

**WINTER CAMP** has been a tradition for nearly 50 years. Beginning in 1969, it is a special camp adventure for blind and visually impaired **adults** and a major project of District 11 B1.

The camp is held the first weekend in February each year, providing a social gathering for up to 80 adult campers from all around the state.

**FINANCING** Campers are charged a small fee for the weekend. This includes housing, bedding, five cooked meals, evening snacks, a Sunday sack lunch for travel, and craft materials. District 11-B1 subsidizes the camp. Contributions from Lions Clubs, Lions District "Parade of Checks", and individual donations help defray the remaining costs of operating the camp. Many clubs collect and donate a wide range of gifts that are given to campers as prizes at the Bingo sessions that occur on Saturday.



**LOCATION** Winter Camp is conducted at the Battle Creek Public Schools Outdoor Education Center (Clear Lake Camp) located at 10160 Michigan M-37, Dowling, Michigan. It is approximately fifteen miles north of Battle Creek.

The rustic lodge and the hilly, wooded terrain surrounding the camp provides an excellent venue for many indoor as well as outdoor activities. Weather determines which outdoor activities are available.



**2018**

## **WINTER CAMP for the BLIND**

**February  
2, 3, 4**

*Since 1969*

**Lions of  
Michigan**

**District 11-B1**

*Battle Creek Public Schools  
Outdoor Education Center,  
10160 M-37  
Dowling, Michigan*

**If you have any questions, contact one of the following individuals:**

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**PDG Barry Allen**

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Campers arrive by private car, bus or by train. A bus is provided to transport them from the station to the camp, escorted by volunteers who ensure their baggage is taken care of and arrives at their dorm.

Volunteers assist with check-in, bunk assignments and baggage. Blankets, pillows, sheets and towels are provided. Special accommodations are made for those with Leader Dogs.



***Sorry - the camp is not wheelchair accessible.***

**FRIDAY ACTIVITIES** begin after registration and getting settled into the dorms, with dinner at 6 pm. After dinner there is music and entertainment, or just sit by the warm fireplace and socialize in the lounge area.

Hot coffee and hot chocolate, as well as assorted fruit are available for free, as well as sodas and snacks for purchase.

An evening snack is provided at 9 pm before the campers adjourn for the evening for a good night's sleep.



**SATURDAY SCHEDULE** begins with breakfast at 8:00 AM served by volunteers with the assistance of the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy cadets.

Morning activities include **BINGO** by the Bedford Area Lions with a ton of prizes so nobody goes away empty handed.

**Art's & Crafts** projects are presented by the Michigan Center Lioness' so campers can create their own work of art, **FREE** of charge.

Area **VENDORS** are invited to show the technology available for the visually impaired, and demonstrate their use. We also have a team from Western Michigan University to conduct interviews and train students in assisting the visually impaired.



**SATURDAY AFTERNOON** is when all the fun begins. Campers can remain indoors and continue winning prizes at **BINGO**, do **Arts & Crafts** or sit by the warm fire, but the adventurous ones have the opportunity to ride snow mobiles or the hay ride, take a guided nature hike, or just enjoy the crisp winter air. Depending on weather, past events have included the climbing wall and a roaring camp fire.



After dinner at 6 pm, entertainment starts at 7 pm in the Activities Room.



In addition to the music and entertainment provided, the **CAMPERS** put on a Talent Show consisting of comedians, singers and dancers. The camp King and Queen are crowned, and one lucky camper is chosen for a free camp the following year.

**SUNDAY MORNING** breakfast is at 8 AM and campers enjoy their last moments of friendship and socializing before returning to their dorms to pack up and get ready to leave. Volunteers and Cadets assist them with their baggage as we ensure all campers are prepared to get to their ride home, including the bus to the station. To send them on their way, a bag lunch is provided. Volunteers also assist at the train station for a smooth transition.