

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF THE BEMIDJI AREA  
PO Box 191, Bemidji, MN 56619

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Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 72  
Bemidji, MN



## Save The Date

Connect with us on Foursquare, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

**July 6** – Club float in the annual **Bemidji Grand Parade**. Gather at the Club by 12:30 p.m. Parade starts at 1 p.m. Club members, parents, volunteers and supporters are all welcome.

**Aug. 5** – The Club will host its eighth annual **National Night Out Against Crime**, 6-8 p.m., at the Club. Join us for free food, games and the chance to meet area law enforcement officials and firefighters.

**Aug. 25** – **Bob Lowth Ford Annual Golf Championship**, Bemidji Town and Country Club.

**10th ANNUAL**

**Sept. 20** – **Willow Wood Market 14th Annual Harvest Festival, Quilt Show and Funky Junk Market**. Concession stand proceeds go to the Club. Go to [www.willowwoodmarketdesigns.com](http://www.willowwoodmarketdesigns.com) for more information.

# Calling all golfers and sponsors!

The Club will host its **10th Annual Bob Lowth Ford Two-Person Quota Golf Championship** on August 25 at the Bemidji Town and Country Club! Join us for the best true golfer tournament of the season.

Over the past nine years this tournament has raised over \$65,000!  
Golfer and sponsorship details are enclosed.



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OF THE BEMIDJI AREA

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*“To inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.”*

Summer 2014

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## Stapleton family values transportation

Expanded transportation options at the Boys and Girls Club have made life a little more manageable for families like single mom Michelle Stapleton and her three children, Olivia, Owen and Carter.

Michelle wanted all three children at the Club, but getting them there after school proved a challenge. Olivia, a sixth grader could ride the bus from the middle school to J.W. Smith Elementary and then walk to the Club. Her boys – Owen, a third grader, and Carter, a first grader – would have to take two different buses from Northern Elementary to J.W. Smith and also walk.

“I couldn’t have my boys make two bus transfers and then walk, they’re just too little,” said Michelle who teaches in Red Lake, 35 miles away. So Olivia came to the Club while the boys stayed at Northern, and Michelle scrambled from work to get to both places at the end of the day and home for dinner.

This fall, an anonymous donor financed the purchase of a 12-passenger Club van. In addition, the Club relies on Paul Bunyan Transit for after-school transportation. Between the van and transit service, the Club transports students five days a week from Lincoln and Central and three days from Northern. Staff also uses the



*“The van has been a huge deal for me”*

– Michelle Stapleton, Club mom

From left to right: Carter, Olivia; Owen

van for field trips and transporting teens who don’t have other transportation options home.

Josh Kujava, Club unit director, said a lot of Club families face transportation challenges. “If anything, the success of the van and Paul Bunyan Transit proves that we need even more transportation options,” he said.

“The van has been a huge deal for me,” said Michelle who hopes transportation from Northern eventually expands to more days.

“It’s nice to have the kids in one place. It saves me at least 15 minutes and that 15 minutes can be a big difference – the difference between getting to the grocery store or not.”

Plus, her children are thriving at the Club. “Olivia loves it, she loves the crafts and she loves the garden,” said Michelle. Her boys were reluctant members at first, but both found their niche. “Owen likes structure and rules and likes to read and time on the computer. Carter likes all the different Club activities and time to play.”



## Club offers kids summer fun

Summertime offers Boys and Girls Club members an expanded selection of activity options, including outdoor adventures. Current members and new members are welcome to join the fun.

Club hours in the summer are 12:30-5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. A nutritious lunch is served at 12:30 p.m. followed by a healthy snack at 3:30 p.m. Teen nights for members in sixth through 12th grade are offered from 5:30-9 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The Club is closed on July 4.

### Summer highlights

- Diamond Point Park beach trip, 1-3:30p.m., Tuesdays
- Explore Bemidji's playgrounds, 1-3:30p.m., Wednesdays
- Bemidji State Park trips, Thursday afternoons
- Triple Play Family Nights, 5:30-6:30 p.m., third Thursday of the month
- BE GREAT! Parties, 5:30-6:30 p.m., 4th Thursday of the month
- Friday Fun Day, 12:30-3:30 p.m., Fridays
- Teen Nights, sixth grade and up, 5:30-9 p.m., second and fourth Thursdays



## Send a teen to Laketrails Camp

Every summer, Josh Kujava, Club unit director, takes up to 15 high school and middle school campers on a canoeing wilderness adventure on Lake of the Woods.

This life-changing experience is made possible by Laketrails Base Camp, which subsidizes the trip to keep it affordable. Campers pay only \$150 for this eight-day adventure.

Laketrails offers a combination of adventure and physical challenges while building bonds with peers and caring adults. Participants gain insights about their own strengths while learning to work with others to achieve a common goal. For many Club members, the Laketrails experience is their first wilderness adventure.



Photo from past outing.

If you would like to sponsor a camper or make a contribution toward the \$150 fee, please send a check to the Boys and Girls Club of the Bemidji Area, with a note for Laketrails Camp in the memo line, to P.O. Box 191, Bemidji, MN 56619.

## RENT CLUB FACILITIES FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT!

The Boys and Girls Club offers its facilities for rent for a variety of uses such as trade shows, birthday party celebrations, office gatherings, exercise classes, sports leagues and other group events.

Facilities include a gymnasium, multi-purpose room, commercial kitchen, games room and more. Rental rates available at [www.bgcbemidji.com](http://www.bgcbemidji.com).

For more information or to schedule a rental, contact Andrea Ohnstad, executive director, at 218-444-4171 or [aohnstad@paulbunyan.net](mailto:aohnstad@paulbunyan.net).

## CLUB WISH LIST

Check out the 2014 Club wish list at [www.bgcbemidji.com](http://www.bgcbemidji.com)

## Attention Thrivent Members

The Club is eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars!

Consider directing your choice dollars to the Club for the Kids!



## Make a *planned* gift for a lasting legacy

Thinking of making a lasting gift to the Club? The Boys and Girls Club can help you explore your options. Planned giving offers a variety of vehicles for estate and charitable giving. A planned gift, while improving the lives of a future generation of youth, also offers the donor tax and income benefits.

"Planned giving is a way to make gifts of all sizes," said Becky Bergquist, Club resource development director. "You don't have to have a substantial estate to make a meaningful gift."

Bergquist will help interested donors explore options. "We start by listening to your thoughts – what you want for the Club and yourself," she said. "We share information about various giving



tools. We also work with a regional representative who will go into more details about the options best suited for your wishes."

Planned giving options include:

- Bequest
- Charitable gift annuity
- Charitable remainder
- Charitable lead trust
- Beneficiary designation
- Individual Retirement Account

Each giving option targets different goals and offers different benefits for donors. All of the options provide a lasting legacy for future generations. To learn more, contact Becky Bergquist at 218-444-4171, ext. 102 or [bbergquist@paulbunyan.net](mailto:bbergquist@paulbunyan.net).



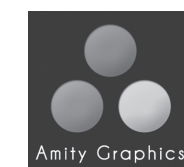
## A rockin' good time – Club kids launch rockets

Jim Lucachick, Club board president, has long loved building rockets. This spring, he shared that passion with Club members as a science project packed with fun. Club members helped assemble and decorate remote-operated rockets, which they launched together outside the Club.



Photos courtesy of Bemidji Pioneer.

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