



Georgia Lions Camp



January 2021

2021 is finally here. All the events of 2020 are now history - what a year. Camp started off with a bang. Lions came in January to take part in what it is to be a Lion and how to grow.

February rolled in and the Leos of MD-18 came for their annual gathering. They put in some valuable service time for the camp and elected new officers for their upcoming year. Over 40 Leos were here in attendance.

Next the Woodbine Lions Club continued with their third Annual Car Show here at the Lions Camp. Show Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, and a few even entered their day-to-day vehicles. 99 registered but there were over 100 on site by the end of the day. Food vendors, Arts and Crafts, The Camp Train, and two Bounce Houses were a big hit with the kids. One of our rental groups came and set up Corn Hole games for anyone that wanted to participate. It was a great day and another successful fundraising event. Information about the 4th annual Car Show will be posted.



2021 Happy New Year

March was looking good. The camp's next fundraising event was scheduled for March 21st. This was the annual 10-K Swamp Run. This would be the fourth year the camp hosted this event. Sponsors were aligned, runners were registered, shirts and trophies were ordered. Like one of the comments that one of our campers say while she is talking with you; And then! Boom! A Pandemic hit! What was this? Never heard of such. What do we do? No one knew what to expect. We were in the planning stages of Summer Camp. Staff along with Programs and Activities were in the beginning stages. Camper Registrations were already on the Camp's website.

Not knowing what to do it, we decided to move forward because we knew nothing about all the restrictions. We just kept planning and researching Health and Safety Guidelines hoping that maybe, just maybe, we would be able to have Summer Camp. Programs and activities were planned all the way up to May 15th. This was a minimum time frame to make a final decision about Summer Camp.

Summer Camp and staff training was to officially start in June. This pre-determined cutoff date would give us time to contact all the summer staff scheduled to work and the campers who felt they would be okay to attend. With all that was transpiring and after talking with the Board Chairman, we recommended that Summer Camp be cancelled. We hoped everything would get back to normal soon, especially by Christmas Camp.

Our previously scheduled rental groups stayed committed to come until they saw that there was not going to be any relief. By this time the camp had taken extra precautions to ensure that it was up to CDC Standards recommended for overnight camping events. Leaders of these events were still wanting to be cautious and decided to have day camps at their home locations. One of our major rental groups cancelled all events for 2020 and hope to start back in 2021.

With all this going on, Lions events from all over the state were cancelled. Not only were our camp fundraisers affected, so was theirs. You see, donations by clubs are what help us function. Although many clubs still contributed to the camp, many could not because funds just weren't there. Many Lions stepped up and have donated themselves by participating in programs such as Century Club, 1976 Society, Memorial Bricks, and the Chairman's Challenge.

Yes, 2020 was a challenge. But you met the challenge and as we say, stepped up to the plate and helped us score. It wasn't a high scoring game but we came out on top.

Here at the camp, we accomplished many projects and upgrades that were needed to help the camp be ADA handicap accessible anywhere you go (inside buildings or getting to and from each building). Many of these projects would have been done in the latter part of 2020 or maybe not until 2021. Many volunteers came to provide labor to complete these needed upgrades.

Well, I'm about up to the month of November and excited to finally go on vacation with my family (take a week off)! Camp Board Chairman, Ed Ressler comes down to watch over the camp and we head to the mountains. We had a great time with the kids and our fifteen grandkids!

When we returned it was time to jump back into planning Christmas Camp. Although there was still a virus going around; the camp had put together a plan that met CDC Guidelines and we also implemented some very important guidelines on what campers and staff would have to do to ensure their safety and ours. Our attendance numbers would be small but that helped us to provide the adequate safety and sanitary requirements we would need to provide a safe environment for all involved. We were ready and well prepared.

A few days before Christmas camp was to begin, Board Chairman, Ed came down in his rolling mansion as we call it, along with his wife Joann to help. The nurse arrived on Wednesday. All the camp staff and even a couple of vendors had taken the required Covid-19 test and all tested negative. We were set to go and scheduled to pick up some of the campers at the Academy for the Blind in Macon on Friday.

BOOM! After some last-minute preparations on Thursday, I began to feel a little ill. At first, I thought it was just from working all day. With not feeling well, we decided to check my temperature. It was a bit high. One of the requirements to come to Christmas Camp was having everyone's temperature checked and if it was above the minimum health requirements, you could not attend or work at camp. This requirement was to prevent the possibility of anyone unknowingly spreading the virus to others.

Not knowing for sure if I had the virus but following the required guidelines, I could not take a chance on any of our campers getting sick. I reported this to Ed and recommended that we cancel all camp events for the weekend. Between himself and Mrs. Gail they began to call the campers and give them the news that camp was to be cancelled. They were disappointed but understood.

After going to be tested again the results came back that I tested positive this time and had contracted the virus. Quarantine was to be my duty for the next fourteen days. Christmas was only fifteen days away - what a bummer.

I was blessed not to have any of the major breathing issues that many others had. But, let me tell you it wasn't fun. Gail took really good care of me and we had to be cautious with her because she has asthma issues and could have caught the virus also. Thank God she did not!! Thanks to all who prayed for us and prayers for all the others who have come down with this virus.

Our Christmas Camp theme this year was "Celebration 2020". We had planned Fourth of July activities for the weekend. Supplies were ordered and shirts were ordered. So, although there isn't much to celebrate in 2020. We can celebrate that most of us have made it through some hard times. We have risen for another day. We can share memories with family and friends. Just be plain ole thankful! I know I am!

If anyone would like to help the camp by purchasing one of these sweatshirts (pictured), let me know. They do look good and are very warm. A \$25.00 donation to the camp store will cover the cost. If I have to ship it to you, you will have to include shipping cost. If you are planning on attending the upcoming Council of Governors and Joint Meeting at the end of January, I can bring it when I come. The sizes available are: 4-M, 10-L, 7-XL, 3-2XL, 1-4XL.



Camp Sweatshirt "Celebration 2020"

I look forward to 2021. I think the past is the past and the future will be brighter for all of us. Plans for Summer Camp are already in the making. The schedule has been approved. Staff, who were coming to work these past two camps are planning on returning this summer.

We are reaching out to our neighboring Lions of Florida and we will be presenting them with the opportunity to send campers to the Georgia Lions Camp so they do not have to travel to the Texas Lions Camp.

2021 will be a great year!!

Try to stay warm and we will see you soon.

Thank you all for your continued support,
Mike Williams
Camp Director
Georgia Lions Camp Inc.

From the Chairman of the Board:

How many of you know what our mission statement is?

“It is the mission of the Georgia Lions Camp to provide personal growth experiences for children, teens, and adults with visual impairments using recreation, education, socialization, and rehabilitation in an outdoor setting.”

Did you know that the Georgia Lions Camp is one of two official projects of the Lions of Georgia? What does that mean? To me it means that we support these two projects right after we serve our community and before we serve any other projects. Not that we don't serve any other projects, just that we place them third in line.

What does it cost to run the camp? The budget for the camp for 2021 is a little more than \$300,000 about the same as 2020 was. The Lions of Georgia provided about 80% or \$116,000 of that for the camp to operate. A small amount was received from grants and donations by corporations, but we need to remember that normally we would have rental groups in the off season but with the pandemic, they cancelled.

Just as important as cash donations is your donation of time. There are many ways to serve the camp in addition to cash donations or working with your club to help raise money for the camp.

There are five committees that need membership to help direct the camp. If you have an interest in a specific area, contact your District Director and ask to be added to a committee. If you are on a committee, be active with that committee. The time requirement is minimal, the pay is zero, the feeling that you have helped your camp is most satisfying. This is a volunteer organization but we know that things happen that require a change in plans. If you can no longer fulfill your commitment, let the committee chairman know.

Do you have a child or grandchild in school in Georgia? Every school system has a teacher of the visually impaired. Find out who is in charge in that school system and send that information to Camp Director Mike so he can recruit new campers and possibly counselors or program directors.

As we improve existing programs or create new ones, we will need to find outside sources to help fund all the work we would like to do. Funding is dependent on several things, one being the program that we are requesting funds for. Just as important is how many Lions are involved with the Georgia Lions Camp. By working with us, you can add one more number.

I would like to thank those who sent the camp some of the requested sanitizer that we posted in the December newsletter. We have placed these items at every location where they are needed. I think we have all locations covered.

I am sure the camp will have some other needs such as this and I will post them soon.

Thanks again!



Hand Sanitizer

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.

1. Paint post at Arts and Crafts building
2. Paint Porch on Arts and Crafts Building
3. Some minor sheetrock repair in kitchen serving area and then paint ceiling
4. Paint entry sidewalks at the exit doors to the bunkhouse.
5. Repair Emergency exit door at restrooms in the Dining Hall.
8. Repair damaged handrails leading to the floating dock.
9. Paint the railing around the playground
10. Limbs on oak tree located at the rear entrance of the kitchen need to be trimmed (this may have to be done by a professional to prevent damage to the roof)
11. Memorial Garden, there are sections that need new flowers.
12. Clean and paint swing frames at the fire pit area.
13. Swings at the fire pit need to be painted.
14. Some areas of screens at the bar-b-que shelter needs to be re-stapled.
15. Pressure wash Administration Building.
16. Paint water heater room located behind the newly renovated Staff Building.
17. Paint the pump house at the pond
18. Paint the Water Tank
19. Interior Dining Hall to be repainted
20. Kitchen serving area needs walls to be painted
21. Kitchen paint to match serving area.
22. Nature Trail – clean up debris. To build up low lying areas we need Three loads of crushed asphalt and Two loads of fill dirt.
23. Remove soiled carpet from (Rental House) (Directors house)
24. (Rental House) Replace carpet with either laminate flooring or ceramic tile Camp has some tile-enough to do maybe three of the four rooms.

25. Install gates at two entrances to camp located near Main Dormitory: these are 28' openings and what is called cattle gates would be sufficient. Gates needed.
26. Wooden picnic tables need repairs or replacing.

Thanks to all who were able to participate this past Lions Service Work Date: October 16-18, 2020

April 2021 will be our next scheduled Service Day: exact date: April 9-11, 2021.

THE CAMP NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Georgia Lions Camp newsletter is created to let the Lions of Georgia know what is happening now, next month and in the future at your camp. Information we have received says that there are 4600 Lions in Georgia but only 3000 are in the Constant Contact list at the state office. There are no Leos receiving this information and they are supposed to be our future Lions. We at the Georgia Lions Camp request that if you receive our newsletter, please share with your club and friends. If your club is sponsoring a Leo Club, share the newsletter with them but also send us the contact information for them so we can add them to a group and assure them that they receive the information.

This past year the Camp's Newsletter had a little challenge going on. Each month there would be two questions pertaining to articles that were in the newsletter. Each month you were asked to respond and answer these questions and email your answers back to the Camp Director (email: director@glcb.org).

Everyone who responded would not be notified until the end of the year on who answered the questions correctly and responded the most. Whomever did this would get to pick an item from the camp's store. I am honored to say that all of you who responded were all correct in your answers.

However, some who read this letter loaded with information maybe got a little busy and forgot to send in the answers to the questions.

One of you never forgot and I will say they responded quickly every month. A big shout out to: District I Governor: Trudy Rudert. She responded every month and never missed a beat. So now she will get to choose from our limited supply of items for her reward.

Thanks Mrs. Trudy! The camp appreciates your dedication and support.

4th Annual Lions' Camp for the Blind Car Show

5626 Laura Walker Road, Waycross, GA



Feb. 20, 2021

Car registration 8-10 AM Trophies @ 2PM

Vendors - Food, Arts & Crafts, Breakfast Available

Proceeds to benefit the camp

Entry fee per car: \$15 for pre-registered before Feb. 10,

\$20 day of show, Spectators \$5 adult, children under 12 free

Free Eye Screening

No Alcohol, Dogs must be leashed

For more info call: 912-882-4046 or email: MikeJune@sbcglobal.net

Make Checks payable to: "Woodbine Lions Club" write "Car Show" on memo line

Mail to: Lions Car Show C/O Mike Daugherty, 158 Colonial Court, Woodbine, GA 31569

Detach here

Name _____ **Address** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Phone number or email (optional) _____

Car Make _____ **Model** _____ **Yr.** _____

Upcoming Events

February 20, 2021

Save the date for the 4th Annual Car Show to be held here at the camp February 20th, 2021.

March 27, 2021

Okefenoke 10-K Swamp Run to be here on March 27th, 2021. Come and talk to someone about becoming a Lion.

April 9-11, 2021

Lions Service Days/Work Weekend April 9-11, 2021. Visit the camp's web page at www.glcbl.com for registration forms.

June 20-July 23, 2021

Summer Camp Begins in June (June 20th, thru July 23rd, 2021) with staff training on June 11, 2021.

Lions Camp Information

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

Website: <https://www.glcbl.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