



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE BEMIDJI AREA
BLACKDUCK BRANCH

BLACKDUCK BULLETIN | FALL 2025

Summer Recap

Our Blackduck Branch was wonderfully busy with team builder activities, yoga, STEM projects, and picnics in the park. This was our FIRST EVER summer program offered in Blackduck, Tuesdays-Thursdays from 7am-5pm, and it was a complete success!

Fifty-seven Club kids, grades K-6, attended the Blackduck Branch this summer where they were able to witness the incredible journey of a butterfly's lifecycle, learn about bioluminescence during Ocean Week, and discover how pollination works.

From bottle rockets and making paint out of flowers, to popsicle-stick Ferris wheels and water-day fun, these kids created loads of memories and lasting friendships at the Club.

Member of the Month: Harper, age 5

Every afternoon Harper is one of the first to arrive. She greets staff and friends with a cheerful "Hi!" and always seems to bring sunshine in with her.

Harper is the kind of Club member who makes everyone's day brighter. She follows directions, helps staff clean up after activities, and is always the first to lend a hand. Her positive attitude sets an amazing example for everyone around her.

One of Harper's favorite times at the Club is art time. She puts her whole heart into every project, and her artwork always tells a story — full of bright colors, happy faces, and love. But what makes Harper extra special: she often leaves her masterpieces or sweet notes for staff to find. Those kind surprises are a highlight of the day and always bring a big smile!

Harper has a true love for reading and loves to share that joy with everyone around her. She's always excited to dive into a good book and often helps her friends find stories they'll enjoy too. On Mondays when Bemidji Area Reading Canines (BARC) visits, Harper is always the first in line — because reading to the pup is *oh so much fun!*

Harper may be one of the youngest members, but she has one of the biggest hearts. Her smile, kindness, and creativity make the Club a happier place every single day.

WE ARE HIRING

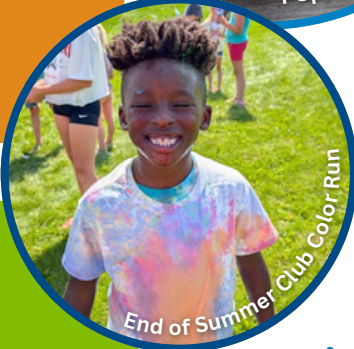
Flexible schedules are available!

OPEN POSITIONS:

- BLACKDUCK MEMBER SERVICES COORDINATOR
- BLACKDUCK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS



Scan the QR Code or visit
www.bgcbeidji.org



Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Jennifer Parker, a high school teacher and a member of our Blackduck Advisory Committee! She's an avid reader and a community champion. When the Club started to explore opening a branch in Blackduck, Jennifer quickly became an instrumental volunteer and huge advocate for the Boys & Girls Club Blackduck Branch.

The Club hosted its first Golf Fore Club Kids scramble tournament in August 2025 at the Blackduck Golf Course, and Jennifer helped recruit sponsors, prize donations, and score the event.

She was also a helpful driving force as Club staff planned the first Blackduck Bonanza on October 4. Jennifer serves as a trusted advisor, key volunteer, and champion for youth. She is always willing to help make a connection between the Club and Blackduck community members. We are so grateful for Jennifer and all her support!



A Community of Support

Club staff host fundraising events to share the mission of the Club with the Blackduck community and help raise money to cover the costs of the Club program.

While Club families pay a membership fee, that does not cover the full cost of the program, and we strive to keep costs low for our Club families, as well as offer financial aid when needed. This year, there were two new fundraising events to support Club kids!

We had an amazing first-ever golf tournament for our Blackduck Branch on Aug. 29. The scramble, held at the

Blackduck Municipal Golf Course, had 54 golfers. Golfers enjoyed a beautiful day on the course and competed in several fun games, including a 50/50 ball drop, chipping contest, and longest drive with a marshmallow. **Thank you** to all of the sponsors, volunteers, and golfers who made it possible, and an extra special thank you to the staff at the Blackduck golf course!

On October 4, over 120 community members came together for a night of fun, prizes, and purpose, raising over \$37,000 for the 101 youth served by the Boys & Girls Club Blackduck Branch! Highlights included 19 unique raffle items, including firearms, designer handbags, and outdoor bundle prizes.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who purchased tickets, donated prizes, volunteered, or simply showed up to support the Club. Events like the Blackduck Bonanza are only possible with the **generosity** and **heart** of our community.



BLACKDUCK BRANCH STATS SINCE OPENING (SEPT 2024)


101
TOTAL NUMBER
OF MEMBERS
SERVED


4
ADULT
STAFF


2
YOUTH
WORKERS


15-40
KIDS ATTEND
EACH DAY


2,250
FREE
MEALS/SNACKS


120
MIN./DAY KIDS
SPENT BEING
PHYSICALLY ACTIVE