to let me know you are coming. My email is rfoley89@gmail.com and my phone number is 701-833-3633.

Yours in Scouting, Ryan Foley

Here's the Tally!

Boy Scout Camp at Camp Wilderness

2009 Total Scouts: 1513

2010 Total Scouts: 1628

2011 Total Scouts: 1609

Webelos Camp at Camp Wilderness:

2009 Total Scouts: 400

2010 Total Scouts: 404

2011 Total Scouts: 389

Cub Resident Camp and Tiger Cub Camp at Camp Wilderness:

2009 Total Scouts: 243

2010 Total Scouts: 203

2011 Total Scouts: 284

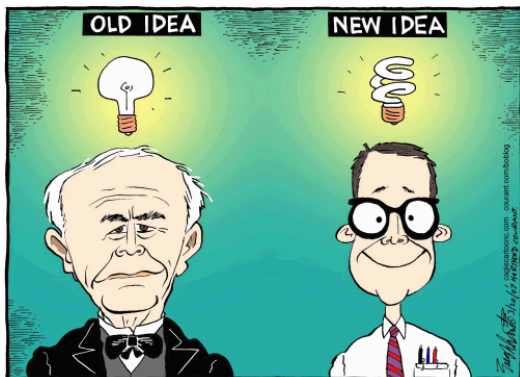


A New Tradition with an Old Feel to it

For nearly 20 years, past alum have been coming back and interacting with the Boy Scout camp over what is known today as Alumni Reunion Week. The tradition moved from a small dedicated number to upwards of 30-50 people in a week stopping through for a few hours to spending the entire week.

However, as the Cub Camp was built and has come into its own, The Association has not made the transition to the same level of interaction. Part of this can be attributed to the small number of Cub Camp alum that are currently out there. We are excited to report that the first steps in bringing the level of interaction have begun.

This year, the Cub Staff took on the Alumni Association in a sand volleyball match. We held our own and only lost the first game by a couple of points. We were pleased with that result as the average age of the staff was 20 and our average age was 45 (a generous number). Much fun was had as we proceeded to mix up the teams and get to know one another. They are a really great bunch of people.



After the volleyball, we ate lunch on at the beach and had more social time. We look forward to next year's match and want to return the favor by cooking lunch for them. We look forward to more time together next year and increasing our involvement and activities with the Cub Camp.

A Staining We Will Go.....

Hi ho the Dario, a Staining we will go. And off we went to work at the Cub Camp staining buildings. Again, The Association members took on some tough projects this summer. We were able to stain three out of the four towers at the cub camp. Along with moving scaffolding, avoiding dripping stain on each other we also had some good laughs and got to know some of the current Scout and Cub staff that were there helping us out.

In addition to staining buildings, several other small projects to help out around camp occurred including installing new permanent benches at both the Boy Scout and Cub Camp beaches to help facilitate teaching.



New Alumni Project for 2012



During the annual meeting of The Association, Reservation Director Brad Olson presented several options for projects that could be taken on by The Association. It was determined by vote that the 2011-2012 project would be funding the update to the camp promotions video. The current video is out of date as many improvements have been made to camp facilities and program. The video will be filmed in HD and will be funded through The Associations general account.

Marianne Jezierski elected Executive Secretary

Marianne Jezierski was elected Executive Secretary/President Elect during the annual meeting of The Association. Marrienne is no stranger to Camp Wilderness or The Association as she has been attending Camp for several years with her troop from Two Harbors, MN. She and her husband Tim have been active in The Association and have lead several successful projects including, along with Chuck Ensign, the Cabin 3 re-build project. Marrienne's son, John, worked at camp for a number of years during high school. We welcome her to the officer position and look forward to her service over the next three years.



Adam Dewey Elected to Board of Directors

Adam Dewey worked at Wilderness in the mid 90's in the Nature Area and as a Trailblazer director. His younger brother Phil also worked at Wilderness. Adam was looking for a way to re-connect with the Northern Lights Camps and Scouting. The Association is glad to accommodate his desire to get involved. We look forward to Adam being involved for many years to come as well as the new perspective he will bring to the board.

Health Forms



The State of Minnesota and the Boy Scouts of America have once again stepped up their requirements for health forms. In a nut shell, if you are going to spend the night at camp or participate in any activity beyond breathing, you will need a physician signed physical. That is sections A, B, and C of the Boy Scout Physical form.

After checking in at the Black Building, please proceed to the Health Lodge to have your physical reviewed. Once your physical is on file, you will receive a wrist band. This wrist band lets all staff members know that you have checked in and that you can participate in camp activities.

Membership Committee Report

With Alumni Week and the open house, membership has taken its usual summer spike. We have seen an increase in Lifetime members this year. Currently, there are 99 members in good standing. Over the past month we have increased our invitation letters and have now invited all past staff members from 2004 to present to join The Association. Letters will go out this week to 2010 staff members who did not return in 2011 inviting them to Join The Association. This year we are focusing on contacting those past Annual Members who have not renewed their Annual Membership and see if we can get them back as an Annual Member or a Lifetime member. We are also pleased to announce that Justin Nyland has joined the Membership Committee.



New Members

Cindie Van Tassel

Cindie Van Tassel joins The Association as a Lifetime Member. Many know Cindie from her involvement with the Breckenridge troop. Cindy has been a Cubmaster, Tiger Wolf, Bear and Webelo Leader, Committee Chir, Assistant Scoutmaster and has been coming to Wilderness since 1999. Not only is she the mother of Brandon (Boy Scout Staff Member for several years), but also Darrin who joined the Cub Camp staff this summer, but she has also been the day care provider for some of our upcoming staff members like Seth Murray. Drop Cindie a note at bvt@wah.midco.net or 218-643-4374.

Matt Everson

Matt Everson Joins The Association as a Lifetime Member. Matt has been an active participant in many of the alumni projects, socials and fundraiser activities. Matt worked on staff two years as a Medic Aide and two years as a Scoutcraft Aide. Drop Matt a note at Meverson696@hotmail.com or 702-793-6364.



Arnold Larson

Arnold Larson Joins The Association this summer and has been coming to camp for many years as a leader with troop 646. Give Arnold a call at 218-847-2847.

Cory Hoggarth

Cory Hoggarth joins The Association this summer. Cory has helped with past Alumni projects during Alumni week. Cory has been involved in coming to camp with troop 1111 for about seven years. Drop Cory a note at coryhoggarth@hotmail.com or 701-222-3726.

Kenneth Janz

Kenneth Janz joins The Association this summer after a long absence from the Northern Lights Camps. Kenneth worked as a Commissioner Aide at Heart Butte and Metigoshe in 1985. Kenneth was an active Scout who camped at Heart Butte and wilderness in the early 80's. Kenneth was also involved in Order of the Arrow. Originally from the Dickenson North Dakota area, Kenneth is now living in Winona MN. Drop Kenneth a note at thejanzman@yahoo.com or 507-429-8017.

Adam Dewey

Adam Dewey joins The Association as a Life Member. Adam worked in the mid 90's as a Nature Aide and Trailblazer Director. Adam says that both he and his brother, Phil, both agree that working at camp was one of the most positive influencing events of their lives. We saw both Adam and Phil during Alumni Reunion Week. Adam was elected to the Board of Directors for a three year term. Contact Adam at birdsthebird@gmail.com or 701-412-1271.

Where's old What's his / her name?

Mike Schlieman

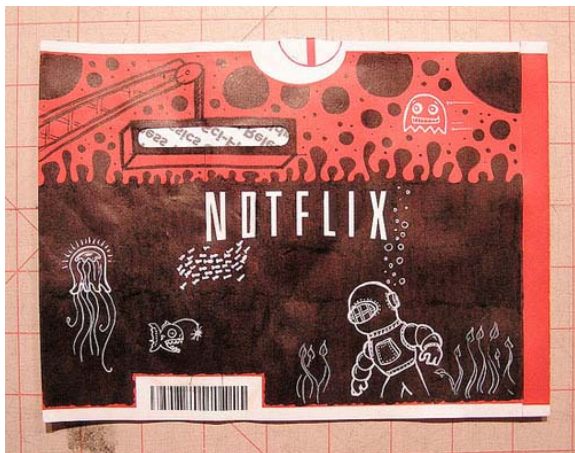
Mike Schlieman worked at camp in the late 80's and is excited to be back involved in Scouting with his family. Mike spend his first year back as a leader at the Boy Scout Camp this summer. We are happy to have him back at home. Drop Mike a note at newsletters@schlieman.net or 218-779-6590.

John Hovdenes

John Hovdenes is still hanging out in Detroit Lakes and very busy in Scouting. John came to camp in the late 50's and early 60's. John has been active as a commissioner, with Order of the Arrow and with the anniversary celebrations. Drop John a note at 218-847-8787 or johovde@yahoo.com.



Wilderness NetFlix



I have posted two 'old' 16mm film videos from the old Metigoshe camp. These videos were from my fathers 'stuff' and I found them a few years ago..

They appear to be recruitment films for the camps.. Both Spanish Point which was an off-shoot of Camp Metigoshe and was on the Missouri River near Williston North Dakota. As Staff, we took material from Metigoshe to Spanish Point and, as I remember, had a two week camp. I was on both camps Staff in the 50's, 1954 to 1959, along with Rich Johnson and others.

You may want to give these links to others who may want to view what the camps were like in the mid 1930's... Yes, these were taken some time in the 1930's.. A very interesting look in the life of a boy scout at two very different camps.

Let me know if I can help in any other ways.. Enjoy

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wc1tuAy6SDc>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_Wc6lPHrzg

Dave Marquart

3100 E Victory Rd

Meridian, ID 83642

208 559-4747 cell

davemarquart@gmail.com

WANTED - Staff Photos

We are trying to collect staff photos from all camps for every year. We have many, but are still searching to complete the set. Please take a look at the list of needed photos.

Wilderness: 46, 47, 48, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 96, 98, 99, 01, 02, 03, 04

Metigoshe: 59, 61, 62, 68, 71, 72, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, and 85.

Wabaunaquat: 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86

Heart Butte: All Years

If you can help, please contact Chris Soper at Chris.Soper@northernlightsalumni.com



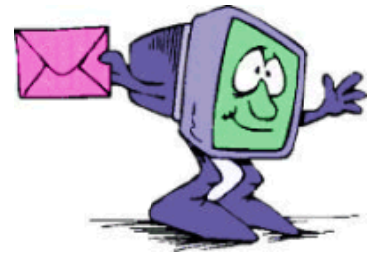


History Photo Album!

We need photos for the History Project & Website. We are looking for photos or slides from any of our camps. They can be recent or of the past. They can be great shots, those showing staff at their best, or your favorites. Contact Chad Swenson at Chad.Swenson@northernlightsalumni.com or call 701-388-2494

Electronic Aurora

If anyone is interested in receiving an electronic copy of The Aurora instead of a paper copy, please contact Chris Soper at chris.soper@northernlightsalumni.com or by phone at 913-221-7252. Electronic mailings cut down on publication & mailing costs and are more eco-friendly by saving paper.



The Association is now on Facebook. Look us up by using "The Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Camps". Sign up today!
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=123513023101>

Mark your Calendar

- **October 14-15th – Fall Fellowship @ Camp Wilderness**
- **January 15th, 2012 - Articles due to Scott@skralston.com for Winter Aurora**
- **More Online:** As more event dates come available you can find it on <http://northernlightsalumni.com/>



Stories



Do you have a personal story or reflection from events or time at camp? Would you be willing to share it? It can be serious, humorous, lessons learned, ideas for the future or anything else. The Aurora is always full of information such as dates and events but some of the most interesting articles are those personal expressions that past staff, campers & scouters share. These are also the most difficult articles to gather. Please forward such stories to scott@skralston.com to be

included in a future Aurora edition. Thank You!

Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Council Camps 2011-2012 Administration

Board of Director

Brandon Wehner
1510 10th Ave S
Fargo, ND 58103
(H) 701-290-9991
Email (H) kc0eak@gmail.com

Board of Director

Bill Beyer
57857 State Highway 38
Bigfork, MN 56628
(H) 218-743-6407
Email (H) webeyer17@yahoo.com

Board of Director

Adam Dewey
P.O Box #3
Sherwood, ND 58782
701-412-1271
birdsthebird@gmail.com

Past President

Chad Swenson
1988 52nd Street SW
Fargo, ND 58103
(M) 701-388-2494
Chad.Swenson@northernlightsalumni.com

President

David Valovage
510 4th Ave. NW
West Fargo ND, 58078
(M) 701-212-6127
Email bismuthdrummer@gmail.com

Executive Secretary/President Elect

Marianne Jeziarski
1949 Hwy 2
Two Harbors, MN 55616
(H) 218-834-4587
Email (H) timothy_jeziarski@yahoo.com

Council Liaison

Brad Olson
301 S 7th St
Fargo, ND 58103
(W) 701 293-5011
Email (W) bolson@nlcbsa.org

Publications Committee Chair

Scott Ralston
2160 Kalash Road
Windom, MN 56101
(H) 507-832-8163
E-mail scott@skralston.com

Alumni Achievement Committee Chair

Mike Melby
1920 27th Ave S
Grand Forks, ND 58201
(H) 701-775-9905
Email melby@aero.und.edu

Fall Fellowship Committee Chair

Ryan Foley
510 7th St N Apt 304
Fargo, ND 58102
(M) 701-833-3633
Email (H) rfoley89@gmail.com

Staff Week Committee Chair

Matt & Jodi Saari
6880 135th Street West
Apple Valley, MN 55124
(H) 952-432-8591
(M) 612-325-3779
Email (H) misaari@charter.net

Open House Committee Chair

Neil Litton
3009 38th Ave S
Fargo, ND 58104
(H) 701-280-1058
(W) 701-347-5923
(M) 701-866-3796
Email (W) neil.litton@sendit.nodak.edu

Membership Committee Chair

Chris Soper
15406 W 88th Terr
Lenexa, KS 66219
(M) 913-221-7252
(H) 913-438-5528
Email chris.soper@northernlightsalumni.com

Staff Scholarship Committee Chair

Jenny Fisher
3829 3rd Street East
West Fargo, ND 58078
(M) 701-200-9836
Email (H) jl.olson@hotmail.com

History Committee Chair

Bob Rezac
121 2nd St S
Sabin, MN 56580
(H) 218-789-7643
Email (H) bob.rezac@northernlightsalumni.com

Ways to Get Involved

Involvement in the Alumni Association can take on many forms depending upon your time availability. Some members simply join and read the newsletter. Others join a committee, participate in the events, or become elected officials and serve for several years. Here are some ways that you can get involved:



Write an article for The Aurora: Pick a topic, a memory, a story, or any interesting topic and send it to the Publications Committee Chair. scott@skralston.com

Join a Committee: Serve as a member of a committee by contacting the committee chair or any officer of The Association.

Nominate Someone for The Alumni Achievement Award: Complete the nomination form and send it to the Alumni Achievement Committee Chair.

Participate in one of The Association events: Attend or help with the Staff Week, Open House, or Fall Fellowship events. Look for information in The Aurora or contact the respective committee chair.

Send Birthday Cards to staff members: We are looking for someone who will get a list of birthdays for each year's staff and send him or her a birthday card. Contact The Association President if you are interested.

Help update the Alumni Roster: We are in the process of assembling a roster of all the people who have worked at one of the Northern Lights Council Camps. If you would like a copy of the lists that we have for the years that you worked, please contact Chris Soper at (913) 221-7252 or Email him at levelboy@hotmail.com.

Help put mailing labels on The Aurora: We always need help putting mailing labels on the newsletter. Contact the Publications Committee Chair for details.

Become an officer of The Association: If you would like to become heavily involved in the business of The Association, consider running for election. Contact any of the officers for information.

Vote on one of The Association projects: Help select projects, execute, and generate funds for Alumni Association projects. Contact any of The Association officers for information.

Memories from Camp: Jot down your fondest memories from camp in story or in letter form so that we can compile a book at some point.

Start a Local Chapter: Locate other alum in your area and host a social event. Contact any of The Association officers for information.

Help With the Web Page: If you have web skills you would like to share we are always looking to expand our cyber capabilities. Contact nlaumni@northernlightsalumni.com

Insert Your Idea Here: The sky is the limit; we welcome all ideas, projects and services. Contact any of The Association officers for information.

The Aurora

Buck Lake
Fall Fellowship
Summer Projects
Where's Old What's Their Name
Alumni Award
Officers
Dates
Much More!



Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Camps
Northern Lights Council BSA
301 South 7th Street
Fargo, ND 58103