

# Camp Lakotah

Making Friends and Changing Lives Through Camping

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### Future Leaders

From the songs we sing to the way we are seated in the dining hall, tradition and culture are the pillars of a quality camp. In order for these pillars to flourish and grow we must nurture staff who are not only passionate about the camp experience, but ones who return for several years cementing the cultures and traditions in place for generations to come. What better way to grow our culture and traditions than to provide opportunities for past campers to give back to the camp they love? Since its inception 6 years ago nearly 50 campers have participated in our **Leadership Training Program (LLT)** committing three years to bettering their leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills so they too can join the ranks of their favorite counselor. As camp serves more and more youth, there is a growing interest in this program, and with the growing interest there are growing requests for financial assistance to enroll. Help a teen reach their potential and dream of being a cabin counselor by donating to our not-for-profit campership fund. Contact Cliff Clauer for more details.

## 10 Years Strong

Making a Dream Come True!



Camp Lakotah was born out of a dream of two friends Sandy Bartel & Cliff Clauer, who wanted to create a camp that was focused on the individual and a camp where all the staff, even the Directors/Owners, are personally involved. "For us camp is a community where all the campers and staff are part of one big family." Sandy

**March 2009** The daunting process of opening the facilities for the first time in nearly three plus years began. It took a community of family and friends, alumni from the past camp operation, and local residents to get the facility cleaned, leaves raked, and everything ready to be licensed for its first summer of operation. Michelle (Perryman) Fox was hired as our first program staff member helping us serve @20 campers and 5 user groups that summer. Things have changed a lot in the past 10 years serving over 3,000 individuals annually through summer day and overnight camps, swim lessons, user groups, leadership training program, weddings, and special events. Our seasonal staff has grown to 20 program staff, 5 support staff and 16 leadership trainees.

A place where kids feel safe while making new friends and learning new skills.

The adventure has not been an easy one. Building a customer base, and repairing an aging facility, and finding the funds to keep the doors open are enough for two people to do. Mother nature decided to add a bit of excitement in 2011 by throwing a tornado at us. With several buildings damaged, 7 buildings destroyed and thousands of trees damaged, it took over two years to get things somewhat back on track. Despite the damages our focus did not waiver and today we are 10+ years strong.



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# It Takes A Community to Keep Camp Available to All

There are several ways in which you can help camp and the children we serve. Donate to our not-for-profit **campership fund** and help a child experience summer camp.

We also have several **naming opportunities** where you can memorialize someone while helping improve the facilities for generations to come. **Volunteer** your time and talent, what better way to give back to camp then to get your hands dirty and get involved.



Join us for a work weekend where you can help get ready for another exciting summer season or help clean up after a long busy year. Visit our Facebook page Events for details on the next upcoming weekend and to RSVP!

We all seem to acquire things around our homes that we had good intentions to use, but for some reason it just sits there collecting dust. **Donate** it to camp! We are always in need of new and gently used items. If you are unsure if we can use your item/s, please give us a call!



## NEEDS LIST

- Building Center Gift Cards
- Construction Lumber
- Floating Pier
- Youth Lifejackets
- Lawn Games
- Sports Equipment
- Paint bushes and Rollers
- Oblong toilets and seats
- Snowplow Truck
- Artist brushes
- Washers & Dryers



Closing ceremony Camp Corral

## CONTINUED GROWTH >>>

# Lakotah's Reach is Global

*Being an independent camp has allowed us to serve people from all faiths, ages, backgrounds, youth agencies, and special interest groups alike. We feel camp should be a place of acceptance, a place where barriers are overcome. What better way to break down political barriers and cultural misunderstandings than to live, work and play with people from different backgrounds, nationalities, and religious beliefs?*

Having international staff not only allows young adults from other countries to experience American culture, traditions, and way of life, but for our campers to learn theirs. This past summer we had our first international camper from China adding a whole new chapter in our program. In 2020 we plan to host a much larger group of children from Spain for three weeks of overnight camp. We have also developed relationships with several specialty camps who now call Camp Lakotah home. Camp Corral, a national summer camp for military children who's parent/s have become injured, ill, or killed while serving our country. Camp Kesem, another national summer camp for children, serves children who's parent has been treated or is in treatment for cancer. Badger Youth Camp is a summer camp for children of the Wisconsin National Guard and Camp HALCYON, an adult camp created by past Alumni. We are proud to have so many people from all around this wonderful world and representing so many worthwhile missions calling Camp Lakotah home.

## 10 Year Celebration

*10 years of providing youth and families a great camping experience was definitely something to celebrate.*

**August 2019** We were blessed to bring together nearly 100 friends, family, community members, group leaders, clergy, and alumni campers and staff from around the world for a wonderful Anniversary celebration culminating with fireworks and a bonfire finale. Special thanks go out to Zach Lieven for sponsoring a great firework show for the event!

