



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE BEMIDJI AREA
BLACKDUCK BRANCH

BLACKDUCK
bulletin

| SUMMER 2026

Spring Recap

Spring was filled with **hands-on learning, creativity, and plenty of fun** at our Blackduck Branch! Members explored animal tracks with the Headwaters Science Center, turned spelling practice into a chocolate pudding adventure, read books by flashlight, and discovered how healthy ingredients can become delicious snacks. They also celebrated Earth Day, made bird feeders, and learned about recycling by creating their own recycled paper.

As the school year wrapped up, members made heartfelt cards for their teachers before sliming their way into summer break with an unforgettable Slime Color Run! We also celebrated our first-ever fundraiser at Drake's Brew, which raised more than \$1,500 for the Club, helping support more opportunities for kids to learn, grow, and thrive - thank you to all who donated!

Members of the Month

April - Alaya, age 6

Alaya is kind, always smiling, and truly a joy to have at the Club. Watching her confidence grow has been such a privilege, and we're so proud of the positivity and kindness she brings each day. Thank you for making the Club a brighter place, Alaya! Be sure to read more about Alaya's inspiring Club journey on the backside.

May - Maggie, age 9

Maggie brings incredible enthusiasm, energy, and kindness to the Club each day. Her positive attitude shines through in everything she does. Thank you for making the Club such a fun and welcoming place, Maggie!

June - Logan, age 12

Logan is a superstar in everything he does! He comes to the Club each day with a positive attitude, a kind heart, and a willingness to help others. He is always respectful, hardworking, and a wonderful role model for younger members, showing patience and encouragement to everyone around him. Logan also loves getting creative through art projects and brings enthusiasm to every activity. We're so proud to have him as part of our Club family!

Upcoming Club Fundraising Events

Help us raise money for our Blackduck Branch by attending these upcoming events!



**GOLF
CHAMPIONSHIP**
AUGUST 28TH

Blackduck Golf Course



**FUEL YOUR DAY
FUEL A FUTURE**
SEPTEMBER 1ST

Drake's Brew in Blackduck



**BLACKDUCK
BONANZA**
OCTOBER 24TH

The Summit in Blackduck



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A Place for Alaya to Bloom

When Alaya first joined the Boys & Girls Club Blackduck Branch as a kindergartner, she was quiet and shy, often staying close to staff and observing from the sidelines. New environments felt overwhelming, and it took time for her to feel comfortable joining activities or connecting with other members.

With patient encouragement and a welcoming environment, Alaya has made incredible strides. She has gradually stepped outside of her comfort zone, trying new activities, participating in games, and sharing her thoughts with growing confidence. Each day, she becomes a little more willing to take on new experiences.

One of the most rewarding changes has been watching Alaya build friendships. She now greets others with warm smiles, offers kind words, and even invites fellow members to play. Her gentle, caring personality shines through in everything she does, and it's been wonderful to see her discover a true sense of belonging at the Club. We are so proud of how far she has come and can't wait to watch her continue to grow.



NEW

Branch Director, Savannah Shenkle

Savanah is excited to be serving as the Blackduck Branch Director! She first joined the Club as a Youth Development Professional during the 2021–2022 school year while attending college. After earning degrees in Veterinary Medicine and Biology and pursuing a career in her field, she returned to the Club in the summer of 2025. Since then, she has served as both a YDP and Elementary Assistant Director before stepping into her current leadership role.

Outside of the Club, Savanah enjoys spending time outdoors and caring for her animals. She loves incorporating her passion for nature into hands-on activities that encourage youth to explore, learn, and grow. We're grateful to have Savanah leading the Blackduck Branch and look forward to all she'll accomplish!



Upcoming Events for Club Kids

Blackduck families mark your calendars!

AUG. 6TH Be Great Party

AUG. 13TH Last day of Summer Club

SEP. 1ST First day of School Year Program

**STAY TUNED FOR MORE
CLUB EVENTS DURING THIS
SCHOOL YEAR!**

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