

Upcoming Events

Every Thursday

Trip to Bemidji State Park

June 11, 2013

First Day of Summer Hours

M-F, 12:30 – 5:30p.m

June 13, 20, July 11, 18, and

August 8, 15

Teen Nights - 8th grade and up

5:30pm – 9:00pm

July 4, 2013

Club Closed for Independence Day

July 11–19, 2013

*Laketrails - Teen Lake of the Woods
Canoe Trip*

July 25, 2013

Middle School State Park Camp Out

July 30, 2013

National Night Out

August 20, 2013

Backpack School Supplies Giveaway

Thanks to the Caring Tree

August 22, 2013

Club Member Awards Night

August 23, 7p.m – August 24, 8a.m

High School Lock-In

August 26, 2013

Golf Tournament Benefit

BE GREAT

"We know that connecting you with the Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area is important, so we are going to send you Club member success stories through our new newsletter," says Andrea Ohnstad, executive director.

The Chronicle of Philanthropy placed Boys & Girls Clubs of America in the No. 1 position among youth organizations for the 18th consecutive year.

How can you support the Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area?

Check out the web site to learn more: www.bgcbemidji.com or contact Becky Bergquist, resource development director at bbergquist@paulbunyan.net or 218-444-4171.



Preparing teens for our nation's workforce

Club teens ages 14–18 may participate in **CareerLaunch** to assess skills and interests, explore careers, make sound educational decisions and prepare to join our nation's work force. Club staff and volunteers work with teens individually or in small groups to build job-search skills and job readiness. **CareerLaunch** provides Club teens, career exploration, college and job search information and interactive activities. Mentoring, job shadowing and training opportunities round out the program.

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BareBonz Design



218.269.0062

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1305 Bemidji Ave.

1.800.477.7068

Bemidji, M.N.

218.751.8308



A Success Story



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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE BEMIDJI AREA



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Summer 2013

1600 Minnesota Avenue NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Mailing Address: PO Box 191
Bemidji, MN 56619

218.444.4171
www.bgcbemidji.com



Success inspires Johnson to stay involved

Summer Johnson joined the Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area when she was 11 years old. It was her parents' idea. Now, 7 1/2 years later, she comes to the Club of her own accord and stays involved because she wants to help other kids excel.

"I like to know that I am there for people," said Summer, the Club's 2011 Youth of the Year. "The Club helped me to see success and that it is reachable."

An artist at heart, Summer likes to say that she "grew up in the art room," where she connected with Club staff, especially Brittney Hedlund-Bann, then arts and culture/teen coordinator. "It was really hard for me to make friends and she helped me to think about trying other areas of the Club," said Summer. "With her help, I learned to believe in myself."

This fall, Summer will be a senior at Bemidji High School where she competes in cross country skiing and takes courses through the Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO), which allows her to earn college credits while in high school. She credits the Club's tutoring program for helping her improve her grades so she could take PSEO courses.

Summer also participates in the Club's Career Launch program, building job-readiness skills that have helped her find work at Buena Vista Ski Area and Lueken's Village North. She is currently learning bicycle mechanics while employed at The Bike Guy. Ultimately, she plans to attend college and become a nurse.

For Summer, the Club has been a place for learning and adventure. Three years ago, Josh Kujava, the Club's teen services director/facility director, encouraged Summer to help raise money so she could attend a week-long canoe trip, a favorite annual outing. Josh, the trip guide, is also Summer's mentor. "He truly cares about me...and



Summer Johnson standing next to the Teen Center door that she painted.



Josh Kujava and Summer Johnson.

is the person that I go to for advice," said Summer. "He has gotten to see me grow and that helps with trust. He is a pretty cool guy."

Although Summer is a busy student, she plans to stay involved with the Club and give back what she can. "The Club has really opened my eyes to what I can do to be successful," she said.