Providing children and adults with disabilities an adventure that lasts a lifetime

A project of the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc.
The Wisconsin Lions Camp is a private, non-profit camp that serves Wisconsin youth and adults with disabilities and is administered by the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc. It was started in 1956 by Lions members to provide camping for children who were blind or visually impaired. From those first 26 campers, we have grown to serve over 1,300 campers from four population groups. We now serve children and adults who are Blind or Visually Impaired and who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, children who function socially or educationally as having an intellectual disability or educational autism, and children with diabetes. All of these campers attend free-of-charge, thanks to the generosity of over 500 Lions, Lioness, and Leo clubs in the State of Wisconsin, along with many private donors who raise hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to provide this adventure of a lifetime to our campers. Being part of the Wisconsin Lions Camp is being part of a statewide effort by thousands of people who take great pride in our Camp.

The Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc. mission statement is based on the mission of the Lions of Wisconsin.

“We Serve by reaching, touching, and improving lives.”

Based on that statement, the Wisconsin Lions Camp has developed the following goals and objectives for our campers:

- Foster positive self-concept development of campers
- Opportunity for development of a more positive attitude toward disability
- Promote greater independence and the realization of individual capability
- Development of a personal awareness and relationship with the natural environment
- Opportunity for social interaction and the development of social skills
- Development of outdoor recreational skills
- Opportunities for campers to have fun

Typical activities include: swimming, canoeing, sailing, kayaking, paddleboating, stand up paddleboarding, rowing, fishing, inner tubing, archery, environmental education, crafts, performing arts, sports and games, overnight campouts and cookouts, challenge course, climbing tower, and much more! All program activities are targeted to the camper’s abilities and are paced accordingly to provide each camper with a memorable experience.

Facilities:
Situated on 440 acres, the Wisconsin Lions Camp is the ideal setting for a safe and enjoyable camping experience. As a wildlife refuge, there's plenty of room for all kinds of outdoor recreation and nature activities. Campsites with teepees and tents for cookouts and campouts are scattered throughout the acreage. Trails for hiking and backpacking abound. Lions Lake, our private 45 acre lake, is a prime site for swimming, boating, and fishing. Our nine duplex cabins are accessible, air-conditioned and winterized, sleep 20 campers in two separate cabins and have lounges for relaxing. In addition, Pinewood Lodge sleeps 48 campers in six separate cabins and also has large meeting rooms. Camp facilities accommodate up to 150 campers weekly. Beautiful surroundings, fun and exciting activities and a caring staff make for a wonderful camp experience.
Eligibility Requirements for Summer Camp:

Because the Camp is offered free-of-charge, we have general and specific eligibility guidelines campers must meet in order to be considered for the program. Rules for acceptance and participation are the same for everyone without regard to race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender, disability, national origin, or any other legally protected status. The general requirements for our campers are: must be managed socially and behaviorally in a group with one staff and six campers, independent in their self-care skills, and a resident of Wisconsin or attending school in Wisconsin.

The specific requirements for each population of campers we serve are listed below:

Blind or Visually Impaired - Children ages 6-17 with any of the following degrees of vision loss: totally blind, legally blind (20/200) or side vision of not more that 20° with correction, low vision (vision of 20/40 Snellen or less with correction), or vision in one eye only. Educational placement in a program serving Blind or Visually Impaired students, attending the Wisconsin School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, or eligible for itinerant or other support services even if not taking advantage of those services.

Deaf or Hard of Hearing - Children ages 6-17 with any of the following degrees of hearing loss: Deaf or profound hearing loss, mild to severe hearing loss (25-90 db loss) without amplification in either or both ears. Educational placement in a program serving Deaf or Hard of Hearing students, attend the Wisconsin School for the Deaf, or eligible for itinerant and other support services even if not taking advantage of those services.

Intellectual Disabilities or Educational Autism - Children ages 9-17 who have an educational placement in a program, educational setting or receiving services for Intellectual Disabilities or Educational Autism. Educationally or socially functions as having an Intellectual Disability or Educational Autism.

Diabetes - Children ages 9-16 who have been diagnosed with diabetes and are active in the management of the disease. This program is offered in conjunction with the American Diabetes Association. For information about this program, contact the American Diabetes Association at 1-608-222-7785 ext. 6538.

Adult Resort Programs - Two separate adult programs for the Blind or Visually Impaired and Deaf or Hard of Hearing adults ages 18 and over are offered. The Wisconsin Lions Camp provides outdoor recreational opportunities geared as a resort program which gives adults the choice of various activities and programs. Staff supervision is not provided during this program. This program is meant for independent functioning adults.

There is no cost for participation in the summer programs. However, a refundable $25.00 application deposit must be sent in with the application. Lions, Lioness, and Leo clubs throughout Wisconsin generously support the Camp and its programs, along with help from individual contributors. Contributions are appreciated to ensure the ongoing Camp operation. The Wisconsin Lions Camp is owned and operated by the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc. which is an IRS 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so individual and business donations may be tax deductible as allowed by law.
**Staff:**

Over the many years the Wisconsin Lions Camp has been in operation, it has established a tradition of excellence in the quality of staff it employs. Dedicated, mature and highly qualified individuals, ages 18 and up, often with prior camp experience or background in working with children, are selected to fill the positions of counselors and program specialists. The Camp staff is comprised largely of college students and graduates, many who are pursuing careers in education, recreation, or related fields of study. They participate in eight days of intensive pre-camp staff training, along with ongoing in-service training throughout the summer. Healthcare professionals, available on a 24 hour basis, round out the staff. A staff/camper ratio of one staff member to six campers is maintained to ensure individualized attention.

**Off Season Rentals:**

From September to May the Wisconsin Lions Camp offers various organizations, schools, non-profit, and businesses the opportunity to rent the facility. All groups are charged a rental fee, which goes to offset the cost of our summer programs.

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**For more information or to contact us:**

Wisconsin Lions Camp  
3834 County Road A  
Rosholt, WI 54473  
715.677.4969  
Fax: 715.677.3297  
info@wisconsinlionscamp.com  
www.wisconsinlionscamp.com