



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE BEMIDJI AREA
BLACKDUCK BRANCH

BLACKDUCK bulletin | FALL 2026

Blackduck Summer Recap

This summer, our Blackduck Branch embraced **challenges**, **curiosity**, and plenty of opportunities to **try something new**! Club members put their STEM skills to the test with egg drops, bridge building, marshmallow towers, foil boats, and even engineering their own water slides, while learning important water safety tips from the DNR. They also searched for hidden treasures through geocaching, and took on obstacle courses, relays, games, and outdoor adventures - all while practicing teamwork, problem-solving, adaptability, and perseverance.



Creativity and community were also at the heart of the summer. Club members made Warhol-inspired donut artwork *while* eating donuts, designed piñatas after learning about cultural traditions, crafted patriotic flags with donated materials, and even built "grass shooters" as a fun, eco-friendly way to celebrate. Families joined us for a Club carnival filled with games, treats, and memories. They also proudly represented the Club in the Backwoods Bash Parade with a decorated float! From big STEM challenges to small moments of laughter, **Blackduck had a summer to remember!**

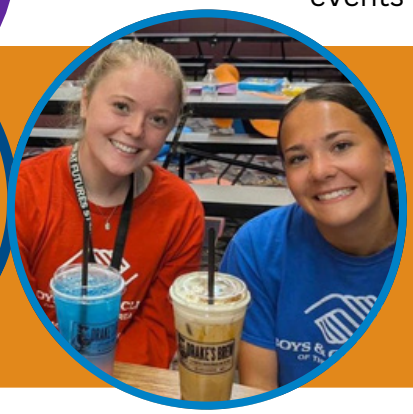
Drake's Brew Gives Back

The Boys & Girls Club is grateful for community partners like Drake's Brew, whose generosity continues to make a difference for local youth. Owner Nichole Lindberg has hosted special fundraising promotions on the last day of the 2025–2026 school year and the first day of the 2026–2027 school year, donating 50% of proceeds from each event to the Club's Blackduck Branch.



Together, these events raised an incredible **$2,269.51**! Nichole has already committed to hosting another fundraiser for the last day of school on **May 27, 2027**.

A huge shoutout to the Drake's Brew crew, including **Payton, Peyton, Amara, and Jenna with JM Chiro** for slinging drinks and making these events such a success. We also loved seeing so many local businesses support our Blackduck Club kids and teens - not just with one drink, but by grabbing coffees and treats for their entire crews. The Club is grateful for the incredible community support from everyone who helped make these events possible. Your generosity is making a difference right here in Blackduck!



WE ARE HIRING IN BLACKDUCK!

- MEMBER SERVICES COORDINATOR
- YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

Come join the fun while getting paid!

Scan the QR Code or visit www.bgcbemidji.org

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A Sweet Summer in Blackduck

Summer Club at our Blackduck Branch wrapped up with a little lemonade, a lot of community support, and some valuable lessons along the way! Our Club kids planned and operated their own lemonade stand, gaining hands-on entrepreneurial experience while practicing teamwork, responsibility, communication, and money management.



The Blackduck community showed up in a big way! A huge thank you to **Deerwood Bank** for providing piggy banks, a dollar coin, and a 50-cent piece to encourage smart saving habits, and to **Timberline Sports N Convenience** for providing the parking lot and making a donation to support our Club. Their generosity helped show our youth that their community believes in them and wants to see them succeed.



And what did our young entrepreneurs do with their earnings? They worked together to decide - and chose to celebrate with **not one, but TWO pizza parties!** They enjoyed pizza, ice cream, and plenty of sweets while celebrating their hard work. It was a fun way to wrap up a summer of learning, growing, and making memories, all while gaining real-world skills along the way!

Volunteer Spotlight: Torry Swedberg

Torry Swedberg, a member of our Blackduck Advisory Committee, is a strong believer in the power of **opportunity and community involvement**. Through his involvement with the Club, Torry has personally seen the positive impact it can have on young people and the community.



Torry regularly volunteers at Club events, sharing his talent for photography to capture special moments and help tell the Club's story. ***"If organizations are going to succeed, they need volunteers to share the work with the staff,"*** Torry says.

For Torry, volunteering is also about **inspiring others to get involved**. Born with Spina Bifida, Torry knows firsthand that challenges don't have to stand in the way of pursuing meaningful goals. Sometimes, it just takes time, effort, and determination. We are so grateful that Torry is a part of our Blackduck team!

Want to learn more about volunteering? ***Visit https://www.bgcbemidji.org/volunteer/***

Blackduck Branch - Save the Dates

Blackduck families mark your calendars!

OCT 7TH Family Night

OCT 23RD Family Fun Night event at Blackduck School with activites hosted in the Clubhub

NOV 11TH Family Night

NOV 20TH Be Great Party

DEC 16TH Family Night

DEC 18TH Be Great Party

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