



Georgia Lions Camp



June 2023

Summer Camp 2023 is almost here. Ellie and Michael have been busy putting the Programs and Activities together. This year's theme will be Festival of The World. Campers will be introduced to festival activities from around the globe. Campers will need a passport to travel.

Passports will be created by the camper and it looks like they will be stamped or receive some type of sticker from each location they travel to. Each session campers will be enjoying different activities.

We have some off campus trips planned. One per session. Some unique activities are planned here at the camp along with the pool time, climbing wall, bicycling, canoeing, and time to spend with their friends.

Camper registrations were extended this year to June 2nd, 2023. With the thought of getting some new campers. Our camper registrations are up from last year and it looks like some Lions have been busy recruiting campers.

Our pre-teen attendance is still a little under what we would like to see. Don't let that discourage you. I received several phone calls from parents that I met this past year. Asking lots of questions. It may take a little more encouragement from us but I believe they will attend camp soon. It's hard for some parents to let them (the child) spread their wings a little.

The remaining groups are well above last year's attendance numbers and this is from all of us working together. Keep up the good work.

Oh, yeah. More campers mean we will need more camper scholarships. You can help with this. Camper fees are \$400.00 for attendance and \$100.00 is needed to help with transportation cost.

Camp pre-planning is a busy time. Supplies are needed, menus for meals have to be planned. Staff needs to be hired, trained and be ready to go. It's coming together and it looks like we will even have a few Lions volunteers this year. Mrs. Jeannie who is the mom of one of our counselors is returning again this year to help with the teenage group.

What does attending a camp for the Visually Impaired and Blind mean to a child? A better question is, what does your Georgia Lions Camp mean to a child or the adult of that child?

Can it empower, build self-esteem, open doors, create memories, enable them to see they can accomplish anything they set their minds to?

Many testimonies come from previous campers. The following is a testimony from parents of one of those campers:

"We have reached a point in our lives where we are looking back and remembering those who helped us along the way. Our daughter, was born with Albinism. This was a life changer for us and our daughter. We thought of the worse scenarios and did not have any idea what her future would be like. Being born legally blind, without pigment, and other issues that could also arise in the future had us fearing the unknown. Faith helped us through the early days, and close friends went to work gathering information on her condition. We were put in touch with the Center for the Visually Impaired in Atlanta and our journey began. They were awesome, and when she was

five years old, we were told about the camp in South Georgia that was for young people with different “opportunities.” That was the first time we had heard of the Georgia Lions Camp. My wife said it sounded nice and we would think about it. On our way home I said that soon as our daughter was old enough, we were sending her to camp. My wife was not that excited about the idea. However, I was determined to have our daughter live her life as close to normal as her situation would allow.

When she was six years old, we took her to Macon where we would meet the bus that was going to take her to the Georgia Lions Camp in a small town called Waycross, which is a long way from Stone Mountain. She loaded the bus that looked like it was from the Andy Griffith Show. At that moment, my wife and I had more than second thoughts about letting her go! I reminded my wife about the research we had done on the Lions Camp and what a great opportunity this was for our daughter to hang out with other kids with disabilities. Then I had to deal with our daughter who was crying when it was time for her to get onto the bus. I tried to reassure her that it was going to be a fun, great adventure and if she needed us, we would come see her. That week she was gone was the LONGEST week that we as parents had ever experienced in our lives. Six days later we drove to Macon to meet the bus and waited anxiously for it to arrive. As she stepped off the bus, she was talking with one of her many new friends that she had met. We greeted her with hugs and kisses and a myriad of questions about her experience, and we were met with smiles. She asked when she would be able to go back to camp and then ran to say good bye to one of her new friends. My wife looked a little upset, and I asked her what was wrong. She looked up at me and asked, “Did she even miss us?” It was obvious to us that our daughter had a great time and had made many new friends.

That was the first of many summers our daughter spent at the camp in Waycross. We actually drove her down to the camp and looked around and saw how nice it was a couple of times. Our daughter attended her first camp in 1994, if my memory serves me correctly, and became a counselor at the camp when she was old enough. Our Daughter is now married with two sons and is a Physical Therapist at the Veterans Hospital in Tampa, Fl.

In closing, my wife and I would like to say thank you and hope our gift will give other kids this same wonderful opportunity. Thank you again,”

Letter was signed by both parents and recognition by both of their children.

A donation of \$1,000.00 was enclosed for camper scholarships. It’s always been a pleasure to be part of the Georgia Lions Camp here in Waycross. Testimonies and friendships made over the years is proof that what you provide here for these campers can change lives. You may not realize how much a summer amongst their peers means to a child or even an adult. It gives them the opportunity to open up and not feel as if they have limitations.

Summer Camps, Christmas Camps, and even Family Camps are worth supporting and providing to our residents and friends from surrounding states.

Let’s continue to provide a camp that open doors and opportunities for those who attend. It’s amazing what a week of pure recreation and fun can do for an individual.

Now, to get back to this year’s summer camp!

“KEEP THE CAMP FIRES BURNING”

Add More Wood

Make It “BURN BRIGHTER”

Mike Williams
Camp Director
Georgia Lions Camp, Inc.

P.S. Thanks to all of you who helped with the Camp’s Silent Auction at this year’s MD-18 State Convention. Your donated items and baskets were once again something special. Funds received have totaled \$2,670.00

From camp store sales we received \$372.00.

Thanks for supporting the camp.

Save the Date for Lions Day. July 22, 2023. Make plans to come spend some time with the campers. You want be disappointed!

**BOARD CHAIRMAN'S
JUNE NEWSLETTER
GROWING THE CAMP MORE**

As I move into the final few weeks of my second term as your Chairman of the Camp's Board of Directors it has been a very rewarding experience. I thank the members of the Board, its Committees and of course Mike Williams, Camp Director and Gail Williams for all the outstanding work they have done for our Camp. We have had to fight back from the pandemic, staffing concerns, equipment failures, the passing of several strong supporters of the Camp and in getting Campers to come back. We still have several challenges ahead of us but the Board has worked to better define our governance of the Camp and to define a strategy for the future of the Camp. We were very fortunate that we got thru the 2022 calendar year without having to transfer funds from the Investment Fund for the Operating Budget. However, we have had to transfer \$30,000 this past month from the Investment Fund to our Operating Funds.

Mike and Gail have been working hard to get all necessary plans and staff for this year's Summer Sessions. They have lined up all the staff including the cooks (last year we were short). Nurse Burse is returning for her third year and all the counselors are signed on. We have two staff members from the Georgia Blind Academy coming to work at the Camp. We currently have 67 campers registered. Camping sessions start on June 25 and goes thru July 23.

The Camp's Board of Directors held its Annual Meeting on Friday May 19 at the State Convention. State awards from the Camp were given out (see below). The District awards will be given out at each District's Cabinet Meetings later this year.

The funeral for fellow Lion Ed Ressler will be held on St. Simmons Island on Saturday, June 24 at 11:00 am. You may read his obituary at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/edwardressler-obituary?id=52158372>.

Lions Day is Saturday, July 22. I encourage all Lions to try to attend. It is a chance to tour the entire facilities, meet fellow Lions and most of all to interact with the teenage campers. District 18-O is in charge of the meal. There will be a memorial session to honor those that contributed new bricks this year.

Finally I would like to thank all the Lions of Georgia for allowing me to be your Camp's Chairman of the Board of Directors, for all those that worked for and at the Camp, those that made contributions to the Camp and to Mike and Gail Williams for being so dedicated to our Camp. **THANK YOU!**

LET'S CONTINUE TO GROW THE CAMP MORE

Paul May
Chairman of the Georgia Lions Camp's Board of Directors.

Hello Lions of Georgia!

As we gear up for camping season, I would like to encourage you to go “**ALL IN**” and help make our Georgia Lions Camp a success this year! There are many great things about to happen at the Camp as we enter camping season, and we can certainly use your help and support!

Please see Mike’s Wish list of needed items for the camp. You can have an item shipped to the camp or bring it with you when you join us at the camp! Speaking of that, I hope you can join us for Lions Day at the Camp July 22, 2023.

As the Chairman Elect, I am still learning what we need at the camp, but I can tell you, if you have not visited the camp lately, you should!!! I encourage you or your club to do so! Come on down to Waycross and see what we have to offer our campers! Just Let Mike and Gail know you are coming and we will find something for your club to do!

I would like to thank our current Camp Board Chair PCC Paul May for all he has done at the camp the past two years! He constantly reminds us to “**DO MORE**” for the camp.

Jay Taylor

Jay Taylor
Chairman Elect
GA Lions Camp Inc.

CAMP STATE AWARDS FOR 2022-2023

Dr. C. M. Blanton Award is presented to the District Governor with the highest per capita contribution:

18-N DG Shellie Smith with \$41.71 per member

Thomas T, Purvis Award is presented to the club president with the highest per capita contribution:

First Place: 18-N Woodbine Lions Club President Randall Gowen with \$437 per member

Second Place: 18-L Marietta-East Cobb President Patty White with \$338 per member

Don Anderson Award is presented to the club president for the highest increase in per capita contribution over the previous year:

First Place: 18-I Monroe Lions Club President Gary Potter with \$200.00 per member

Second Place: 18-N Centerville Lions Club President Jay Taylor 184.21

Keep the Camp Fires Burning Award is presented to the club president for the highest total donation per capita for “Keep the Campfires Burning”.

First Place: 18-N Bellville Lions Club President PDG Mark Anners with 23 per member

Second Place: 18-I Norcross Lions Club President Sonia Lopez with \$15 per member

Treasurer’s Award is presented to the club president with the highest total dollar contribution:

First Place: 18-N Woodbine Lions Club President Randall Gowen for \$12,239

Second Place: 18-L Marietta-East Cobb Lions Club President Patti White with \$11,821

Camp Finances Y-T-D thru MAY 31, 2023

We have now passed thru month 5 of our 2023 Fiscal year. Camping Season 2023 is now upon us -- our main event. This is one of our reasons for being. We owe it to our Campers to make their Camp experience something great for them.

Looking forward -- we are expecting a lot of support from the Lions Clubs in MD18, both financially and 'hands-on' where possible. Our Camp Director, Mike Williams, would be glad to hear from anyone willing to provide assistance -- he will be glad to coordinate your 'hands-on' services.

Our main challenge is to grow the number of Visually Impaired Campers we serve. To do this, we need to make some improvements to the Camp -- as well as improve some of existing structures.

May 2023 turned out to be a good month for us financially. June and July are critical for us -- IF you have ever thought about helping the Camp -- **NOW is the time**. Helping in person AND/OR contributing financially -- both are equally important.

There are many Lions in our state that may not know much about the Camp for one reason or another. IF you would like to know more about the Camp that we, the GA Lions, support -- please ask your Club's Program Chair to contact the Camp's District Director for your District -- he/she will be glad to come and present a Program for you, giving your Club an update about the Camp.

As you can see below -- Thru May, we are basically 'holding our own' against our expenses to-date, however, that is not preparing us for the expenses of Camping Season. PLEASE HELP!!

CAMPING SEASON IS HERE!

Operational Income vs Expenses -- Y-T-D thru MAY 31, 2023

Total Actual Income Thru MAY 2023*	142,685.77
Total Actual Expenses Thru MAY 2023	94,659.96
NET Operating Income Thru MAY 2023	48,025.81

* Y-T-D INCOME includes \$30,000.00 Transfer from our Investment Fund for Operations

Club Contributions -- Y-T-D thru MAY 31, 2023

	<u>18L</u>	<u>18I</u>	<u>18O</u>	<u>18N</u>
# of Clubs Contributing in 2023	15	33	17	24
% of ACTIVE CLUBS Contributing	33%	59%	34%	43%
Contributions by District for 2023	18,983.47	18,959.40	17,915.00	34,822.39

DISTRICT Year over Year COMPARISON -- as of MAY 31, 2023

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Ahead / (Behind) 2022</u>
18L	17,116.05	18,983.47	1,867.42
18I	17,843.96	18,959.40	1,115.44
18O	12,835.00	17,915.00	5,080.00
18N	33,342.15	34,822.39	1,480.24
MD18	81,137.16	90,680.26	9,543.10

As you can see above -- **ALL 4 Districts are contributing more this year than they did last year** so far. Overall, Lions are giving more than last year! PLEASE keep it up! We need **YOUR** help to make this year a SUCCESS!

Financially, the Camp has work to do -- with your financial help, it will get done! **ALL** Contributions are appreciated!

Thank-You!

David E. White,
Board Treasurer

1976 SOCIETY - May 01, 2023 - May 31, 2023

Thank you to the following Lions of Georgia that are making a special individual contribution to the Camp.

NAME	LIONS CLUB
Joanne Huff	Thomson Camelia
Theodore Vickroy	Ellijay

CENTURY CLUB - May 01, 2023 - May 31, 2023

Thank you to the following Lions of Georgia that are making a special individual contribution to the Camp.

NAME	LIONS CLUB	LEVEL
Theodore Vickroy	Ellijay	Diamond
Amy Andrews	Alpharetta	Bronze

Brick Memorial Garden - May 01, 2023 - May 31, 2023

Thank you to the following Lions of Georgia that are making a special individual contribution to the Camp.

NAME	LIONS CLUB
Dimple Forrest	Thomaston
Dimple Forrest	Thomaston
Griffin Lions Club	Griffin Lions Club
Lions Club of Georgia	Chickamauga Lions Club
Lions Club of Bellville	Lions Club of Bellville
Johnnie Collier	Snellville Lions Club
Lions Club of Marietta	Marietta Lions Club



Georgia Lions Camp, Inc.



1976 Society Member Application

SHARE YOUR GIFT OF SIGHT

The 1976 Society Commemorates the founding date of the Georgia Lions Camp, Inc. Persons who choose to be a part of this Society pledge to contribute at least \$19.76 a month for the year they are a member, or \$237.12.

Your gift will be credited to your listed Lions Club.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

PAID BY CASH: _____ MONTHLY: _____ QUARTERLY: _____ ANNUALLY: _____

CREDIT CARD TYPE: VISA _____ MASTERCARD _____ DISC _____ AMEX _____

NAME ON CARD: _____

CARD NUMBER: _____

EXPIRATION: _____ CSV: _____

BILLING ADDRESS: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

LIONS CLUB: _____

Mail to Georgia Lions Camp, Inc., 5626 Laura Walker Road, Waycross, GA 31503

*Donations may also be made using PayPal

Kroger

Here is another way to help your Georgia Lions Camp and it will not cost you any extra money. If you already have an account at Kroger for digitalcoupons and other saving ways, then you are almost there. If you do not already have an account with Kroger, you can use the same links below to get one. If you are not already set up to have funds donated to the camp, here is how to take care of that.

1. Go to [Kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com)
2. Sign in like you were going shopping or looking for specials.
3. Go to my account.
4. Go to community rewards. Select Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind, which is the old name for the Georgia Lions Camp.



Needs List 2023: updated 5/11/2023

Many have asked what does the camp need?

The following items will help the daily maintenance and other operations of the camp.

1. Bottle Water- 16oz. by the case
2. PowerAde/Gatorade sports drinks- single serve bottles/24 to a case (**The lime and red are favorite flavors**)
3. Disposable ponchos for rainy days – 50 – these can be found at dollar stores or dollar general
4. Dish towels for the kitchen
5. 13-gallon trash bags
6. 60-gallon industrial size garbage bags
7. Gallon size bleach- Five cases of 6 bottles per case
8. Lysol dis-infectant spray- 2 cases of 6? cans per case
9. Spray cans of room deodorizer- 20 cans of spray
10. Laundry detergent- gallon size preferable- 3 cases of 6? Bottles per case
11. Windex window cleaner- 2 cases of 6 per case
12. Clorox disinfectant spray bottles – 2 cases of 6 per case-(32 oz.)
13. Toilet Tissue – any brand
14. Bug spray- non- DEET and DEET accepted. -20 cans spray or pump
- 15. Wasp Spray- Black Flag brand preferred. 2 cases of 12 per case.**
- 16. Ant poison- here at the camp we have “ANT” issues, we need your help- bags of poison or industrial strength liquid needed. You can never ask for enough of this. All donations appreciated.**
17. 50-1 mix for weed eaters and lawn maintenance tools used here at the camp. 24 bottles
18. 5W30 motor oil- 1 case of 12 qtrs. Per case
19. 10W30 motor oil- 1 case of 12 qtrs. per case
20. Copy paper for the office
21. AA, AAA and 9V Batteries

All of the above items listed are used all through the year as needed.

“Gift Cards” are a great way for the camp to purchase other items that may not be on this list. (Movies, Board games, and other items for campers)

Items purchased can be shipped directly to the camp, (**5626 Laura Walker Rd. Waycross, Ga. 31503**) taken to, and distributed during our COG and Joint meetings with the Lions Camp and Lighthouse, the annual MD-18 Lions State Convention, bring items with you on our annual Lions Day event here at the camp, bring items **when you come to work weekends.**

Anyone can donate the above items. You don't have to be a Lions Club member.

Maintenance Needs:

- Skill Saw -electric or battery operated (20V) or Both
- Reciprocating Saw - electric or battery operated (20V) or Both
- DeWalt Drill Set – 20V battery operated
- Drill bits- for wood and for masonry
- Pressure Washer – needed for cleaning buildings
- 6'X10' utility trailer with gate that will let down to load equipment
- Paint brushes – needed during work weekend tasks (30) these do not have to be expensive brushes
- Pneumatic Framing Nail Gun
- Pneumatic Finishing Nail Gun
- Camp is in need of an air compressor
- Table Saw

2023 Work Projects

The following projects will be updated monthly in our camp newsletter. If you see a project that you or your club would be interested in helping with, please email your interest to director@glcb.org

Pick A Date!

Lions and Lions Clubs-Pick "Your" Service Day at the Camp

Call to schedule a special work date for you and your club!

1-912-283-4320 or email: director@glcb.org

1. Pressure Wash all buildings
2. Playground border fence needs repair and repainted
3. Playground needs limbs of tree trimmed to adult head height.
4. Paint the Water Tank
5. Replace weathered boards on wooden ramps at the exits of the main dormitory and repaint
6. Clean Low Ropes Course and Amphitheater areas
7. Weed pulling, edging, raking, wheel barrow use, and sanitation are many other jobs to be done during this work session. BRING your gloves and definitely some BUG SPRAY!!
8. Repair the Whale Watch element at the Low Ropes Course
9. Nature Trail –build up low lying areas we continue to need Two loads of crushed asphalt and Two loads of fill dirt.
10. Paint water heater room located behind the newly renovated Staff Building.
11. Paint the pump house at the pond
12. Paint sidewalks at the exit doors to the bunkhouse.
13. Repair Emergency exit door at restrooms in the Dining Hall.
14. Clean and paint swing frames at the fire pit area.
15. Railing and post need repair at the back double door entrance to the dining hall
16. Sitting Swings at the fire pit need to be cleaned and painted.
17. Activity Site Warning signs have been replaced and repaired but framing needs cleaning and painting.
18. Repaint Dining Hall.
19. Lights in Large Dormitory and Bunkhouse Dormitory still need to be converted to LED bulbs.
20. Pull out canoes and see which ones need repairing
21. Repair broken board on canoe cart
22. Tin roof over bleachers at horse arena needs to be re-applied
23. Pressure wash poolside deck
24. Fence repair (several post and rails have decayed and broken)
25. Fence is leaning at rental house needs to be secured properly
26. Low hanging limbs over the road that access' RVs to the back of the camp need trimming. Man-lift, chain saws will be needed
27. All cabinets in the main dorm need to be checked for easy opening and closing-repair those that need repairing
28. Need some shower heads replaced in the main dormitory

"Scheduled"

Spring 2023 Lions Service Days: February 24-26

Fall 2023 Lions Service Days: October 6-8, 2023

Upcoming Events

July 22, 2023

Lions Day at the Camp.

October 6-8, 2023

Fall 2023 Lions Service Days will be on October 6-8, 2023.

Lions Camp Information

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Georgia-Lions-Camp-Inc-152370411465833/>

Website: <https://www.glc.org/>

Telephone: 912-283-4320

Fax: 912-283-5130

Address: 5626 Laura Walker Road, Waycross, GA 31503

Camp Alumni Contact Information

Camp Alumni Association Contact: Brian Donegan: doneganbrian1@gmail.com