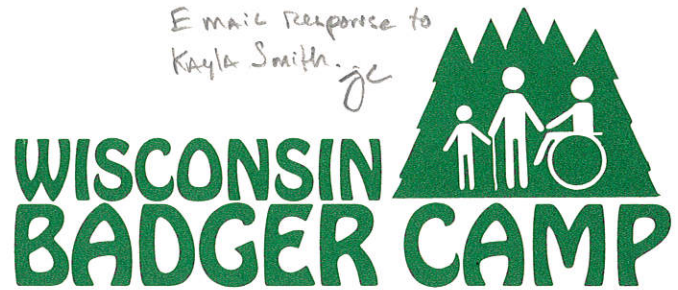


Office: (608) 348-9689  
P.O. Box 723, Platteville, WI 53818  
Email: wisbadgercamp@centurytel.net  
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HAND Delivered. - 5-1-12 -  
Email Response to  
Kayla Smith. jc



May 1, 2012

Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation  
Jack Carlson  
11623 State Road 80  
Livingston, WI 53554

Dear Mr. Carlson,

Wisconsin Badger Camp mission is to serve individuals with developmental disabilities by providing quality outdoor recreational activities. In 2011, Wisconsin Badger Camp provided over 800 individuals with the opportunity to engage in camping, swimming, singing, dancing, hiking, fishing, and many other outdoor recreational experiences. A total of 60 individuals from Iowa and Grant County came to camp regardless of their age, geographic location, severity of a disability, or ability to pay the camp fee.

Wisconsin Badger Camp offers many outdoor recreational experiences that campers might not have the opportunity to participate in otherwise. The excitement of setting up a tent, cooking dinner over a campfire, canoeing a river, or riding a horse are experiences like no other. Our camper to staff ratio of 2:1 allows us to provide challenging, nature-based activities while still focusing on the safety of our campers. Approximately 60 to 70 program staff members are hired each summer and work closely with campers to provide new experiences and accomplish new goals.

In 2011, 60 Iowa and Grant County campers came to camp and received \$26,600 in financial assistance. In 45 years of operation, Wisconsin Badger Camp is proud to say that we have never had to turn away a camper due to their financial situation. Wisconsin Badger Camp would like to ask the The Elmer G. Biddick Foundation to help shape and improve the experience for Iowa and Grant County campers through a grant of \$2,000 to the Campership Program. The Campership Program ensures campers the opportunity to attend Wisconsin Badger Camp regardless of whether or not they can afford any or all of the requested camp fee.

By providing this grant of \$2,000 to our Campership Program, The Elmer G. Biddick will be positively influencing the lives of campers with developmental disabilities in Grant and Iowa County. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Brent Bowers  
Executive Director  
WISCONSIN BADGER CAMP, Inc.



*"Serving People With Developmental Disabilities Since 1966"*

***Elmer G. Biddick Grant Application***

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**(Page 1)**

Date: May 1, 2012

Wisconsin Badger Camp, Inc.

PO Box 723

Platteville, WI 53818

(608) 348-9689

Brent Bowers

Executive Director

Wisconsin Badger Camp's mission is to serve individuals with developmental disabilities by providing quality outdoor recreational experiences.

\$2,000

Wisconsin Badger Camp is requesting this grant in order to financially assist campers from Iowa and Grant Counties through our Campership Program. The Campership Program allows any individual the opportunity to attend Wisconsin Badger Camp regardless of their ability to pay the camp fee.

A contribution by the Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation would not only directly support the campers from Iowa and Grant Counties, but would also provide an indirect service by providing a respite opportunity for those who care for these individuals on a regular basis. This grant request carries the dual intention of not only serving the campers themselves, but also supporting the entire community of Grant and Iowa Counties by providing quality respite care for our campers as a service to their families and friends.

## ***Elmer G. Biddick Grant Application Attachments***

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### **A. Supporting Information**

#### **1. Specific use of grant.**

Wisconsin Badger Camp offers ten-weeks of summer camp programming where campers of all ages take part in sessions dedicated to their specific age group. Eight weeks are available for adults, one week for teens, and one week for children. Well-trained staff, adaptable activities, and accessible program areas allow Badger Camp to offer individualized care. 800 campers attended camp in 2011, including 60 campers from Iowa and Grant Counties.

The cost of hosting an individual at camp for one week is over \$800. Badger Camp, through its fundraising efforts, offers anyone an opportunity to attend regardless of their ability to pay a camp fee. As many campers remain on a fixed or limited income, additional financial assistance through the Campership Program remains vital to support campers. Wisconsin Badger Camp does not receive federal or state funding for its camp programming. Instead Wisconsin Badger Camp relies on private donations from individuals, organizations, service clubs, foundations, and grants for funding to support its mission. The Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation can help financially support Grant and Iowa County campers who wish to attend camp this year.

#### **2. Time schedule.**

Funding for the Campership Program is secured throughout the year to support campers for the upcoming camping season that will run June – August 2012.

#### **3. Other sources of funding.**

Development and fundraising projects take place throughout the year to ensure that sufficient funds are obtained for the Campership Program. The University of Wisconsin-Platteville Christmas Telethon, Valentine's Dance and golf outings are the most successful fundraising events.

Badger Camp has a full schedule of private grants that it applies for annually. We also actively look to communities where campers reside for funding sources. Through the financial support of individuals, organizations, and businesses, Badger Camp continues to welcome campers from 51 counties in Wisconsin.

**4. Describe the effect of postponing your request to another time.**

If this request were postponed to another time it would force Wisconsin Badger Camp to look for alternative support for campers with financial need that come from Grant and Iowa Counties. If Badger Camp was unable to find such support, we would not be able to offer Camperships for every camper from Grant and Iowa County that requests one. A grant from the Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation is an important funding possibility because it provides Camperships for adults and children with developmental disabilities that live in Iowa and Grant counties.

**5. Describe who, when, how and where will the effects of this grant be felt.**

Wisconsin Badger Camp's mission is to serve adults and children with developmental disabilities by providing quality outdoor recreational programming in a residential summer camp setting. Badger Camp strives to provide a positive, natural, and safe environment where campers learn about their abilities as well as their natural surroundings. In 45 years, Badger Camp prides itself in serving individuals of all ages, genders, races, and creeds regardless of where they are from geographically, what their diagnosis is, or what their financial situation is.

Badger Camp offers many exciting activities that the campers may not have the opportunity to do any other time of the year such as camping, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, singing karaoke, swimming and much more. The camper to staff ratio of 2:1 allows Badger Camp to provide challenging activities while still focusing on safety. The 60 to 70 staff members hired each summer work closely with campers to provide new experiences and accomplish new goals with campers while having fun!

Each of Wisconsin Badger Camp's one week sessions host approximately 80 to 100 individuals. This can be a very exciting time for both parents and campers. Badger Camp offers high quality activities, while constantly holding safety concerns in the highest regard.

A secondary service we provide is to the caretakers and family members of our campers. They receive respite time while knowing their client or loved one is being cared for at an accredited facility (through the American Camp Association) with a registered nurse on site at all times.

**B. Your organization's history, activities, services, and composition**

Founded in 1966 by a group of concerned parents, teachers, and citizens, Wisconsin Badger Camp was designed to give people of all abilities the same types of opportunities in the outdoors as their peers. Badger Camp's mission is to serve people with developmental disabilities by providing quality outdoor recreational experiences.

The first summer of Badger Camp welcomed 48 campers for a one-week session. The popularity and demand of the program quickly increased, resulting in Badger Camp offering two weeks the following year. Today, Wisconsin Badger Camp offers ten weeks of programming to individuals. One week is dedicated to children. One week is for teens and young adults and eight weeks are for adults. Badger Camp also offers a two-week session for adults looking for an extended retreat.

Wisconsin Badger Camp strives to limit the boundaries that are sometimes associated with individuals with developmental disabilities. That is why individuals are welcome at camp regardless of age, gender, geographic location, severity of a person's disability, or financial situation. For many campers and caregivers it is gratifying to know that there is a place they can leave their worries behind and enjoy a week of fun.

Badger Camp focuses on providing unique and specialized programs for each individual that attends camp. Horseback riding, swimming, canoeing, music, and arts and crafts are just a few of the many well-designed programming elements that give Badger Camp its unique appeal. Innovative programs such as these allow each camper an opportunity to experience something new and extraordinary for him or herself.

Wisconsin Badger Camp has six full-time staff, 60 to 70 additional seasonal staff members, and a volunteer board of directors. Please see the organizational flow chart for a more detailed explanation of the organization's composition.

Applicants for all positions at Wisconsin Badger Camp are considered without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, or the presence of a non-job related medical condition or disability.